

## **Dover Warrant Committee Minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting**

**Members in attendance:** Douglass Lawrence (Chairperson), Kate Cannie, Brooks Gerner, Geoffrey Merrill, Kathy Gill-Body, James Stuart, Rich Forte, John Cone, Rodney Peterson

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

**Location:** Dover Town Hall

Mr. Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Mr. Lawrence opened the meeting with a discussion of the Regional School budget. There was discussion on the maximum reserves as a percentage of budget at the Region. It was agreed that a maximum of 5% be the target for FY 2017 which would be comprised of E&D and the Reserve Transportation Fund (RTF). The goal is to reduce the reserves from 5% to 4% as future budgets are developed.

There was discussion on the current FY 2016 surplus at the Region.

Mr. Lawrence made a motion: the Region will return \$287K of the surplus to the towns rather than spend it directly out of E&D for capital expenses planned for FY 2017. Dover will follow the normal capital budget process with respect to the Region's capital requests totaling \$287K, rather than having the Region directly spend this amount from its E&D surplus. Accordingly, the Region will return \$287K to the towns, and, in turn, we will appropriate it at town meeting, assuming a favorable vote. Second by Mr. Stuart. Approved 9-0-0.

The Committee commended Sherborn Advisory and the Regional School Committee (RSC) for the collaborative process used to develop the FY 17 RSC budget. The final budget showed an operating increase at the Region of 1.3%. Dover's share of the Regional budget increased by 4.2% to \$11,324,973 due to an enrollment shift at the Region.

Mr. Lawrence reviewed the 27 articles of the Warrant, reminding members of the March 14 open hearing at 7:30 PM in the Great Hall.

Being no other business, Ms. Cannie made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mr. Merrill. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Forte