

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Held January 31, 2012

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

Absent: S. Webber

Documents available at the meeting: FY 2013 Budget Update
6- month revenue tracking document
Reserve Fund Transfer Request

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:02PM.

Budget Update: Mark Haddad noted for the FinCom that the draft Cherry Sheet revenue includes a substantial amount of money in return for Veterans' benefits paid out in prior years; no change in Lottery receipts from the previous year; and slightly higher charges for local transportation. The Groton Dunstable school budget is about \$256,000 less than anticipated. There were also some minor changes in the line item budgets due to review by department managers of the Town Manager's budget recommendations. The result of all of this is that the unexpended tax capacity has increased from \$100,000 to \$408,000; and the estimated tax rate has decreased from \$16.85 to \$16.65.

Reserve Fund Transfer: The Town Manager requested a Reserve Fund Transfer (RFT) of \$6000 to evaluate the Prescott School for use as a central Fire Station. He noted that the Selectmen are continuing their review of potential locations for a new fire station and that both the Prescott School and Station Avenue are still on the list. There are still issues with the Conservation Commission's review of GEL's plans for their building on Station Avenue which could adversely affect the Town's ability to build near GEL. A site near the current Public Safety Building is being evaluated but there are no details yet. This RFT would allow the consultant currently working for the Prescott School Re-Use Committee to evaluate the building in detail and provide preliminary cost figures for its use as a fire Station. Some discussion ensued about the ConsComm's inability to compromise over the Station Avenue site. Mr. Hargraves suggested 1) adopting a Town By-Law that holds town facilities to the State Standards for wetland encroachment, rather than local standards which are more stringent; and 2) asking the ConsComm to reimburse the Town and GEL for the money that has been spent so far to further the project. Mr. Haddad explained when questioned that only one bid had been received (from the current consultant to the Prescott School Re-Use Committee). Mr. Hargraves moved and Mr. Crowley seconded support for the RFT of \$6000. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Green moved and Mr. Hargraves seconded approval of the minutes of January 9, 2012. The motion passed by majority vote of 4 in favor, none opposed, and 2 absentions.

The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:40 PM, after a motion by Mr. Green and a second from Mr. Flynn.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Jenkins, Recording Secretary