

# TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

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**Minutes of Regular Meeting Held October 21, 2013**

**Groton Dunstable Middle School Cafeteria**

**344 Main St. Groton, MA 01450**

**Present for Finance Committee:** R. Hargraves, D. Manugian, G. Green, J. Prager (Chair), P. DuFresne (Town Accountant, Recording)

**Absent:** P. DiFranco, Joe Crowley, S. Webber

**Guests:** None

**Documents available at the meeting:** 2013 Fall Town Meeting Warrant & Motions

*Mr. Prager called the meeting to order at 6: 40 p.m.*

**Summary of Discussion of FinCom Support for Article 2:** Mr. Prager said that upon reflection, he is no longer able to support the proposed increase in hours for the Young Adult Librarian position. He feels that no decisions should be made to increase hours in any department until the department head has provided a thorough justification for why those hours are needed and a description of how that additional appropriation will be spent. As it stands, these requests are being made without giving the voters a proper frame of reference.

**On a motion by Mr. Prager, seconded by Mr. Green, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to reconsider their position of support for Article 2: Budget Amendments - Motion D, Library & Citizen Services. The Vote: 4-0-0.**

**On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Hargraves, the Finance Committee voted in the majority to recommend Article 2: Budget Amendments - Motion D, Library & Citizen Services to Town Meeting. The Vote: 3-1-0.**

Mr. Green hopes that the Town will adopt a policy to offer no new positions at 19 hours per week. Mr. Prager agreed adding that perhaps part-time positions could be capped at 15 hours per week, with full-time positions starting at 30 hours per week. This may be a more efficient use of resources.

**Summary of Discussion of FinCom Support for Article 5:** At their meeting of 9/26/13, the Finance Committee voted to recommend that \$150,000 from Free Cash be used to offset the tax rate. Subsequently, the warrant article submitted by the Board of Selectmen specified only \$100,000 to be used for this purpose. Mr. Green felt it would be appropriate for the Finance Committee to take a position on the article in its final form.

**On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Hargraves, the Finance committee voted unanimously to recommend Article 5: *Use of \$100,000 Free Cash to Offset the Tax Rate* to Town Meeting. The Vote: 4-0-0.**

At this point in the meeting, the Finance Committee decided which of their members would speak on each individual warrant article should Town Meeting request additional input on the financial implications of a particular vote.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes –**

The Finance Committee deferred approval of meeting minutes (from 9/16/13 and 9/26/13) until their next meeting scheduled for 10/29/2013.

At 6:50 p.m., the Finance Committee relocated their meeting to the Performing Arts Center in order to participate in the Fall Town Meeting scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned with Town Meeting at 10:18 p.m. (Town Meeting will be continued on 10/29/13 at 7:00 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dufresne, Recording Secretary