

**TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10-18-2010
(6:00 PM Middle School, Prior to Town Meeting)**

PRESENT: Steve Webber (Vice-Chair), Robert Hargraves, Mike Flynn, Peter DiFranco, Joe Crowley, Valerie Jenkins (Town Accountant, Recording)

ABSENT: Tom Sangiolo, Jay Prager

GUESTS: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Don Black, Parks Commission; Bob Whalen, Country Club

Documents available: ATM warrant motions
Minority Report for Article 12 (Country Club)

Mr. Webber called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on Sept 23rd was deferred until the next meeting.

Fall Annual Town Meeting: Speakers for each of the article were assigned in the event that someone from the FinCom was required to address the meeting (see attached list of positions and speakers). The FinCom also re-considered article 2 (amendments to the FY 11 line item budget) because there were two additions; a) resolution of the Police Chief's contract added \$3400 to the Police Salary budget; and b) re-working of an open position in the Sewer Department to include support for the DPW Director, added \$3000 to the Town Manager's wage budget. Mr. Hargraves moved, and Mr. Flynn seconded support of article 2 with the changes. The FinCom approved by majority, with 4 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. The FinCom discussed the four articles that relate to the Groton Electric Light Department constructions of its new office and garage on Station Avenue. Mr. Webber noted his objection to the plan that keeps the GEL garage on Station Avenue, explaining his belief that it will be detrimental to the overall development of Station Avenue to have truck traffic on the street. Mr. Flynn moved, and Mr. Hargraves seconded support for all four articles. The FinCom approved by a majority of 4 in favor, 1 opposed, and no abstentions. The FinCom discussed the final article, which had been added at the last minute, requesting support for a survey of the Jenkins Rd property in aid of restoring the ability to use a trail along the river. Some member of the FinCom believe that the survey will only lead to greater expense as the Town seeks summary judgment in Land Court. Mr. DiFranco moved, and Mr. Flynn seconded support for the article, which failed by a split vote of 2 in favor, 2 opposed, and no abstentions.

Minority Report for Article 12: Mr. Prager has written a minority report regarding article 12 (Country Club), which is available to the Committee tonight. Mr. DiFranco has agreed to read the report in Mr. Prager's absence.

The Committee moved to the Town Meeting hall at 6:45PM. The FinCom meeting remained open until the close of Town meeting a week later, on October 25, 2010 in order to be able to discuss and render votes during the meeting if needed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be in mid-November. There are no agenda items at present; however the Fiscal Year 12 budget development will begin with department managers on Nov 4th. It is likely that the FinCom agenda will contain an item about the new budget year.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Jenkins
Recording Secretary