

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING ATTENDED (Selectmen's Meeting) 9/12/2011

Present: J. Prager (Chair), G. Green, S. Webber, R. Hargraves, V. Jenkins (Town Accountant, recording), P. Dufresne

Absent: The meeting did not require attendance

Guests: None

Documents Available: None

The meeting was not called to order. The meeting was posted because 4 members had advised that they would attend the Selectmen's meeting in order to participate in a discussion of additional bonding for evaluation of Lost Lake sewer needs.

Mr. Rafferty, from Woodard and Curren, was present to answer questions regarding the proposed next step in the evaluation process to bring waste water treatment to the Lost Lake area of town. He explained that the evaluation stage has reached a point where a decision needs to be made whether to utilize an on-site treatment process or enter an agreement with the Town of Ayer to treat the wastewater. While the Town of Ayer is willing to comply, there are issues with interbasin transfer of water resources (moving wastewater out of Groton's basin and discharging the treated water in the basin where Ayer is located). Generally, obtaining an interbasin permit from the State is very difficult, but Water Department plans to activate the Unkety Brook well (bringing additional resources into the Groton basin) could offset some of the resource loss and therefore be helpful to obtaining State approval. The alternative, on-site treatment, is much more costly (30 – 40%), but may be the only option if State approval fails. When questioned about potential construction costs and betterment amounts, Mr. Rafferty noted that he had developed several analyses, which were dependent on the type of treatment and number of equivalent dwelling units, as well as the length of term of the bond, but in general the following ranges could be considered:

- For on-site treatment, a total cost (including engineering) of approximately \$15,000,000, with betterments ranging from \$900/year (40 year term) to \$2800/per year (20 year term).
- For transfer to Ayer for treatment, a total cost (including engineering) of approximately \$10,500,000, with betterments ranging from \$650/year (40 year term) to \$2800/per year (20 year term).

Other factors affecting the cost could be the ability to get partial grants and/or low interest loans. If the Town is able to get an interbasin permit from the State, the project could encompass the "4-Corners" section of town, making commercial development more viable and could open up more grant possibilities due to economic development.

There are three articles on the Fall Town meeting to continue the evaluation and permitting process, for a total of \$400,000. It is intended that \$350,000 will be borrowed utilizing a short term (3 year) note, and the remainder will be funded using Free Cash.

The Finance Committee left the Selectmen's meeting at the conclusion of this discussion.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the First Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Jenkins
Town Accountant