

Dover Warrant Committee

April 7, 2010

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

Others in attendance: Pamela Ellsworth, Moderator; David Heinlein and Carol Lisbon, Board of Selectmen; Valerie Spriggs, Superintendent of Schools; Connor Heinlein, Achutha Raman, and Sam Twining, Dover-Sherborn High School; Madu Raman, parent

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

1. Moderator's Remarks

Ms. Ellsworth briefly outlined procedures for Town Meeting; details will be discussed at the Moderator's Meeting on Thursday, April 29. In general, one member of the Warrant Committee – the subject matter expert – will be asked to move each article, another will be assigned to second it. Where the Warrant Committee does not support an article, arrangements will be made for the motion to come from the article sponsor or other proponent.

Ms. Ellsworth reminded the Warrant Committee members that they best serve the Town with their impartiality and are discouraged from advocacy pro or con from the stage. She also requested that the Blue Book headings for Article 5 items also contain the recommended dollar amount to make it easier for her to read over the article. Messrs. Smith and Stapleton agreed to mark up a copy for the printer with the amounts.

2. Presentation by Dover-Sherborn High School Students

Three students from the High School – Connor Heinlein '11 (Dover), Achutha Raman '11 (Sherborn), and Sam Twining '10 (Sherborn) – requested an opportunity to address the Warrant Committee to advocate for Brent Concilio, an English teacher who is facing layoff due to the tight school budget. The three spoke sincerely and eloquently as to how Mr. Concilio has encouraged them not only in reading and writing, but in critical thinking and engagement with the world of ideas. They presented testimonials from current and past students, and a petition signed by 330 students asking that Mr. Concilio be retained. Achutha's father, Madu Raman, also spoke, asking if there were not some creative way to retain this "gem" of a teacher. Mrs. Spriggs echoed their enthusiasm for Mr. Concilio's work, but explained that her hands are tied by contract requirements and procedural constraints.

3. Regional Schools Budget

Sherborn's budget, to be voted at their Town Meeting on April 26, does not fully fund the request certified by the Regional School Committee in March. The budget recommended by the Warrant Committee for Dover's Town Meeting fully funds the request. Sherborn is asking Dover to reduce its funding proportionately to correspond to their reduced budget. If the two towns do

not pass equivalent budgets at their individual Town Meetings, then a Super Town Meeting must be called where the Regional School Committee would submit a budget and the citizens of both towns would vote jointly.

All agreed that the March Regional School budget was prudent and lean, having already cut roughly half a million dollars from the early drafts. The financial state of the two towns is not dire, with both benefiting from prior thrift in the form of historically high levels of Free Cash. It was the sense of the Warrant Committee and Selectmen that further cuts are not justified.

Mr. Melville moved that the Warrant Committee re-affirm its March 24 vote, that the Dover Share of Regional Schools budget totaling \$9,628,843 be approved, seconded by Mr. Waugh. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-0. The Warrant Committee further calls upon the Sherborn Advisory Committee to amend their budget at Town Meeting to restore full funding for the certified Regional Schools budget.

4. Review of minutes

Mr. Dawley moved that the minutes of April 5 be approved, seconded by Ms. Hall. The motion was approved unanimously by all who had been present.

5. Prior Notices and Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Prior Notice from the Fire Department dated 4/6/10 for \$12,029.20 for unanticipated wages related to pumping and other work during and after the deluges of March 13-15 and 29-30. Mr. Smith moved that the Committee acknowledge the Notice, seconded by Mr. Kinder. The motion was approved by a vote of 8-0-0.

6. Liaison Updates

Ms. Wemyss (Regional Schools): Still no figures on the cost of wastewater treatment repairs.

Mr. Kinder (Planning Board): The public hearing on bylaw changes went well. The Board also approved the Trustees of Reservations plan for parking along Powissett St.

7. Other Business

Mr. Stapleton noted that it is the duty of the Warrant Committee every third year to appoint one of the members of the Personnel Board. All agreed that Mary Carrigan, whose term is expiring, has been an outstanding appointee, and if she is willing, should be reappointed.

*Mr. Waugh moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Dawley;
the motion was agreed by consensus at 8:40
the next meeting will be April 14 at 6:30 pm*

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary

approved April 14, 2010