

Dover Warrant Committee

Minutes of the January 16, 2013 meeting

Members in attendance: Andrew Waugh, James Stuart, John Cone, Brooks Gerner, Robert Cocks, Rich Forte, Kathy Gill-Body, Douglas Lawrence, Maureen Arkle

Non-members in attendance:

Mr. Jim Dawley (Selectmen)

Mr. Jay Hughes (Fire Chief)

Location: Dover Town House

Mr. Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Mr. Cocks made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2012 second by Ms. Gill-Body. Approved 9-0-0.

Chief Hughes presented the Fire Department budget, reflecting level service. Chief Hughes stated that fire calls and ambulance calls are up. Chief Hughes stressed the importance of carbon monoxide detectors in homes. The department has responded to many calls from the detectors picking up carbon monoxide with one particular case saving the lives of the residents who were properly using a generator after Hurricane Sandy escaped tragedy because of a working alarm in their bedroom.

The salaries budget is up 2.67% reflecting contracted wage increases. Purchases of supplies and services remain constant. The overall budget is up 2.23% to \$431,657.

There was one large fire in Town last year at home located on Walpole Street.

The Department expects delivery of the new ladder truck in May.

Deputy Chief David Tiberi is retiring this year. The hope is that he will stay on in a consulting capacity to allow for transition to fill the position.

There will be a request to the Capital Budget Committee requesting \$90,000 to refurbish Squad 2 (Brush Truck). It is an important piece of equipment not only for access to woodlands but carries 1,000 gallons of water critical for first responders to structure fires.

The Committee thanked Chief Hughes

Liaison Reports:

Ms. Gerner updated the Committee on the Minuteman Vocational School. The expectation is for an Approximate 3% increase. The budget should be complete by January 22 and will be presented to the Committee at a later date. The MVS is conducting a feasibility study to determine the costs of renovation, repair or new construction. Dover is one of sixteen towns that are part of the membership. Any capital project has to be approved by all members. Dover has two students attending this year. Mr. Dawley shared with the Committee that it probably is not in the Town's interest to remain a member and incur a potential seven figure capital expense reflecting the Town's share of the renovation. The Town may be better served paying "retail" tuition for any students attending the school.

The Planning Board will be requesting a warrant article requesting a change to the bylaws, allowing an associate member on the committee to vote in the event the committee does not have a quorum.

There was some discussion on the unexpended appropriations for FY 2012, totaling approximately \$1.7 million. The amount was in line with prior years. The largest turn back, from the Chickering School is explained by the large variance in estimating SPED needs. The Dover Schools are instructed to budget conservatively, not expecting the State reimbursement.

Ms. Gerner and Ms. Gill-Body discussed the Regional long-term capital needs as noted in the Capital Needs Plan dated January 8, 2013. The A/C for the Middle School is expected to cost \$1 million. In addition to the \$1 million for the A/C there will be another request for \$122,000 for maintenance and repair. The details are in the attached document titled "DS Regional Needs Plan: Impacts on budgets FY14-FY16 and beyond"

There was discussion on several options to budget and pay for the capital needs at the Region.

Dover and Sherborn remain apart on funding levels at the Region, with Dover expecting level service and Sherborn expecting a 1% increase. Sherborn asked the Regional School Committee to show what specific cuts would be made to reduce the current draft budget.

There will be joint meeting at the Region with Sherborn Advisory and Dover Warrant with the DS School Committee on February 27.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2013 with expected presentations from Library and Cemetery.

Being no other business, Mr. Cocks made a motion to adjourn, second by Ms. Gerner
Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Forte