

Dover Warrant Committee

January 20, 2010

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:

Board of Selectmen: David Heinlein, Liaison

Regional School Committee: Robyn Hunter

Board of Health: Diane Fielding, Administrative Assistant; Barbara Rothschechter, Chair

Cemetery Commission: Carol Jackman; Jonathan Wolff

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

1. Review of minutes

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of January 13 be approved, seconded by Mr. Dawley. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Reserve Fund Transfer Request from the Highway Department dated January 11, 2010 for \$6,500.00 for “repair work on 1979 10-wheel dump truck (H-15).” Prior Notice was acknowledged at the November 10 meeting. Mr. Dawley moved that the Committee approve the Request, seconded by Mr. Melville. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

3. Budget Update — Regional Schools

Ms. Hunter gave the Committee a summary of progress on the Regional Schools budget, which projects a 6.9% increase as of the latest revision. Salaries, health care benefits, and transportation are the principal source of the increase. She explained that health care costs fall directly on the Region, whereas the Chickering School’s comes under the over-all Town health insurance budget. Transportation cost is expected to rise approximately 30%, and state reimbursement is likely to fall. Enrollment is up by approximately 40 students, but no new staff is being added. Preliminary evaluations of the budget indicate that should a smaller increase be necessary, programs would have to be reduced. The cost of repairing the wastewater system cannot even be estimated at this point.

4. Budget Presentation — Board of Health

The budget request is for \$93,687, a 10.6% increase over the fiscal 2010 budget as adopted.

Ms. Wemyss opened the discussion, noting that no new programs were being requested. Ms. Fielding explained that the Purchase of Services item for Professional Services covers the Visiting Nurse Association, the large animal inspector, the outreach worker, and school and camp inspections by ESI. Asked about Sherborn's failure to fund their portion of the shared outreach worker, she said that Dover continued to get its share of the hours. The Purchase of Services item for hazardous waste is computed based on the number of carloads from Dover at the annual waste collection day.

5. Budget Presentation — Cemetery Commission

The budget request is for \$99,786, a 0.7% increase over the fiscal 2010 budget as adopted.

Ms. Bush introduced the budget, where increases are primarily driven by the rising costs of the materials and contracted services. The Town's liability insurance requires that some grounds maintenance tasks be contracted out and not be performed by Cemetery staff. Mr. Stapleton will ask David Ramsay for more details on what routine tasks are forbidden. The budget request includes expanded hours for part-time help. Mr. Wolff explained that grounds work and upkeep is very seasonal and that a summer intern and assistance from the Highway Department is necessary during the warm-weather months. Burial fees are going up, so these hours should be covered by monies returned to the Town. A copy of the existing and proposed fee schedule was handed out – Mr. Stapleton will scan it and forward electronic copies to the Committee members. Asked about leaks in the irrigation system, Mr. Wolff admitted that they continue to crop up. Asked about the balances in income from the various trusts, Mr. Wolff said that he would get back to the Committee with up-to-date figures. Asked about the Cemetery's relationship with the abutting Dover Farms development, the commissioners expressed disappointment, citing various unkept promises by the developer.

6. Liaison Updates

Mr. Kinder (Chickering School): Heating oil is coming in well under budget, so there should be considerable savings this winter. Bids on next year's transportation contract are due March 23 so the budget is still just a guess, but is based on recently signed contracts by other towns. Ms. Wemyss noted that the Dover and Regional schools have enjoyed low transportation costs as the last contract – signed five years ago – contained no built-in increases. The new contract will be a big jump. However, the special education transportation contract came in with only a 2% increase. There have been several iterations of the budget; the last was 3.5% above the current budget. The figures should be on-line by the end of the week.

Messrs. Kinder & Waugh (Parks & Recreation): They are still trying to schedule a meeting to go over the operating budget.

Mr. Dawley (Capital Budget): Parks & Recreation is going ahead with its plan to present their approach and costs to reconfigure the Caryl Fields. Mr. Heinlein noted that there is a placeholder on the warrant for this request should it go forward. Financing this project could well require bonding, subject to a capital budget override at Town Meeting and at the polls.

Mr. Smith (Highway): The storms earlier in the week have just about depleted the Snow & Ice appropriation.

*Mr. Waugh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Kinder;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:45 pm
the next meeting will be Monday, January 25 at 7:30 am*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved January 27, 2010