

Dover Warrant Committee

March 17, 2010

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

Others in attendance: Board of Selectmen: Joe Melican, Carol Lisbon; David Ramsay, Town Administrator

Mr. Stapleton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

1. Review of minutes

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of March 10 be approved, seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion was approved by all who had been present.

Mr. Melville moved that the minutes of March 8 be approved, seconded by Ms. Bush. The motion was approved by all who had been present.

2. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

None.

3. Discussion of Revenue Projections and Budgets

The latest revenue and expense projections were passed around. The proposal to utilize one half of the certified Free Cash – approximately \$1.9 million – appears sufficient to bridge the budget gap.

The revenue team's recommendation is to use a one-year capital exclusion override for the Protective Agencies Building reconfiguration and the two sidewalks being proposed. Mr. Ramsay explained the financial ramifications, and the Warrant Committee voted 8-0-0 to support this approach.

There is still no cost estimate for repairs to the wastewater treatment plant at the Regional Schools. Mr. Ramsay explained several funding avenues are available, none of which would impact the Town's Fiscal 2011 budget.

The Caryl Fields project, on the other hand, would be funded by borrowing and a capital debt exclusion, due to the size of the project.

4. Other Matters Pertaining to the Warrant

The Board of Selectmen anticipate the withdrawal of Article 10 (\$33,000 toward an affordable housing subsidy at County Court) at their next meeting. They also expect to have a firm number for Health Insurance.

Mr. Ramsay discussed Article 18 (changing references in the bylaws from "Assistant Assessor" to "Town Assessor"), noting that the Personnel Board does not support this change.

Ms. Lisbon questioned whether Article 19 (property re-assessment) might be withdrawn. The State may allow towns to postpone this due to the difficult economy.

Mr. Ramsay has asked the Norfolk County Retirement staff for guidance on the future costs of Article 25 (call firefighters who have become full-time Town employees purchasing additional service time).

Ms. Lisbon reminded the Committee to put care and thought into the Blue Book write-ups. The citizenry have come to trust these statements as the least biased source of information on Warrant articles. She also suggested that any non-trivial write-ups be run by the articles' sponsors to ensure correctness.

*Mr. Melville moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Smith;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:20 pm*

the next meeting will be the Open Hearing on the Warrant on March 22 at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved March 31, 2010