

Dover Warrant Committee

Minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance: James Stuart (Chair), Brooks Gerner, Geoffrey Merrill, John Cone, Kathy Gill-Body, Douglass Lawrence, Rich Forte, Kate Cannie, Rodney Petersen (joined at 7:16)

Non-Members in attendance: Jim Dawley (selectmen), David Ramsay (Town Administrator), Greer Pugatch (Assistant Town Administrator) Peter McGowan (Chief of Police), Craig Hughes (Superintendent of Streets), Ford Spalding (member Minuteman Regional Career & Technical School)

Location: Dover Town House

Mr. Stuart called the meeting to order at 6:48 PM.

Ms. Gerner made a motion to approve the minutes of September 3, 2014, second by Mr. Stuart. Approved 8-0-0

Ms. Gerner made a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2015, second by Mr. Stuart. Approved 8-0-0

Mr. Stuart welcomed the non-members in attendance.

Ms. Pugatch reviewed the Selectmen's FY 16 budget. She presented a level service budget (see attached dated December 3, 2014). Selectmen expenses are up 2.30% to \$353,056. Town Accountant is up 7.05% to \$199,026. Law is up \$10,000 to \$200,000 based on increase demand for legal services. Group Health insurance expenses are budgeted at \$2,080,196, up 11.69%.

Chief McGowan presented the FY 16 Police budget (see attached letter dated November 17, 2014). Salaries are up 3.04% to \$1,820,868. The Protective Agency Building expense is up only the additional cost of electricity to \$88,675 (0.50% increase). Animal Control Budget is up 2.13% to \$22,444 based on the prescribed increase by the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Craig Hughes presented the Highway Department Budget for FY 16 (see attached). The proposed budget is up 1.47% to \$720,042. Snow & Ice is up 8.72% because of increase cost of material (salt) and hired trucks.

Mr. Dawley suggested the Warrant Committee reach out to the Board of Health and arrange a joint meeting among the Board of Health, Chief McGowan and the Warrant Committee to discuss who is in charge of emergency management and if the cost to manage can be absorbed by the Protective Services Department rather than an increase in cost to the Board of Health. Chief McGowan indicated that he has staff time available to allocate to this task without an increase in budget cost.

Mr. Spalding updated the Committee on the Capital Project and Regional Agreement (see attached) at Minuteman.

Mr. Forte reported that the Selectmen have asked the Long Range Planning Committee to coordinate research of the Green Communities Program. Initial research indicates the program is viable for Dover.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Being no other business, Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Stuart.
Meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Richard Forte Jr.