

Dover Warrant Committee

Minutes of the September 25, 2013 meeting

Members in attendance: James Stuart, Rich Forte, John Cone, chairman, Brooks Gerner, Maureen Arkle, Doug Lawrence, Bob Cocks, Geoffrey Merrill

Non-Members in attendance: James Dawley, Robyn Hunter, Jim Repetti, Sue Geremia, Greer Pugatch, Mary Hornsby, Juris Alksnitis, David Ramsey, Mary Carrigan

Location: Dover Town House

Mr. Cone called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Ms. Carrigan, chairman of the Personnel Board presented information (see attached) used to make the recommendation for a pay increase for non-union Town employees for FY 2015. Ms. Carrigan directed the Committee to the CPI Boston/NE and ECI Northeast figures showing increases for 2013 of 1.9 and 2.0 percent respectively. Currently Dover is at the 50th percentile for non-union wages compared to its peers. It is the recommendation of the Personnel Board to increase non-union wages by 2.0% (approximately \$50,000) for FY 2015.

There was discussion regarding 1.9 v 2.0 percent increase. Mr. Dawley informed the Committee of the expected Highway union contract increase of 2%. It was the intention of the Personnel Board to keep the increase for non-union Town employees in line with the union employees' increase of 2%.

Mr. Forte moved to accept and endorse the Personnel Board's recommendation of a 2% wage increase for non-union Town employees. Second by Mr. Lawrence. Approved 7-0-0.

Mr. Repetti addressed the Committee, expressing his thanks to the members for the time and commitment to the Town. He welcomes the minority and majority views written in the Blue Book. Mr. Repetti emphasized the importance of presenting different views on issues, especially controversial issues, believing it improves the quality of the discussion at Town Meeting.

Mr. Cone presented his thoughts on the Guidance Letter. The committee worked together on wording for a final draft to be given to each Town department and committee. There was discussion as to whether FY2015 energy budgets should be based off of previous years' actuals rather than budget. It was agreed to work off of prior year budget amounts. It was agreed that given the continued sluggishness in the economy and slow development in the Town that all departments and committees should submit level service budgets for FY2015. Liaisons will work very closely with committees on their respective budgets.

Mr. Forte moved that the Guidance Letter for FY2015 (see attached) request the submission of level service budgets and base energy costs on the following estimated price changes:
Heating Oil +2%, Diesel Fuel 0%, Unleaded Gasoline 0%, Electricity +3.3%. Second by Mr. Cocks. Approved 7-0-0

Mr. Cone reminded the Committee of a Prior Notice from the Fire Department for \$11,500 for Engine 1 tank repair. The Fire Department recently provided Mr. Cone information to indicate that they would request a Reserve Fund transfer for that amount. There was discussion surrounding whether it should be a reserve fund transfer or drawn directly from their maintenance budget.

The Committee was informed that there is a potential issue with the garage door at the Fire Station used for the new Ladder Truck. The clearance is 4". There is concern about snow accumulating around the entrance to the garage causing the Ladder Truck not to have sufficient clearance to safely exit the building. Various options are being explored to solve the problem.

Mr. Cone made a motion to approve the minutes of September 4, 2013. Second by Ms. Gerner. Approved 7-0-0

Mr. Dawley informed the Committee that the State Attorney General has approved the Medical Marijuana moratorium as approved by Town Meeting (Article 18). He also said the State was granted a 20 day extension to consider the proposed By-law 5-12.1 (Article 12) as approved by Town Meeting and that the proposed By-law 5-12.1 review should be completed on or before October 9, 2013.

Mr. Cone extended a welcome and thanks to Mr. Geoffrey Merrill, the newest member of the Warrant Committee.

Being no other business, Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Cocks Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 2 at 7 PM at the Dover Town House.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Richard Forte, Jr.