

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Held January 9, 2012

Present: J. Prager, G. Green, S Webber, M. Flynn, R. Hargraves. V. Jenkins (Accountant, recording), P. DuFresne (Accountant in Training)

Absent: J. Crowley, P. DiFranco

Documents available at the meeting: PowerPoint Presentation of the FY 2013 Budget Highlights.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:28 PM.

Budget Presentation: Town Manager, Mark Haddad, presented his recommendations for the 2013 budget to a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Finance Committee. Details are contained in the PowerPoint Presentation that forms a part of these minutes. At the close of the presentation, Mr. Prager commented that capital requests from the Groton Pool and Golf Center average \$135,000 per year over the next several years, making that department, which was intended to be cost-neutral, some 24% over budgeted revenue, before operational costs vs. actual revenue are considered. Mr. Degan agrees, and would like a separate accounting for the Center. Mr. Degan also noted he would like some better substantiation of new staff in both the Police and Fire Departments.

The Finance Committee adjourned to a separate room at 8:00 to continue with their own meeting. Mr. Webber moved, and Mr. Green seconded approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 13, 2011, which carried unanimously. Mr. Webber moved, and Mr. Hargraves seconded approval of the executive session meeting of December 13, 2011, with the minutes not to be released until the purpose of the executive session has been accomplished. The motion carried unanimously.

FY 2013 Budget Discussion: The FinCom scheduled a budget review meeting for Saturday, February 11, 2012, to include at least the following departments: Police, Fire, Groton Pool and Golf, Highway, Library, Information Technology and Land Use. A meeting has also been scheduled on February 15th to review the results of the Saturday meeting and to provide some time for department reviews that could not been completed on Saturday. Finally, at least one other meeting will be needed to review the Community Preservation project recommendations, as it is likely that the CPC will not be ready with their budget by mid-February. It is unclear at what point the district school and vocational school budgets will be reviewed by the Committee.

There was some general discussion of tonight's presentation by the Town Manager. In addition to the questions that have already been asked in the joint meeting about the Groton Pool and Golf Center and the requests for new employees, some members question the need for another police sergeant and would like to know more from the Chief about his need for more supervisory staff.

Department Liaison List: Mr. DiFranco, absent tonight, has sent a message through the Chair that he would like to work as liaison to the Parks Department. Mr. Green would like to work with the IT Director and Committee. The Finance Committee concurs.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous consensus at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Jenkins, Recording Secretary