

Dover Warrant Committee

December 22, 2009

Members in attendance: David Stapleton, Chair; James Kinder, Vice Chair; Peter Smith, Secretary; Kate Bush; James Dawley; Kathy Hall; David Melville; Andrew Waugh; Jane Wemyss

Mr. Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

1. Review of minutes

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of December 9 be approved, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

2. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Reserve Fund Transfer Request from Accounting dated 12/17/09 for \$5,000.00 “to cover expenses incurred by a consultant providing assistance in the Accounting Department until a permanent Town Accountant is hired”. Mr. Melville moved that the Committee acknowledge the Notice, seconded by Mr. Kinder. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

3. Preliminary Review of On-Line Budgets

Mr. Dawley walked the Committee members through the process of accessing budget data entry and reports. Neither he nor anyone else was able to search for or browse to specific budgets short of scrolling through the full report. Several members noted that the software does not appear to track ongoing changes to departmental requests, just the latest input. The veteran members were dismayed that the detailed wage and salary reports that used to accompany the budget reports are missing this year.

4. Liaison Updates

Mr. Stapleton (Minuteman Voc Tech): The Belmont Selectmen have circulated a letter to the other participating towns’ finance committees outlining their town’s concerns over rising school operating costs and per-pupil costs to the town.

Mr. Melville (Capital Budget): The Park & Rec request was further reviewed. They are looking for the most efficient way to implement software to manage their various programs. Chickering School’s request includes tree replacement, and computer upgrades.

Mr. Stapleton (Chickering School): Salaries and transportation costs are driving the increase in the operating budget.

(Regional Schools): Mr. Stapleton suggested that the liaisons arrange a joint schools budget meeting with the Sherborn Advisory Committee in late January. Last year the joint meeting was in late February, which left little time for adjustments. Since last year’s meeting was hosted by Sherborn, Dover should offer to host this year.

Ms. Wemyss (Board of Health): Lyme disease and deer population reduction were discussed

Ms. Bush (Cemetery): The budget request will include increases for hours and tree work. Mr. Dawley noted that the trust fund that often covers such expenses is producing very little income in this investment climate.

Mr. Smith (Highway): The budgets have been presented to the Selectmen. State repairs to the Willow St. bridge are still on schedule for April 2011, pending town acquisition of a small parcel of adjacent land. EcoTech Environmental Consultants have produced a report on beaver damming in the Springdale area, which is holding water levels very high at the culvert under the road.

Ms. Hall (Selectmen): The Town Administrator's contract is up for renegotiation. Work continues on hiring a new Accountant.

*Mr. Waugh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kinder;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:20 pm
the next meeting will be January 6 at 7:00 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved January 6, 2010