

Warrant Committee Meeting

Monday, January 7, 2008

Attending: Robyn Hunter, Chair, Caroline White, Vice-Chair, Nancy Weinstein, Secretary, Allen Goldberg, Arthur Meehan, Joseph Melican, Scott Seidman, Dave Stapleton and Nathan Van Duzer

Guests: Dr. Robert Couture, Peter Mitchell, and David Heinlein

1. Overview of Regional School and local school financial situation
 - a. Dover's local school budget request is currently at a little less than 5% increase
 - i. 2 Special Educations cases have matured out of the system realizing a significant decrease to the overall budget
 - ii. 1 potential new case to move into the system as a pre-schooler and 2 potential cases may be placed out-of-district at the high school level
 - iii. Circuit Breaker monies will now be factored into the budget request (except for approximately \$100,000 to cover unanticipated placements)—this is mainly an accounting change
 - b. Regional school budget request is currently at a little more than a 5% increase
 - c. 2 outstanding issues between the 2 towns
 - i. Failed Warrant Article at 2007 Town Meeting regarding reimbursement of the Regional Building project to the Town of Sherborn
 - ii. New State statutory assessment formula for the Region
 1. Previously assessment was based on fair and equal share based exclusively on student population
 2. Currently, new Statue has a complex formula based on capacity to pay
 3. Dover and Sherborn can choose to keep old methodology, but this must be done by a Town vote OR the new State Statute will take effect by default
 4. It should be noted that there is again a 1% increase in the student population in Dover
 5. It should also be noted that transportation costs for SPED are NOT included in the Circuit Breaker reimbursement calculations
 - iii. Meeting amongst Dover's Warrant Committee, Sherborn's Advisory Committee and the Regional School Committee is January 28, 2008
2. Review of Capital Budget for FY 2009
 - a. Peter Mitchell presented FY 2009 Capital Budget request which is presently at \$519,823
 - b. The Committee is still reviewing budgets and votes need to be taken
 - c. Highway Department has the largest requests due to the aging of equipment at \$184,000
 - d. The Committee has requested an updated Town wide review of all equipment – this was done 4 years ago
3. Review of Highway Department budgets
 - a. Highway Maintenance #422
 - i. Increases in fuel and electricity

- ii. Shift in clothing allowance from salaries to expenses
 - iii. Salary figure is less due to a change in one position and the presence of a new contract that came in lower than the estimate from last year
 - b. Snow & Ice #423
 - i. Usage level but the cost of salt is up considerably
 - ii. Again increases in electricity and fuel
 - c. Street Lights #424
 - i. There is a 15% decrease
 - d. Town Garage #425
 - i. Increases due to heating oil, electricity, hazardous waste program and office supplies
 - e. Tarvia #428
 - i. Level funded due to favorable contract this year
 - f. Solid Waste #439
 - i. Town is recycling at a rate of 30%
 - ii. Dover Trucking services about 1/3rd of the Town
- 4. Major decrease in contract with Wheelabrator effective January 1, 2008 for collection of waste. 2008 per ton cost is \$67.73 compared to 2007 per ton cost of \$89.12. Review of Veterans Budget #543
 - a. Budget is flat
- 5. Review of Memorial Day Committee Budget #692
 - a. Budget is flat
- 6. Review of Town Report Budget #195
 - a. Budget is increased by \$500 due to printing costs
- 7. Approval of Minutes
 - a. November 19, 2007 approved 9-0
 - b. December 3, 2007 approved 8-0-1 (not present during meeting)

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 7pm Selectmen's Meeting Room

Meeting adjourned at 8:25am

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Weinstein,
Secretary