

DOVER WARRANT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the January 24, 2024 Meeting

Members in Attendance: Jerry Chen, Melissa Herman, Marty Howard, Cam Hudson, Sara Cadena Kinney, Janet McCormick, Steve Migausky, Peter Smith, Woody Weiss

Others in Attendance: Robyn Hunter, Board of Selectmen; L. Paul Luttazi, Fire Chief; Jim Dawley, Ford Spalding, and Kate Cannie, Board of Fire Engineers; Kevin McCabe, DPW Director

Location: on-line, via Zoom

Mr. Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Fire and Ambulance – Chief Luttazi

The FY2025 budget request for Fire is \$622,217; an increase of \$17,590 (+2.7%) over the FY2024 budget of \$644,627. Salaries increase by the recommended 3%; all other expenses are level-funded.

The FY2025 budget request for Ambulance is \$396,181; an increase of \$37,543 (+10.47%) over the FY2024 budget of \$358,638. Salaries increase by the recommended 3%, plus the on-call stipend has been extended to 24/7. Last year the weekday stipend increased the ability to fully staff the ambulance from 76% of calls to 97%. This extension is expected to ensure complete coverage, and was endorsed by the Board members. All expenses other than wages are level-funded.

DPW – Mr. McCabe

The FY2025 budget request for Highway Maintenance is \$1,528,249; an increase of \$55,260 (+4.5%) over the FY2024 budget of \$1,461,989. Salaries increased as per union contracts and non-union guidelines. Engineering and Care of Trees, which used to have their own budget accounts, are now part of the Highway Maintenance budget and are level-funded.

The FY2025 budget request for Snow & Ice is \$384,000 and is level-funded.

The FY2025 budget request for Street Lighting is \$8,889 and is level-funded.

The FY2025 budget request for Town Garage is \$72,916 and is level-funded.

The FY2025 budget request for Tarvia/Patching is \$330,000; an increase of \$50,000 (+17.9%) over the FY2024 budget of \$280,000. Mr. McCabe acknowledges that he has inherited a road system in good condition, but increased annual maintenance, including preventative and preservation work, will be required to maintain this condition. To this end, he sees the need to eventually reach a spending level of \$800,000. He notes that the Town has received on the order of \$280,000 per year from State Chapter 90 grants, and as a result of the recently passed Fair Share Act another \$169,000 per year is to be expected. The plan is to increase this budget by \$50,000 per year in pursuit of the target. In the meantime, CARES grants and prior year surpluses will help close the funding gap.

The FY2025 budget request for Solid Waste is \$416,951; an increase of \$39,792 (+10.6%) over the FY2024 budget of \$377,159. Salaries increased as per union contracts. The tipping fees the town pays to for waste disposal are up significantly; recycling costs have increased even more. In May 2023 Town Meeting approved the replacement of the roll-on/roll-off truck used for waste hauling for \$250,000 with the proviso that Mr. McCabe look into outsourcing this function. Running the numbers, he concluded that contracting out haulage will result in a net savings due to the elimination of fuel, vehicle maintenance, and amortized capital cost of a new truck. It will also free up 4/5 FTE for the driver who can now work on in-town projects.

Other Business

Mr. Smith moved that the minutes of January 17 be approved, seconded by Dr. Weiss. The motion passed 9-0-0.

There being no further business a motion was made to adjourn, seconded by unanimous proclamation. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Smith, Secretary