

Dover Warrant Committee

December 9, 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

Others in attendance: David Heinlein, Selectmen Liaison

Mr. Stapleton called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

1. Review of minutes

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of November 24 be approved, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved by a vote of 7-0-2.

2. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

None.

3. Preliminary Discussion of Operating Budgets

At the next meeting, most budgets should be on-line. Mr. Dawley will bring in his laptop and Mr. Stapleton has arranged for a projector to allow Committee members to see the actual figures during discussions.

Ms. Hall noted that the library is planning to use the young adult grant money to fund additional hours and purchase audio-visual equipment. The Committee wondered if the duration of this funding will match the duration of the expenses.

Ms. Hall reported that at the last Board of Selectmen meeting, budgets were presented. Lower fuel cost projections are significantly lowering budgets compared to current budgets.

Ms. Wemyss said that the Board of Health is considering upgrading the position of the Administrative Assistant.

Mss. Bush and Wemyss attended the Regional Schools budget meeting on December 8. The total budget is \$18.8 million, up 7% over the previous year, even adhering to the level-service guideline. The largest increases came from salaries, transportation, special education, and legal expenses. Cuts in state reimbursement are expected to be deep. Repairs to the wastewater system may require a separate article at Town Meeting. The budget includes a 15% increase in workers compensation insurance: several members asked if this was based on hard information, as to our knowledge there have been no claims for many years and premiums should not be increasing at such a rate. Mss. Bush and Wemyss will inquire if there will be any retirements next year, as this tends to lower over-all salary when more junior teachers replace retirees.

It was agreed that the Warrant Committee liaisons should continue discussions with the administration and school committee so that they are well briefed on the details. The Chair will schedule a joint meeting with the Sherborn Advisory Committee.

Ms. Hall will ask the Assessors whether receipts to date have been above or below forecast.

4. Liaison Updates

Mr. Melville (Capital Budget): Chickering School will be asking for funds for computer replacements, carpets, and trees. Park & Rec's request to fund a study of redesigning the Caryl Fields is on hold pending their reply to questions from Capital Budget. There was discussion by the WC of the way that Dover and Sherborn share costs for the upkeep of fields used in joint programs.

Mr. Waugh (Park & Rec): The staff is considering adding a part-time employee to cover the office during times when both the Director and Assistant Director are performing fieldwork or attending education programs.

Mr. Smith (Fire & Ambulance): The budgets have been submitted to the Selectmen and are flat except for salary increases as per guidelines.

Mr. Stapleton (Zoning Board of Appeals): Both the Dover Farms and Dover Meadows developers are asking for a relaxation of the age restrictions attached to their permits. This will require notice to abutters and a public hearing.

*Mr. Waugh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kinder;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:35 pm
the next meeting will be Tuesday, December 22 at 7:00 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved December 22, 2009