

Dover Warrant Committee

Minutes of the January 23, 2013 meeting

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

Non-members in attendance:

Mr. Jim Dawley (Selectmen)

Ms. Cheryl Abdullah (Director, Dover Town Library)

Ms. Beth Paisner (Chair, Board of Trustees of Dover Town Library)

Location: Dover Town House

Mr. Waugh called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Ms. Gerner made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16, 2013 as amended with a second by Mr. Cone. Approved 7-0-0.

Ms. Abdullah reviewed the Library budget, indicating increases in salaries within the guidelines and minor increases in expenses for books, meetings, travel and the apportionment of Minuteman expenses. The Friends of the Dover Library continue to augment the expenditures for books and periodicals necessary for certification by the State Board of Library Commissioners. After some discussion, Ms. Abdullah and Ms. Paisner were thanked for their report.

There was discussion among members on fuel costs calculations among the various Town departments. A request will be made of the Town Accountant to get actual fuel consumption numbers by department for the past several years to help the Committee next year in developing budget guidelines.

Liaison Reports:

Ms. Gerner updated the Committee on the Minuteman Vocational School. The expectation is for an approximate 3.8% increase. Dover currently has two students attending the School.

Ms. Gerner and Ms. Gill-Body updated the Committee on the Budget at the Region. The Regional School Committee presented the level service budget which reflected a 4.32% increase and demonstrated the cuts that would have to be made to reach a budget with only a 1% increase. Salaries make up 75% of the budget. To get to the 1% increase desired by Sherborn would require a staff reduction of 9 FTE (full time equivalent). Ms. Gerner and Ms. Gill-Body stressed that the Regional School Committee is not currently contemplating any reduction in teachers.

Sherborn's enrollment is up 0.5%. Sherborn's guidelines for departments was to budget for 11% increase in health insurance costs, but the Region is to incorporate the increased cost of health care as part of the 1% total increase in the Regional budget. The Region is projecting an 8% increase in health costs.

The Governor's new budget proposes increased taxes to pay for education and transportation. The Region could receive as much as \$500,000 in additional aid from the State, virtually eliminating the budget shortfall. The Region will present their budget to a joint meeting of Sherborn Advisory and Dover Warrant on February 27, 2013.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2013 with expected presentations from Capital Budget, Planning Board and Park & Recreation.

Being no other business, Mr. Cocks made a motion to adjourn, second by Ms. Gill-Body. Meeting adjourned at 8:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Forte