Warrant Committee  
February 12, 2020  
Blute Conference Room

Present: George A. Ashur (Chair), Brian Beaupre (Secretary), Rosemary C. Bouzane, Jonathan Boynton, Erin G. Bradley, Kathleen A. Cassis, Brian G. Foster, Christine J. Gimber, Douglas B. Scibek, John E. Driscoll.

Absent: Clinton Graham, Christopher R. Hart, Susannah H. Hegarty, Gwendolyn Long, Scott Johnson.

Guests: Kerry Hurley (Chair of the School Building Committee) Betty White (Member of the School Building Committee), William Adamczyk (Library Director), Raymond Czwakiel (Chair of the Board of the Library Trustees).

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

1.) Chairman remarks:  
7:01 p.m. The meeting minutes from last two Warrant Committee meetings are not completed.

2.) Warrant Discussions:  
a.) 7:02 p.m. Ms. Hurley. Ms. White addressed the Warrant Committee.

7:03 pm. Christine Gimber enters the meeting.

Ms. Hurley noted that after the School Building Committee presented at the Special Town Meeting (in December of 2019) there was a lot of feedback from Town Meeting members and from the community. As a result the School Building Committee is reviewing facts and spending a lot of time reviewing data. The enrollment data predicts an overcrowding problem, and the numbers do trail off slightly, however the School Building Committee still believes there is a need for additional school building. The Committee has approached NESDEC (The New England School Development Council), to project enrollment and has asked specifically to include all home development projects that are currently being built and projects that are currently requested to be built. The School Building Committee does not believe that the projections of student enrollment reflect on the real estate transactions or home developments. The School Building Committee has reached out to Carolyn Cahill, (a real estate professional), to review the Committee’s enrollment after real estate transaction numbers are accurate. Ms. Hurely discussed Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) application process. MSBA receives 100-125 Statement of Interests annually and the requests are based on urgency and needs. Last year MSBA received 61 submissions and 11 were funded. The MSBA allows nine months to review all applications and to make their decision. After learning the timeline MSBA has, the School Building Committee decided
to withdraw their proposed article as it was too soon. Ms. Hurely noted that in total this process would take approximately two years, before the building would even start to be built.

Ms. Hurely and Ms. White discussed with the Warrant Committee possible locations. One location that has been discussed is the old dump on Randolph Ave. However, an ideal location would be walkable for as many streets as possible. Chair Ashur asked if the Committee had considered buying private homes and parcels of land. Ms. Hurely noted that is being considered. Chair Ashur asked what area of Milton was the School Building Committee considering. Ms. Hurley noted it seemed the consensus was to avoid East Milton/ Cunningham area, and the board was looking into West or South Side of the Town.

Ms. White noted if the MSBA were to approve Milton for building a new school the funding would only cover 30% of the cost of the school. The School Building Committee estimates the cost of the building to be 50 million dollars. The Warrant Committee asked if the projection for completion of new school to be ten years. Ms. Hurley commented the School Building Committee is hoping for new school to be completed in five years.

The Warrant Committee asked if the School Building Committee is considering Eminent Domain. Ms. Hurely noted that the Committee is not taking any possibilities off the table.

Chair Ashur asked the Committee new timeline considering the article has been removed from Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Hurley noted that the School Building Committee will present an update to the Annual Town Meeting. Additionally, the Committee will be holding information sessions with neighborhood associations as well as other groups for feedback.

Chair Ashur asked if the School Building Committee has considered hiring a consultant to help with the process as well as the forms. Ms. Hurley confirmed the School Building Committee has considered it and there is enough of a budget to hire one. Ms. Hurley noted that several consultants the board has reached out to and will choose the best fit soon.

The Warrant Committee asked if there was enough clerical support for the board to do this work. Ms. Hurley noted that there was.

b.) 7:23 p.m. Mr. Adamczyk and Mr. Czwakiel addressed the Warrant Committee. Mr. Adamczyk presented the fiscal year 2021 budget. The library is a community center, all ages, all parts of the Town, and for different needs. The library is also outside of the building, it runs programs at Farmers Market, Fuller Village, online and in schools. Mr. Adamczyk noted that digital use has increased by 345% over the last year. The Warrant Committee asked if the cost of digital book prices have increased again. Mr. Adamczyk explained these prices are controlled by the publishers, some are limited by a number of check outs, some by a limited time, and once that number is reached the digital book has to be purchased again. Mr. Adamczyk noted there are a certain number of states the attorney general is taking action against these limitations from publishers.
The Warrant Committee asked if digital books were trending higher than traditional hard cover books. Mr. Adamczyk estimates that digital books are approximately 15% while hard cover books are 65%.
Mr. Adamczyk noted the library offers more than books. On average the Library hold more than two programs a day. Also staff handles many questions regarding technology, including how to upload digital books onto patron devices.
The Library and the Milton Library Foundation conducted a two year study to improve: the spaces they already have into better functioning space, expand online services and technology training for staff and residents.
The current challenges the Library faces due to funding is: adequate eBook training, meet the attendance demand for story time, adequate staff for teen services, the demand for new books and fund two additional positions for personnel.
There was some discussion between Milton Library and neighboring communities public libraries. Both the Warrant Committee and Mr. Adamczyk noted given the tax base, Milton Library is offering more than our neighbors.
Mr. Adamczyk reviewed the State Aid requirements, that all public libraries have to adhere to to receive state funding. These include but are not limited to: number of hours open, professional personnel, a certain number to be appropriated from the Town budget.
Mr. Adamczyk noted that the overdue fine that the Library has relied on previous year to help purchase new materials continues to decrease annually. In part this is due to digital materials. Mr. Adamczyk also noted that the trend nationwide is to eliminate fines, to be more accessible to those whom may not have the means to pay those fines.
The Warrant Committee and Mr. Adamczyk discussed the parking issues the library faces. When the parking lot is full, patrons are forced to park on Canton Ave or at Town Hall.
The Warrant Committee asked for an update regarding the Kidder Branch Library Building. Mr. Adamczyk noted since the last Annual Town Meeting there has been a reinterpretation of the deed by Town Counsel. It is now in the Select Board purview any income by the sale or lease would be for Library purposes. The Discovery School house is still the tenants and they are in a lease through June 2020. The lease is for (approximately) $1800.00 a month, which used to go into a revolving fund, however after reinterpretation by Town Counsel will go into Library Trust Fund. Mr. Adamczyk noted he expected that the Select Board will announce the future of the building in the coming months.
The Warrant Committee asked how the Teen Center is affecting the Library. Historically teens would go to the Library after school. Mr. Adamczyk noted the teen center has only been open for two months so the Library has not seen an impact yet. Mr. Adamczyk commented he hopes that start of the next school year teens use the teen center some days and the library some days and the two institutions could partner with each other.
The Warrant Committee asked about the two positions the Library wished to fill, but cannot because of budget restrictions. Mr. Adamczyk noted one is a reference position that would help in the teen center, part time circulation position.
The Warrant Committee asked about Mr. Adamczyk comment that adequate teen services are not able to be provided. Mr. Adamczyk noted that two staff members are needed when the library offers programming to teens, one to staff the teen study room and the other to run the programming.

c.) 8:01 p.m. Warrant Committee discusses the need to have Chase Berkeley review the Enterprise Funds with the Warrant Committee. The Warrant Committee also noted that the Town and School still have not reconciled the budget and was curious what that meant for the two positions the School had requested. There was much discussion among the Warrant Committee how the Town will fund the newly prosed elementary school and where it maybe located.

d.) 8:09 p.m. No new business.

The next Warrant Committee meeting will be February 24th, 2020 at Milton Council on Aging.

8:11 p.m. On a motion from Erin G. Bradley, seconded by John E. Driscoll, the meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne Hoye
Warrant Committee Clerk