

**DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Meeting**

**Members in attendance:** Rob Andrews, Melissa Herman, Cam Hudson, Gordon Kinder, Sara Kinney, Janet McCormick, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith

**Members absent:** Andy Ursitti

**Others in attendance:** Bob Springett, Selectman; Andrew Keough, Schools Superintendent; Dawn Fattore, Schools Business Manager; Brooke Matarese, Dover School Committee

**Location:** on-line, via Zoom

*Mr. Kinder called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.*

Mr. Kinder opened the meeting with a review of COVID-related remote meeting procedures

Mr. Kinder asked for any citizens' comments; none were made.

The minutes of January 20 were approved unanimously.

#### Dover School Budget

Ms. Matarese spoke on behalf of the Dover School Committee to express her support for the proposed budget. Ms. Fattore presented the budget overview (attached), noting that this is version 1.0, and will likely undergo minor changes before the final Committee vote in early March. She expects that State Chapter 70 aid will be unchanged, and there may be an increase in transportation aid for out-of-district placements. Enrollment is nearly level from last year, with 24 class sections. There were unanticipated OOD placements this school year which have created a deficit, but this is expected to be reversed next year due to students aging out of the program, so that budget is unchanged. As is Dover's practice, the budget does not include the expected State Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursement, which will be on the order of \$1.1 million. Dr. Keough followed up, emphasizing that trend budgeting seeks to adjust budget requests to be in line with recent actual spending. He also highlighted the "grit" program of Social-Emotional Learning, which has helped reduce out-of-district placements.

Mr. Andrews asked if the smaller Kindergarten enrollment this year is the result of demographic trends or COVID-related. Ms. Fattore said that she does not have the full census data, but noted that some families have preferred private kindergarten in the past, joining the Dover schools in Grade 1. There are also families who are home-schooling due to COVID and remote learning.

#### Minuteman School Budget

Ford Spalding, Dover's representative to the Minuteman School Committee, was unable to attend, so the full budget review will be at a later date. Ms. Herman attended the latest Minuteman meeting and reported that the capital spending for FY22 is up significantly, with projects deferred from the initial construction coming to the fore. She will circulate the building plan with the list of projects.

#### Warrant Article Write-Up Assignments

- Ms. McCormick: 9
- Mr. Ursitti: 10 & 11
- Mr. Hudson: 17 & 28
- Ms. Herman: 19 20 & 21
- Mr. Migausky: 18
- Mr. Andrews: 25 & 26
- Ms. Kinney: 15 & 27

Other Business

Mr. Andrews noted that the Water Study Committee wants to continue monitoring groundwater levels and quality. The hope is to provide solid background data for a possible future bylaw governing water usage, lawn irrigation in particular. The cost of monitoring for FY22 will be on the order of \$25,000.

Mr. Andrews attended the most recent Hale Reservation meeting and asked Mr. Springett for clarification on the cost of an assessment of Dover's and Westwood's parts of the property.

Messrs. Andrews and Hudson reported that the Community Center Building Committee will present the current options with updated cost estimates in mid-February.

*There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.*

*The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on February 3.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Peter Smith, Secretary

Attachment: FY22 Chickering Operating Budget