

# Dover Warrant Committee

April 28, 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; Regional School Committee: Robyn Hunter and Beverly Madden; Moderator: Pam Ellsworth

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

## 1. Review of Regional School Budget

At its Annual Town Meeting, Sherborn approved the revised, lower budget which the Regional School Committee certified on April 6. The Dover Blue Book contains a budget assessment based on the previous, higher budget. Ms. Ellsworth explained that if the two towns pass dissimilar budgets, the Regional School Committee would be required to re-submit a budget and each town would hold a Special Town Meeting. If the two towns still passed dissimilar budgets, a Super Town Meeting of the voters of both towns would settle the issue. Ms. Hunter added that by law, once the Regional School Committee certifies a budget, it can only be passed or decreased at Town Meeting.

Mss. Hunter and Madden stressed that the Regional School Committee took a long-term view when developing the budget and hopes that the Warrant Committee will support it. They reiterated that the final budget reduction was achieved without any program cuts, but via fee increases and a reduction in administration salary increases. The Warrant Committee countered that the budget was already shy of level-service, which had been Warrant's guidance. Of equal concern was the manner by which Sherborn drove additional reductions without Dover's direct involvement. In the future, it is necessary that the Regional School Committee engage both towns equally in substantive discussions.

Mr. Dawley moved that Dover's Share of the Regional Schools budget, previously approved at \$9,628,843, be decreased to \$9,467,366, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-1-0.

## 2. Re-Vote of Article 28

The cost of acquiring the small parcel abutting the Willow St bridge to permit repairs has increased because additional easements are required. Mr. Smith moved that Article 28, previously approved at \$160, be increased to \$4,700, seconded by Mr. Waugh. The motion was approved by a vote of 9-0-0.

## 3. Liaison Updates

Mr. Kinder (Planning Board): The proposed sidewalk from Burnham Rd to Caryl Park was discussed. It was noted that there is no formal easement for pedestrians to cut through the Dover

Farms development. Thus, the new sidewalk as envisioned does not connect to the center of town and serves only Burnham and Hutton Roads.

**4. Review of minutes**

Mr. Dawley moved that the minutes of April 14 be approved, seconded by Mr. Kinder. The motion was approved by all who had been present.

**5. Other Business**

The Warrant Committee wished Mr. Heinlein well as his term on the Board of Selectmen comes to a close.

*Mr. Smith moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dawley;  
the motion was agreed by consensus at 7:50 pm  
the next meeting will be May 3 prior to Town Meeting*

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Smith, Secretary

*approved May 18, 2010*