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