

Dover Warrant Committee

January 7, 2009

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

Others in attendance: Carol Lisbon, Selectmen Liaison

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

1. Resignation

Mrs. Weinstein has notified the Chair that she is resigning from the Warrant Committee, effective immediately.

2. Review of minutes of December 3, 2008

Mr. Stapleton moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Mr. Kinder was not yet present).

3. Reconsideration of Replacement Process for Vacancies Created by Mr. Meehan's and Mrs. Weinstein's resignations

At the Committee's last meeting, possible replacements were discussed and ranked in the order they would be approached. Afterwards, some members expressed dissatisfaction to the Chair with the way the ranking took place. Mrs. Hunter moved that the process be re-evaluated, seconded by Mr. Stapleton. The motion carried 4-2-0 (Mr. Kinder was not yet present).

In the subsequent discussion, it was agreed that former Warrant Committee members would make the most desirable replacements. Mr. Seidman suggested that former School Committee members would have a similar level of budgeting experience, and it was agreed that Mr. Stapleton should forward a list to the Chair. After adding two more names to the list of candidates, a ballot was taken to ensure in advance that any willing candidate would be acceptable to a majority of the Committee. One name was removed from the list as a result of the ballot, and Dr. White was authorized to begin contacting the remaining candidates at her discretion.

4. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

The previously received notice and request from the Cemetery remains on hold pending a written explanation.

5. Consideration of Coordinating with Sherborn on Regional Budget Presentation and Discussion

The Sherborn Advisory Committee has approached Dr. White about a coordinated presentation and discussion of the shared Regional budgets at a February 23 meeting. Mrs. Hunter noted that this has been done in the past and worked well. It was agreed by consensus.

6. Warrant Committee's Town Report

Dr. White had previously circulated copies of the Committee's section of the 2007 Town Report, Town Administrator Ramsay's instructions for this year's updates, and her first draft of the 2008 section. Mrs. Hunter agreed to research a couple of figures that were questioned. Dr. White will add brief explanations for some of the larger year-to-year changes. At Mr. Dawley's suggestion, she will also note the likelihood of reduced State aid in the immediate future. Dr. White will revise the draft and re-circulate it (it is due January 16).

7. Liaison Updates

Mrs. Hunter (Regional Schools): Immediate cuts in State aid, if any, should be known by January 15 and the Governor is expected to present his budget for FY2010 by the end of January. The Governor's budget will provide insight to the level of cuts in State Aid. Also discussed was the use of surplus proceeds from the original building fund. The Committee approved the use of funds for repairs to the Administrative Building and repairs to the high school building. Also discussed was a mass-mailing to the town to highlight aspects of the schools, as suggested by a consultant, although the cost of producing such a flyer and mailing it may be prohibitive in this budget climate.

Messrs. Kindler and Seidman (Park & Rec): The director is still pulling together actual expenditures to go along with the upcoming budget request

Mrs. Lisbon (Selectmen): The Open Space Committee has been asked to draft a procedure to ensure that any change in Town land use be arrived at transparently and with the involvement of all relevant boards and committees.

Dr. White (Caryl Reuse): There will be at least one article on the Town Meeting Warrant for on-going repairs.

8. Information for Members' Files

- a.) Copy of approved minutes of December 3, 2008
- b.) *City and Town* for December 2008, with special attention to the section explaining budgeting requirements for snow and ice removal. This prompted a discussion of the excellent but expensive plowing and sanding policies in Dover. It was agreed that the Committee would like to discuss this with the Highway Department director during his budget review.
- c.) Memo from David Ramsay relative to the Warrant.

*Mr. Seidman moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Stapleton;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:20 pm
the next meeting will be January 12 at 7:15 am*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved January 12, 2009