

DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the January 15, 2020 Meeting

Members in attendance: Rob Andrews, Kate Cannie, Gordon Kinder, Janet McCormick, Peter Smith, Andy Ursitti

Others in attendance: Bob Springett, Selectman; Chris Dwelley, Town Administrator; Katelyn O'Brien, Assistant Town Administrator; Mona DiSciullo, Selectmen's Administrative Assistant; Peter McGowan, Chief of Police; Craig Hughes, Superintendent of Streets and Fire Chief; Janet Claypool, Council on Aging Director; Gerry Lane, Treasurer/Collector; Kathy LaPlant, Accountant

Location: Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Dover Town House

Mr. Ursitti called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

The minutes of January 8 were approved.

Mr. Dwelley presented the Selectmen's budgets, referring to the FY'21 Budget Outlook Presentation previously shown at the Board of Selectmen's meeting. Migration to new financial software has gone well. He will be leveraging its more advanced reporting and analysis features. There will be some staff changes, including floating administrative help across departments.

Chief McGowan presented his budgets. Increases over last year are small and mostly due to personnel and contract obligations. With Mr. Dwelley's help he was comfortable decreasing some budgets that have always been under-spent in recent years. He will be creating a police lieutenant's position, eliminating one of the four sergeants' positions. The Animal Control officer's position will be handled on an ad hoc basis covered by a stipend.

Chief Hughes presented the Fire and Ambulance budgets. Salaries increased in line with the Personnel Board's recommendation, and one member now qualifies for longevity. He is requesting Class-A uniforms for the two new EMTs and two new firefighters.

Superintendent Hughes presented the Highway-related budgets. A new contract for union personnel takes effect in FY2021. If the proposal for floating administrative help from Town House is approved, he hopes to be able to take advantage. One truck will get a major overhaul. Snow and Ice is level-funded. Street Lighting costs will go down: a Green Communities grant has allowed the Town to replace all street lights with LEDs. The Solid Waste budget will go up a little to cover labor costs. Note that food scrap disposal has moved from the Board of Health budget to Solid Waste as we have transitioned from residential pick-up to collection at the Transfer Station.

Ms. Claypool presented the Council on Aging budget. Dues and memberships are up. Food costs are up, but she is hoping to get more sponsors involved. The Director's position was re-classified by the Personnel Board, changing from hourly to salaried, and getting a raise in grade. According to the Town Clerk there are 1460 citizens age 60 or over; 873 were served last year by CoA. Outreach is a significant part of the mission, especially assisting citizens making the transition from hospital/rehab to life at home.

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on January 22.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary