

Dover Warrant Committee

September 30, 2009

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

Others in attendance: David Heinlein, Selectmen Liaison

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

1. Review of minutes

Mr. Dawley moved that the minutes of September 16 be approved, seconded by Mr. Melville. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

2. Review of Free Cash

The State has certified Free Cash as \$3,803,191 for the beginning of Fiscal Year 2010. Mr. Kinder circulated a report from the Town Accountant showing Free Cash balances going back to Fiscal 2001. He has requested a similar summary of unexpended appropriations by department for the last couple of years.

3. Non-contract Employee Cost of Living Adjustment

At the September 24 Selectmen's meeting, the Personnel Board presented their recommendation of a 1.9% General Increase. Mr. Dawley passed around copies of the handout from that meeting, showing the cost indices underpinning the recommendation. Messrs. Melville and Smith pointed out that averaging 3-, 6-, and 12-month CPI changes is statistically questionable and biases the result in favor of the most recent quarter. Ms. Hall added that using a spread of base dates effectively moves the floor from which next year's increase will be calculated.

Mr. Waugh noted that most of the towns that he represents in employee negotiations are offering near-zero increases for the coming year. On the other hand, Mr. Dawley offered an economic projection for the coming year nationwide that averaged 1.8% increases. Mr. Heinlein reminded the Committee that the Town contracts for a survey of comparable towns every few years, allowing us to re-center the pay scale. The last review was in February 2008. He said that the Selectmen were comfortable with the Personnel Board's methodology.

The Warrant Committee agreed that it was not its place to calculate a specific alternative recommendation, but more input from the Personnel Board would be best. Mr. Kinder will invite a representative of the Personnel Board to the next meeting.

4. Review Capital Budgets from Police and Highway

Mr. Kinder circulated the capital budget requests from the Police and Highway departments, which have been submitted to the Selectmen.

5. Renovations to the Minuteman School

There is going to be a meeting for boards from all towns participating in the Minuteman Regional Technical School to present proposals for renovations. No information has been received as to the expected extent or cost of these plans.

6. Liaison Updates

Ms. Weymyss (Board of Health): The Board discussed its Lyme disease education project, and plans for H1N1 flu.

Ms. Bush (Cemetery): The leaks in the irrigation system have all been repaired and water usage is back to normal.

7. Other Business

Mr. Dawley asked that the Committee begin thinking about what budget scenarios will be requested from the departments this year. Mr. Heinlein expressed the Selectmen's opinion that an override budget is out of the question, but that level-service is feasible given the Town's financial condition. Mr. Dawley noted that some of the anticipated capital requests might be difficult without an override. Mr. Heinlein stated that capital items are the easiest to adjust by changing their timing.

*Mr. Dawley moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Smith;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:10 pm
the next meeting will be October 14 at 7:00 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved October 14, 2009