

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Monday, May 23rd, 2016: 6:00 p.m.
Groton Dunstable Middle School Cafeteria
344 Main St. Groton, MA
Meeting Held Jointly with Board of Selectmen*

Present for Finance Committee: G. Green (Chair), R. Hargraves (Vice Chair), Art Prest, D. Manugian, B. Robertson, M. Bacon

Present for Board of Selectmen: A. Eliot, P. Cunningham, J. Petropoulos (Chair), J. Degen, B. Pease

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. D. Doneski (Town Counsel), J. Kubick (School Committee)

Documents available at the meeting: Draft Motions for June 13, Town Meeting

Mr. Green & Mr. Petropoulos called their respective boards to order at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Haddad explained that the moderator will inform the voters that the budget article would not be taken up this evening, but would be continued to June 13th, (the 3rd adjourned session of Town Meeting). Mr. Haddad recommended taking up the Capital Budget article. The group discussed the mechanism by which the Capital Stabilization Fund is replenished yearly from certified Free Cash. Mr. Degen said that both the BOS and FinCom were in favor of presenting the Capital budget this evening, and he is very comfortable explaining the funding sources and the lack of impact on the operational budget. He feels that there may be questions no matter which night is chosen for the presentation. The group briefly discussed the option of funding the Building Security project for FY17 from Capital Stabilization rather than Free Cash. It was ultimately decided that the impact was roughly the same and not worth changing.

Mr. Haddad confirmed that Article 23 (Non-Binding Resolution on Pipeline Intervener Status) would be indefinitely postponed as it is currently a moot point.

Mr. Haddad summarized the current level of the school district assessment within the levy limit (\$1.301 million) as well as those municipal line items that FinCom has agreed to include as contingent on a new override attempt (\$138,696). He distributed a draft copy of the motions for June 13th, and noted that the GDRSD appropriation figure would have to be revised to include their debt. He suggested that both the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen may want to attend the school committee meeting on 3/24/16 to get a sense of how they will approach the settling of their budget. The BOS and Finance Committee agreed to change the location of their 5/24 meeting to Prescott School.

Mr. Degen observed that if the school committee does not provide a firm assessment number by Wednesday, the BOS will be forced to either guess at what the override number should be, or simply not authorize an override. The group discussed what they understood of the budget situation in the Town of Dunstable, and what the impacts may be for an override in that community.

Town Counsel was asked whether funding a portion of the new district assessment as contingent on an override could be construed as a rejection of that budget. Mr. Doneski said it would be permissible, as long as the second part of the process was completed (ballot vote). Mr. Robertson said that he was comfortable with the override that the municipal side was putting on the table (\$138,696). Mr. Haddad agreed that this funds all the district's carry forward costs so they will not have to do any cuts, and if the municipal override fails, the district will get that amount anyway. Mr. Degen suggested holding open the BOS meeting for Wednesday as late as possible in order to make sure the school committee could deliver that number in time. Mr. Kubick assured the group that the district understands the importance of the upcoming deadline for the Towns, and hopes to have a new assessment figure on Tuesday.

The group discussed whether to structure the override ballot as a single question or as two distinct requests. Ms. Sartini asked whether the new override attempt would include funding for the capital and technology needs of the district. Mr. Kubick replied that it would not, as those numbers are not available yet. He believes they will be released before the end of May.

Mr. Petropoulos did some research comparing municipal and education spending for similar towns, and was surprised to find that municipal spending is relatively light in Groton. He explained that if the ratios were higher (spending per capita and total spending), we would have to assume that the municipal side of the budget could give more back to the schools. He added that the municipal side is very lean this year, and while history is interesting it is not always relevant.

Mr. Haddad asked the BOS members to sign the documentation authorizing the roll-over of the Bond Anticipation Note for the Lost Lake Sewer Engineering and the Public Safety Radio Projects. Eastern Bank was the winning bidder at .8%.

Mr. Green and Mr. Petropoulos officially adjourned their respective meetings at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dufresne, Recording Secretary

**SPRING TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS
APRIL 25, 2016**

ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to hear and receive the report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

**Scheduled to Give Reports: Municipal Building Committee for Prescott School
Charter Review Committee**

ARTICLE 2: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Town Clerk	\$ 77,556
Town Moderator	\$ 65

for the ensuing year.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 3: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2017 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2016 Spring Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 4: FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mover: Gary Green

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,901,549 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$425,575 for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

Mover: Robert Hargraves

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$225,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,444,831 for a total of \$3,669,831 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: SCHOOLS

Mover: Bud Robertson

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$570,080 for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in the Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

b.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$21,303,717 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 1410 through 1413 in the Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 5: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,142,673 for the Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 6: LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

Mover: Bud Robertson

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,583,834 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1703 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 7: DEBT SERVICE

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,282,713 for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2007 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,617,512 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000 through 3012 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 9: WATER ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$1,024,851 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY 2017 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 10: SEWER ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$51,252 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$647,024 for a total of \$698,276 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY 2017 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 11: LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Local Access Cable Fees the sum of \$230,779 to the Local Access Cable Enterprise Fund for FY 2017 to defray all operating expenses and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 12: ELECTRIC LIGHT

Mover: David Manugian

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or from municipal power and from the sale of jobbing during Fiscal 2017 for the Groton Electric Light Department; the whole to be expended by the Manager of that department under the direction and control of the Board of Electric Light Commissioners for the expenses of the ensuing fiscal year as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. The total fund to be appropriated is -0-.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 5: APPROPRIATE FUNDING FOR OPEB TRUST

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$200,000 from Line Item 3010 "Health Insurance/Employee Expenses" of the Fiscal Year 2017 Town Operating Budget adopted under Article 4 of the 2016 Spring Town Meeting, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B, Section 20.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 6: FISCAL YEAR 2017 CAPITAL BUDGET

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$426,980 from the Capital Stabilization Fund; transfer the sum of \$16,000 from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved; and transfer the sum of \$60,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash); for a total of \$502,980, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the following capital items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Swap Loader	\$ 35,000	Fire/EMS
Fire Boat	\$ 16,000	Fire/EMS
Pick-Up Truck	\$ 30,000	Highway Department
Brush Mower	\$ 45,000	Highway Department
IT Infrastructure	\$ 50,000	Town Facilities
Building Security	\$ 60,000	Town Facilities
Baler	\$ 40,000	Transfer Station
Carpet Replacement	\$ 20,000	Library
Property Improvements	\$ 46,500	Park
Police Cruisers	\$ 89,746	Police Department
Tasers	\$ 39,134	Police Department
Golf Carts	\$ 20,000	Groton Country Club
Boom Sprayer Unit	\$ 6,500	Groton Country Club
Triplex – Greens Mower	\$ 5,100	Groton Country Club
Total	\$502,980	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

ARTICLE 7: FEASIBILITY STUDY - SENIOR CENTER

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$40,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2016, for the purpose of retaining a consultant(s) to conduct a feasibility/assessment study to determine the future needs of the Groton Senior Center, including whether a new facility is needed, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 8: EXTEND SEWER SYSTEM

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to extend the "Groton Center Sewer System," as established by the vote of the Special Town Meeting of February 6, 1989, under Article 7, to include the property shown on Assessors' Lot 222-55 (122 Old Ayer Rd), such extension to be only for the exclusive use of the property currently shown on Groton Assessors' Maps as Lot 222-55, which is proposed to be used and occupied by Indian Hill Music, Inc., and on the condition that, and only for as long as, said property is used as a music education and performance center by Indian Hill Music, Inc. or its successors or assigns; otherwise, the system extension shall terminate and be null and void; and provided that all costs of designing, laying, and construction of the extension and any associated connection and the cost of additional capacity and the proportionate share of any General Benefit Facilities, and all other costs associated therewith, are paid by the owner of the property benefited thereby, whether by the assessment of betterments or otherwise.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 9: TRANSFER FROM FY 2016 CAPITAL BUDGET **Mover: Gineane Haberlin**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the unexpended portion of the appropriation voted under Article 9 of the April 27, 2015 Spring Town Meeting, said sum to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2016 to pay for the construction of a new Playground at Cutler Field, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 10: FUNDS TO REPAIR RETAINING WALL

Mover: Mark Gerath

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$38,400 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Board of Library Trustees in Fiscal Year 2016, to repair the retaining wall located on the south side of the Groton Public Library, and all costs associated and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 11: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2016 Town Operating Budget, being the sums of money identified in the "Transfer funds from" line items designated in the Information Packet distributed to voters for this Town Meeting, said sums to be transferred to the various line items in the "Transfer funds to" categories designated within the Information Packet, the total amount to be transferred being \$100,388.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
1100 – Information Technology Salary	\$ 300
1370 – Police & Fire Communications – Wages	\$ 77,295
1501 – Highway Department – Wages	\$ 10,000
1700 – Country Club – Salary	\$ 600
– 111F Deductible Reserve – FY 2015	<u>\$ 12,193</u>
Total	\$100,388

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
1101 – Information Technology – Wages	\$ 300
1300 – Police Department – Salaries	\$ 14,465
1301 – Police Department – Wages	\$ 26,815
1311 – Fire Department – Wages	\$ 30,000
1502 – Highway Department – Expenses	\$ 10,000
1701 – Country Club – Wages	\$ 13,770
1702 – Country Club – Expenses	<u>\$ 5,038</u>
Total	\$100,388

ARTICLE 12: MONEY - OFFSET SNOW AND ICE DEFICIT **Mover: Stuart Schulman**

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$0 from Overlay Surplus, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2016 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 8 of the 2015 Spring Town Meeting.

MOTION B: I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 13: TRANSFER - WATER ENTERPRISE FUND **Mover: James Gmeiner**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$60,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Water Enterprise Department Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 14: TRANSFER - SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND **Mover: Thomas Orcutt**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$50,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2016 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 15: PRIOR YEAR BILLS **Mover: Stuart Schulman**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$15,069 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to pay the following unpaid bills from a prior fiscal year:

National Grid	\$ 5,239
Sprague Energy	\$ 8,805
Norel Service Company, Inc	<u>\$ 1,025</u>
Total	\$15,069

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 4/5's Majority

ARTICLE 16: DEFICIT BALANCES IN GRANTS

Mover: John Petropoulos

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$548 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to offset a deficit balance for the 911 Training Grant for Fiscal Year 2014.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 17: ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAXATION FUND

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 60, §3D to establish a Town aid to the elderly and disabled taxation fund for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income; and further to establish a taxation aid committee to consist of the chairman of the Board of Assessors, the Town Treasurer and three residents of the Town to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, which committee shall adopt rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of the fund and to identify the recipients of such aid.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 18: CPC FUNDING ACCOUNTS

Mover: Bruce Easom

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate and allocate the following sums from the Community Preservation Fund to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 10,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 65,000
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 65,000
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 65,000
Unallocated Reserve:	\$445,500

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 19: CPC FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION 1: Affordable Housing Coordinator

Mover: Daniel Emerson

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$52,500 from the Community Preservation Fund Community Housing Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-01 "Affordable Housing Coordinator".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 2: Middle School Track Rehabilitation

Mover: Matthew Frary

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$160,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-02 "Middle School Track Rehabilitation".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 3: Historic Monument Restoration

Mover: Robert DeGroot

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$38,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-03 "Historic Monument Restoration".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

MOTION 4: Prescott School Upgrades

Mover: Russell Burke

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Reserve and to appropriate the sum of \$65,071 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$165,071 to fund Community Preservation Application 2017-04 "Prescott School Upgrades".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 20: AMEND CHAPTER 218-28 - ZONING CODE **Mover: George Barringer**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows: Amend Section 218-28 Development Rate Limitation by deleting Section 218-28, Development Rate Limitation, in its entirety.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

ARTICLE 21: AMEND CHAPTER 218-6 - ZONING CODE **Mover: George Barringer**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Section 218-6.E (1) of the Zoning Code of the Town of Groton by deleting the existing Section 218-6.E (1) and replacing it with a new Section 218-6.E (1) as set forth in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

ARTICLE 22: AMEND CHAPTER 128, SECTION 3(E) **Mover: Anna Eliot**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Section 3(E) of Chapter 128, of the Code of the Town of Groton, Dogs by deleting the phrase "10 days" and inserting in its place "7 days," thereby changing the length of time a dog must remain in the Groton Town shelter from ten days to seven days, as is required by State Law.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 23: NON-BINDING RESOLUTION **Mover: John Petropoulos**

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to direct the Board of Selectmen to file as Interveners to oppose the Northeast Expansion of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline in Massachusetts.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

CONSENT AGENDA: ARTICLES 24 through 30

Mover: Peter Cunningham

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to combine for consideration Articles 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 of the Warrant for this Town Meeting and that the Town take affirmative action on said articles without debate and in accordance with the action proposed under each, and that, with respect to Article 25, the Town appropriate, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, the sum of \$80,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and the sum of \$396,144 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$476,144 to fund the Surrenden Farm debt service for Fiscal Year 2017; provided, however, that if any voter, prior to the taking of the vote, requests the right to debate a specific article, then said article shall be removed from this motion and acted upon in the ordinary course of business.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
