

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

*Monday, October 23, 2017: 6:30 p.m.
Groton Dunstable Middle School Cafeteria
344 Main St. Groton, MA*

Present for Finance Committee: G. Green (Chair), B. Robertson (Vice Chair), Art Prest, D. Manugian, S. Whitefield, L. Leonard

Absent: J. Sjoberg

Also Present: P. Dufresne (Town Accountant/Recording Secretary)

Documents available at the meeting: Town Meeting Motions (Final)

Mr. Green called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 6:30 pm.

Article 2: Prior Year Bill – Ms. Dufresne informed the members that a negotiated settlement had been reached to pay \$16,500 to Sprague Energy for a number of prior year gas bills for the Fire Station. **On a motion by Mr. Manugian, seconded by Ms. Leonard, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend support of Article 2 (Prior Year Bill for \$16,500) to Town Meeting. The Vote: 6-0-0**

Article 3: FY18 Operating Budget Adjustments – As these are relatively minor budget adjustments (\$10,000 to Town Manager's Expenses, \$4,000 to Town Clerk Wages, and \$500 for IT Wages) several of the FinCom members reiterated their position that they should be handled as Reserve Fund or Line Item Transfers in the spring. This helps avoid placing unnecessary financial articles on the fall warrant and also gives the requesting department an opportunity to find other budgetary offsets. Mr. Green felt he could support these particular requests as the amounts would be included as part of future budgets, therefore it makes sense to correct the current budget now. **On a motion by Mr. Prest, seconded by Ms. Leonard, the Finance Committee voted in the majority to recommend support of Article 3 (FY18 Budget Adjustments of \$14,500) to Town Meeting. The Vote: 5-1-0 (Mr. Robertson voted against)**

Article 7: Senior Center Design Funding – The Finance Committee members decided to re-consider their support of this article as the funding request increased had from \$400,000 to \$450,000 (\$175,000 to come from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, and \$275,000 to come from Free Cash). **On a motion by Mr. Prest, seconded by Mr. Robertson, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend support of Article 7 (Senior Center Design Funding in an amount not to exceed \$450,000) to Town Meeting. The Vote: 6-0-0**

Meeting Minutes – On a motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Leonard, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve and release the regular session meeting minutes of 09/25/17 as drafted.
The Vote: 6-0-0.

On a motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Ms. Leonard, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve (but not release) the executive session meeting minutes of 09/25/17 as drafted.
The Vote: 6-0-0

On a motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Prest, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve (but not release) the executive session meeting minutes of 10/17/17 as drafted.
The Vote: 6-0-0

Request from Town Meeting Moderator – In response to an email from the Town Moderator, Mr. Green said that any member of the Finance Committee speaking as a member of the committee should speak from the stage during Town Meeting. If speaking as an individual taxpayer, however, that member should leave the stage and use a microphone on the main floor. This should help those in the audience to avoid confusing a member's personal feelings with the position of the Finance Committee as a whole. He went on to say that he believes that a member giving a minority report, but speaking as a member of the Finance Committee should speak from the stage at Town Meeting, as long as they clearly indicate they are presenting the minority position.

Mr. Green officially adjourned the meeting of the Finance Committee at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dufresne, Recording Secretary

Town of Groton



2017 Fall Town Meeting Packet

October 23, 2017

**FALL TOWN MEETING
MOTIONS
OCTOBER 23, 2017**

ARTICLE 1: CITIZENS' PETITION

Mover: John Saball

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to change the wording of the markers approved at the 2017 Spring Town Meeting from "All Are Welcome" to "Welcome" such that the existing and any subsequent markers to be placed pursuant to that meeting will read (by line): "Town of Groton/Welcome/Town Meeting 2017". All funds needed to change the wording of the existing markers will be contributed by individual Town citizens who wish to avoid the divisiveness caused by the existing and planned markers.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 2: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

Mover: Becky Pine

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) the sum of \$16,500 for the payment of the following bill of a prior fiscal year:

Sprague Energy -	<u>\$16,500</u>
Total	\$16,500

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

ARTICLE 3: AMEND FY 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget, as adopted under Article 4 of the April 24, 2017 Spring Town Meeting, as follows, each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: By increasing the General Government Appropriation from \$1,946,980 to \$1,961,480 so as to: increase Line Item 1032 – "Town Manager Expenses" by \$10,000, from \$4,000 to \$14,000; increase Line Item 1101 – "IT Wages" by \$500, from \$47,753 to \$48,253; and increase Line Item 1131 – "Town Clerk Wages" by \$4,000, from \$54,589 to \$58,589; And to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,500 to fund said increases.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 8: CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND – GDRSD

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to create a Capital Stabilization Fund entitled "Town of Groton Capital Stabilization Fund for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District" and to transfer the sum of \$500,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to be added to said fund.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 9: GDRSD PHONE & INTERNET

Mover: Barry Pease

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$346,860 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash) to pay the Town of Groton's share for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District's District Wide Phone System & Internet Infrastructure replacement project, and all costs associated and related thereto, in accordance with the Regional School Agreement.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 10: CYCLICAL INSPECTIONS

Mover: Donald Black

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$103,500 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Board of Assessors, to perform a cyclical reinspection program, pursuant to and as required by the directive issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Bureau of Local Assessments.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 11: COMPLETE STREETS ENGINEERING

Mover: George Barringer

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$45,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund (Free Cash), to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of hiring an engineer for the design of traffic safety and pedestrian improvements funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts "Complete Streets" program.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 16: AMEND CPC BYLAW

Mover: Bruce Easom

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend Chapter 10, "Community Preservation Committee" of the Code of the Town Groton by deleting paragraph B of §10-1 in its entirety and replacing it with a new Paragraph B as set forth in the Warrant for the 2017 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 17: AMEND CODE - NEW CHAPTER 181

Mover: Josh Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton by adding a new Chapter 181, entitled "Anti-Litter/Snow in Public Ways," as set forth in the Warrant for the 2017 Fall Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 18: ACCEPTANCE CHAMBERLAINS MILL LANE

Mover: Becky Pine

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as Chamberlains Mill Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and as shown on a plan entitled "As Built Plan Chamberlains Mill, Groton, Mass, prepared for Regulas Realty Trust, P.O. Box 381, Groton, MA" dated June 1, 2017, prepared by Ducharme & Dillis, Bolton, MA, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by gift, purchase, or eminent domain, the fee to or lesser interests in said roadway and all related easements.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

ARTICLE 19: CITIZENS' PETITION

Mover: Jack Petropoulos

MOTION A: I move that the Town vote to amend the Zoning Map established under Chapter 218 of the Code of the Town of Groton as set forth in the Warrant for the 2017 Fall Town Meeting.

MOTION B: I move that Article 19 be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority
