

DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the May 20, 2020 Meeting

Members in attendance (via Zoom): Rob Andrews, Kate Cannie, Melissa Herman, Cam Hudson, Gordon Kinder, Janet McCormick, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith, Andy Ursitti

Others in attendance: Chris Dwelley, Town Administrator

Location: on-line

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

The minutes of May 13 were approved unanimously.

Mr. Dwelley updated the Committee on changes to the operating budget, reflecting the expected effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the revenue side, he anticipates reductions in State aid and local receipts. Since these are a small portion of Dover's revenue stream, we should be able to absorb the cuts. On the expenditures side, funding for new positions that were in the original budget have been halved, and those positions will not be filled until January at the earliest. With these and a few other adjustments, the Town will still have excess levy capacity and there will be no need to tap reserves.

An abbreviated Town Meeting could still be held this spring. It would cover salaries of elected officials, revolving funds, operating budget, Chapter 90 highways funding, and unpaid bills. All other articles would be deferred to a fall Town Meeting. No free cash would be appropriated for the operating budget. The preliminary tax rate would remain unchanged until fall Town Meeting. The timing and location of a June Town Meeting await pending State legislation and Board of Health input. If no budget is passed, departments may continue spending at a rate of 1/12th of the prior fiscal year's appropriations each month until a budget is passed.

Mr. Kinder asked about a more detailed breakdown of how the budget components come together, which Mr. Dwelley will supply.

Mr. Andrews suggested that the school liaisons get in contact with their respective committees to see if they are considering making changes to their budgets, and if they can live within the 1/12th monthly constraint if no budget is passed.

Mr. Kinder noted that the new heating oil price lock-in for the coming season has come in at a significant savings.

The next meeting will be at 7:00pm on May 27.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary