

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monday, October 19th, 2015, Middle School Cafeteria

344 Main St. Groton, MA, 6:30 p.m.

Present for Finance Committee: R. Hargraves (Vice Chair), G. Green (Chair), B. Robertson, B. Pease, M. Bacon, Art Prest, D. Manugian, P. Dufresne (Town Accountant, Recording)

Absent: None

Also Present: Greg Sheldon (Prescott Re-Use Committee)

Documents available at the meeting: Town Meeting Warrant & Motions

Mr. Hargraves called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Deferred to a subsequent meeting

Other Business:

Mr. Robertson informed the other committee members that as GDRSD is expected to request a large increase to their assessment for FY17, the Town Manager has asked the Finance Committee to reconsider their position on Article 10. The BOS were likely to withdraw their previous support of mosquito control spending due to this new budget information. Mr. Prest expressed his concern for those residents who live near wetlands. The Finance Committee elected not to take a new position on this article. The group briefly discussed the status of the school district budget (about which very little is known at this date) and the various options available for funding a substantial increase to that line item. Mr. Hargraves would like information from the school district regarding the number of one-on-one teaching ratios that were likely to be budgeted.

Ms. Dufresne distributed a memo and cost quote provided by the Library Director regarding potential repairs to the library's retaining wall. She explained that the Finance Committee may be asked to cover this expense from their Reserve Fund (if it is not addressed as a Line Item Transfer) later in the year.

Article 2: Prescott Renovation Cost Estimate Update (additional \$5,000) – Mr. Sheldon explained that during a recent meeting with the Town Manager and the Building Inspector, it became apparent that a Chapter 34 review of the Prescott building was necessary to support any planned renovations. This will ensure that the final outcome will be in compliance with all relevant building codes. He added that while it is unfortunate that this extra level of review was not discovered until after the Warrant was printed,

there is still time to amend the article to reflect the correct need. Mr. Green said that in order to have faith in the end result of this process, it is crucial to perform the code review at this point.

On a motion by Mr. Prest, seconded by Mr. Robertson, the Finance Committee voted in the majority to recommend support of the amendment to Article 2, to increase the BOS Expense Budget for FY16 by \$5,000 in order to perform a Chapter 34 Review of the Prescott building. The Vote: 5-2-0 (Mr. Pease & Mr. Manugian voted against support)

Mr. Green officially adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dufresne, Recording Secretary