

## **Dover Warrant Committee Minutes of the January 21, 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

**Non-Members in attendance:** Mark Saro (Planning Board) and Fire Chief Jay Hughes

**Location:** Dover Town House

Mr. Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Mr. Merrill made a motion to approve the minutes of September 11, 2014, second by Mr. Cone. Approved 9-0-0

Mr. Cone made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2015, second by Mr. Merrill. Approved 9-0-0

Mr. Stuart invited Mr. Saro to present the Planning Board budget for FY 16. Mr Saro presented a level service budget (see attached), with no change to expenses. There is an increase in the salaries line to \$32,681, up 2.91%. Additionally, the Planning Board is estimating 300 hours for professional services from Mr. Gino Carlucci (Town Planner) for a cost of \$26,132, up 2.2%. Total Planning Board Budget is \$62,624, up 2.44%.

Mr. Saro told the Committee that the Planning Board was working on cleaning up some bylaws to define terms and address inconsistencies among the bylaws. They plan to present the bylaw change at the 2016 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Stuart welcomed Chief Hughes to present the FY 16 Fire Budget. Chief Hughes presented a level service budget. The Fire Department had resignations from two firefighters and added four new firefighters to bring the total firefighter force to 44 personnel. Chief Hughes requested an additional \$4,990 be added to the in-service training salary line to provide for new firefighter training and continued firefighter training. Chief Hughes expects this to be a permanent addition to this line item. Total budget for FY 16 is up 3.02% to \$460,222

Chief Hughes presented the level service FY 16 Ambulance budget. As with the firefighters, there were some changes with the EMTs (2 resignations and 6 new). Chief is requesting an additional \$2,119 for EMT training and expects that to also be a permanent addition to this line item. Total Ambulance budget is up 2.87% to \$174,933. Chief Hughes informed the Committee that the new holiday coverage policy is working well, guaranteeing adequate personnel coverage during holidays. Chief Hughes informed the committee that Ambulance is making a capital budget request for \$19,500 for a new mechanized stretcher. The new stretcher has a working life of about 20 years and should help to reduce potential injury to ambulance and firefighter personnel during extraction and transportation.

Mr. Stuart asked if there were any liaison reports.

Mr. Lawrence reported on the Chickering School Committee. The hot water heater at the school is on it's last legs. Replacement is estimated at \$15K. The School Committee is contemplating a Reserve Fund Transfer Request to pay for the new hot water heater. The Warrant Committee reviewed their budget and noted that there are sufficient funds available for capital repair/replacement and the School Committee should use their budget to pay for the new heater and not come to the Warrant Committee for a Reserve Fund Transfer.

Mr. Lawrence informed the Committee of a new Fine Arts program being proposed and how staffing may be allocated to fit the new program. It was agreed by the Committee that the Chickering School Committee should prepare a separate list of all non-level service items along with their proposed FY 16 budget.

Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Cone reported that there were no extraordinary capital item requests for FY 16. There was discussion over the rotation of police vehicles, in particular the need for new detective's car.

Mr. Stuart opened a discussion for members of the Committee to give some thought on strategies for the use of Free Cash.

A review of the Conservation Commission budget shows an increase of 21.39% to \$77,001. The increase appears to be beyond level service. A request will be made to the Conservation Committee to explain the budget increase.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Being no other business, Mr. Forte made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Stuart. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
W. Richard Forte Jr.