

TOWN OF GROTON  
FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

JANUARY 31, 2006

Members present: Jan Cochran, Mike Flynn, Monica Hinojos, Jay Prager, Stuart Shuman, Ann Walsh, and Town Accountant Valerie Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman, Jan Cochran at 7:00pm

The purpose of this meeting was to review the budgets as follows:

**Board of Health, Solid Waste:**

R. Hanninen, of the Board of Health, noted that the only increase in that budget was due to increases in assessments from Nashoba Board of Health.

Increases in the Solid Waste budget were due to increase in the cost of bags due to increase in oil prices. An article for 57k is proposed to purchase a new baler which will allow us to recycle more and increase revenues about 15k.

**Board of Assessors:**

The board is requesting additional hours for their part-time clerk and an additional 3 hrs per week for the full-time clerk. This will allow them to have three full-time people and may allow them to eliminate some of their outside appraisal services. They will need, however, need some outside consultant services to handle appraisal of commercial properties.

**Council on Aging:**

The Council is requesting that the town fund, through the budget, the 7 hours of the Outreach Coordinator's wages that are currently being funded through the Council's formula grant, as well as an additional 3 hours for a total of 40 hours for that position. This will allow them to offer more programs, particularly in the evenings, and to make sure that there is always someone at the center if someone is in need of services.

**Conservation Commission, Water Safety:**

The commission has combined the land management line with the expense line in order to give them more leeway. They are requesting an increase in legal expenses due to litigation. The Water Safety budget is level funded from 06.

At this time there was a brief update on the status of the Recreation Department. The Selectmen have determined that there will be no budget and that those programs that can be identified as viable will be met by other entities in town.

**Minutes:**

S. Shuman moved and M. Hinojos seconded to accept the minutes of January 24, 2006 with a correction in the spelling of Selectman Keoseian's name.

Voted unanimously.

**Water Department:**

The Water Department budget reflects the hiring of an additional person and an upgrade of the current Inspector/Auto Cad Tech position. Expenses reflect an increase due to a 22% increase in fuel and electricity, and increase in budgeted surplus. Revenues reflect an expected increase in growth. There may be a modest increase in rates, but that has not been determined at this time.

**Finance Committee:**

A. Walsh moved, S. Shuman seconded that \$800 be submitted as the Fincom budget for 2007. The increase is due to printing of materials for distribution prior to Town Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously

**Reserve Fund Transfer:**

A. Walsh moved S. Shuman seconded to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$1,220. to the Sealer of Weights and Measurers Salary/Fees.

Motion carried unanimously.

S. Shuman moved, J. Prager seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:25

Respectfully submitted,

Ann F. Walsh  
Recording Secretary