

Dover Warrant Committee

March 25, 2009

Members in attendance: Caroline White, Chair; David Stapleton, Vice Chair; Peter Smith, Secretary; James Dawley; Robyn Hunter; Scott Seidman; Andrew Waugh

Others in attendance: Selectmen: Carol Lisbon and Joseph Melican; Personnel Board: Mary Carrigan and Mary Hornsby; Ford Spaulding, DCCBC; David Ramsay, Town Administrator

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. Review of minutes of March 18, 2009

Mr. Dawley moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

2. Revisiting the 4.1% General Salary Increase for Non-Union Personnel

Ms Hunter stated that the catalyst for reevaluating this prior recommendation is the continued dramatic decline in the economy, coupled with inquiries received by the Warrant Committee from citizens of Dover questioning this recommendation. Accordingly, Ms. Hunter reviewed the Employment Cost Index (ECI) and Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for the year ended December 2008 and compared them to the June 2008 data which was previously reviewed. Taking the median of these two indexes in December 2008 yielded a result of 1.7% versus the 4.0% yielded using the original data. She stated that in the current economic climate, a 4.1% increase plus the 2.75% annual step could not be supported and fuels the perception that such an increase is overly generous.. Ms. Carrigan reminded the Committee that the Personnel Board's focus was to bring the employees up to the median for comparable towns. She also noted that the increase for union employees for fiscal year 2010 averages 3.2%. A discussion ensued pertaining to the precedent that was being set by reevaluating a prior recommendation. Mrs. Lisbon and Mr. Ramsay expressed concerns regarding the impact such a reduction would have on the morale of the employees, the amount of work that would be associated with such a reduction, and not adhering to the process.

Ms. Hunter moved that the Warrant Committee change its recommendation from 4.1% to 3.2%, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-3-0.

3. Reserve Fund Transfer for Park and Recreation

Park and Recreation requested a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$2,040; tuition for the assistant director to attend the NRPA school, budgeted for FY 2010, must be paid in advance. Mr. Seidman moved that the request be approved, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

4. Update of the FY 2010 Gap Between Revenue and Expenses

Ms. Hunter explained the latest versions of Article 4 and Sources and Uses, which have been reconciled with the Town Accountant's reckoning. The Selectmen noted that they will be voting at their next meeting on the withdrawal of Articles 10 and 17.

5. Consideration of Warrant Articles

Mr. Stapleton moved that the Committee recommend approval of Articles 1-3, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

On the subject of Article 4, Ms. Hunter noted that it is not a level service budget, as requested by the Warrant Committee, in that several budgets include increased hours. While the amounts are small, the exception is troubling. Mr. Ramsay explained the rationale for the increases to the Committee's satisfaction. Motions on Article 4 await finalization of certain numbers.

Mr. Dawley moved that the provisions in Article 5 for the Fire Department command car (\$42,000) and SCBA bottles (\$8,000), Library laptop lab (\$7,000), Park & Rec tractor (\$20,000), Library storm windows (\$30,000), and Great Hall painting (\$12,000) be recommended favorably, seconded by Mr. Seidman. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Smith moved that the provision in Article 5 for Police Department patrol vehicles (\$62,000) be recommended favorably, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-1.

Mr. Smith moved that the provision in Article 5 for Transfer Station containers (\$71,000) be recommended favorably, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

The remaining provisions in Article 5 — Police Department radio tower, Police Department dispatch console, and Dover School computer equipment — were held, pending decisions by the Capital Budget Committee.

Ms. Hunter moved that the Committee recommend \$10,000 be raised and appropriated for Article 6, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Dawley moved that the Committee recommend \$10,000 be raised and appropriated for Article 7, seconded by Dr. White. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Smith moved that the Committee recommend approval of Article 8, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Smith moved that the Committee recommend approval of Article 9, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Ms. Hunter moved that Article 10 be dismissed, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Article 11 was discussed but not voted. Mrs. Lisbon raised the possibility of making it a capital exclusion item, but a straw poll of the Committee on this was unfavorable.

Article 12 has been withdrawn.

Mr. Waugh moved that the Committee recommend \$1,900,000 be appropriated for Article 13, seconded by Mr. Seidman. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Ms. Hunter moved that the Committee recommend \$12,000 be raised and appropriated for Article 14, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Smith moved that the Committee recommend approval of Article 15, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Smith moved that the Committee recommend against approval of Article 16, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Article 17 is expected to be withdrawn.

Ms. Hunter moved that the Committee recommend approval of Article 18, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Dawley moved that the Committee recommend approval of Article 19, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Seidman moved that the Committee recommend \$200,000 be raised and appropriated for Article 20, seconded by Mr. Waugh. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Ms. Hunter moved that the Committee recommend \$4,700 be raised and appropriated for Article 21, seconded by Mr. Seidman. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

No supplemental appropriation for Article 22 is necessary this year.

The recommended Free Cash amount for Article 23 will be computed after all budget amounts are settled.

There is no stabilization fund request for Article 24 this year.

The election for Town offices in Article 25 requires no Warrant Committee recommendation.

6. Liaison Updates

Mr. Stapleton (Regional Schools): The Regional School Committee interviewed a candidate for the vacant Assistant Superintendent position.

Other Business

Mr. Smith and Mr. Ramsay will pass along Justine Kent-Uritam's complaint — made at the Open Hearing — that certain town boards are delinquent in posting their minutes.

*Mr. Waugh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Stapleton;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 9:20 pm
the next meeting will be April 1 at 7:00 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved April 1, 2009