

DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the February 8, 2023 Meeting

Members in attendance: Melissa Herman, Cam Hudson, Gordon Kinder, Sara Cadena Kinney, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith

Members absent: Janet McCormick, Andy Ursitti

Others in attendance: Barry Goldman, Capital Budget Committee; Woody Weiss

Location: on-line, via Zoom

Ms. Herman called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Capital Budget

Mr. Goldman began by showing the five years leading up to the current capital requests. The trend is sharply upwards, from \$250,000 to \$4,000,000. The principal drivers of the increase are an aging fleet of large vehicles at the Fire and Highway Departments, and the no-longer-new schools. All of these areas will continue to generate significant annual capital requests, and it will be the Capital Budget Committee's goal to vet, prioritize, and sequence these requests. Mr. Goldman will provide a five-year outlook. One-time requests on this year's budget include \$1,000,000 to rebuild Claybrook Rd, \$594,000 for HVAC at the Regional Schools.

The current reserve fund plan calls for using an amount of Free Cash equal to 1.5% of the operating budget to fund one-time projects each year. This year's capital requests far exceed that, so some combination of grants and borrowing will be necessary. Dover received a Green Communities grant for the Caryl HVAC system, so we will not be eligible for another for two years. Other grant opportunities are being investigated.

It was noted that Dover historically retained and maintained vehicles well past their nominal service life. On the one hand, this keeps capital costs down; on the other, it can lead to a superannuated fleet and all vehicles needing replacement at once. Mr. Goldman is in favor of retaining a consultant to review our inventory vs. needs and create a long-term plan.

Other Business

Mr. Kinder moved that the minutes of February 1 be approved, seconded by Mr. Hudson. The motion passed 5-0-1.

Ms. Herman said that the Open Hearing on the Warrant will be held on-line on Monday, March 13.

Mr. Hudson reported that the Town Meeting Working Group is strongly encouraging sponsors of warrant articles to complete their work in a timely manner, and be able to present prior to Open Hearing.

Mr. Smith noted that the Fire Department has submitted two Prior Notices which we can expect to see by our next meeting.

There is only one citizen's petition on the Warrant (sidewalk on Cross St). The sponsor will be expected to present to this Committee on March 1.

The annual joint meeting with the Sherborn Advisory Committee and presentation by the Regional Schools will be in-person on February 15 at the Middle School library.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary