

Dover Warrant Committee Minutes of the August 19, 2015 meeting

Members in attendance: Douglass Lawrence (Chair), Brooks Gerner, Geoffrey Merrill, Rich Forte, Kate Cannie, James Stuart

Non-members: Ms. Candace McCann, Board of Selectmen

Location: Dover Town House

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lawrence at 6:02 PM

Mr. Lawrence asked Ms. McCann to update the Committee on the happenings at Minuteman. Ms. McCann informed the Committee that Minuteman was exploring options for a new building and the school feels it needs to push forward to maximize the State subsidy available. Dover is trying to get more information from Minuteman to get a better sense of Dover's liability and potential future obligations.

Mr. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2015, second by Ms. Gerner. Approved 6-0-0

Mr. Lawrence informed the Committee of a Prior Notice in the amount of \$44,000 for the Protective Services Renovation. This was an expected Prior Notice resulting from higher bids received for the project last fiscal year.

Mr. Lawrence introduced a Reserve Fund Transfer Request from Building Maintenance in the amount of \$5,496 to fund change order number 1 for the Police Dispatch Area Renovation Project. Mr. Forté made a motion to approve the request, second by Mr. Stuart. Approved 6-0-0

Mr. Lawrence opened the discussion on the Regional School Committee. The Regional Committee is conducting a superintendent search. There was discussion on coordinating budget meetings among the three school districts (Dover, Sherborn and the Region). The Committee discussed the pros and cons of multiple meetings, with different committees. The Committee is aware of the demands on the superintendent's time to prepare for and meet with the interested committees from both towns, but wants to be sure it receives the information needed in a timely manner to work through the budgetary process.

The Region opened and funded a Regional Transportation Reserve Fund (RTRF) with a portion of its \$250,000 operating surplus from last fiscal year. Prior to the new RTRF, any excess over the E&D maximum of 5% of the operating budget, would be returned to the Town. However the Regional School Committee thought it prudent to build a surplus to protect from a potential reduction in State transportation reimbursement. There was discussion as to how much of the surplus should go to the RTRF or to consider funding OPEB or an already approved capital item.

Discussion turned to an update on the Springdale Study Committee. Ms. Cannie informed the Committee that a survey was sent out to all Dover households (approximately 2,000). To date there were 264 responses, with the following results:

- 57% favored Open Space
- Less than 5% wanted any kind of housing
- Average age of respondents was 40-65, with respondents averaging 11 years as Dover town residents.

Being no other business, Ms. Gerner made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Merrill. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
W. Richard Forte Jr.