

TOWN OF GROTON FINANCE COMMITTEE Regular Session

*Monday, October 21, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Middle School South Cafeteria
344 Main St. Groton, MA*

Present for Finance Committee: B. Robertson (Chair), Art Prest, S. Whitefield, D. Manugian, C. Doody

Absent: G. Green

Also Present: P. Dufresne (Town Accountant)

Documents available at the meeting: FinCom Fall Town Meeting Positions Taken

Mr. Robertson called the regular session of the Finance Committee to order at 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting Articles - The Finance Committee members re-voted their positions on Article 2 (FY20 Budget Amendment) and Article 10 (BOA Cyclical Inspection) items that had changed since their vote taken on October 1st.

On a motion by Mr. Prest, seconded by Mr. Manugian, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve an Article 2 Budget Amendment increase to the FY20 Fire Department Budget of \$4,000 for Fire Chief's EMD stipend, to be funded through taxation. (The Vote 5-0-0)

On a motion by Mr. Prest, seconded by Mr. Manugian, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve an Article 2 Budget Amendment increase to the FY20 Fire Department budget of \$37,741 to be funded from Free Cash. (The Vote 5-0-0) It was noted that this amount will cover turn-out gear for the new recruit class; additional expenses for the recruit class will be funded from the Fire Department General Expense line or (if this budget proves insufficient) as needed through Line Item or Reserve Fund Transfers.

On a motion by Mr. Prest, seconded by Mr. Manugian, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve Article 10 for BOA Cyclical Inspections FY20 in the amount of \$21,600 to be funded through taxation. (The Vote 5-0-0) It was noted that as this will be an annual budget item going forward, it is appropriate to raise the funds through taxation rather than Free Cash.

Minutes –

On a motion by Mr. Whitefield, seconded by Mr. Doody, the Finance Committee voted in the majority to approve and release the meeting minutes from 10/07/19 as drafted. The Vote: 4-0-1 (Mr. Manugian abstained as he was not present for the meeting)

On a motion by Mr. Manugian, seconded by Mr. Prest, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve and release the meeting minutes from 10/01/19 as amended (correcting fiscal year dates on the top of page 3). The Vote: 5-0-0

Meals/Room Excise Taxes – The group briefly discussed the status of the meals and room occupancy taxes for FY20 based on receipts for the 1st quarter. Meals tax for June, July and August was received in the amount of \$53,273 (approximately \$10,000 higher than the same period last year). Room Occupancy tax, however, was received in the amount of \$6,275, an amount somewhat lower than what was anticipated. It was noted that this receipt reflects only July and August, as the tax was implemented at the start of the fiscal year. Subsequent receipts will reflect three months of room tax collections rather than two. Mr. Robertson said he was not worried about meeting the revenue projection for FY20; if meals tax receipts continue strong, this should compensate for the room tax shortfall. He expressed concern, however, about the failure in the room tax revenue calculation used for the \$50,000 projection for FY20. This should be examined for future budget preparation purposes. The group considered contacting the manager of the Groton Inn for clarification of rates and occupancy percentages.

Mr. Robertson officially adjourned the regular session of the Finance Committee at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Dufresne, Recording Secretary

Fall Town Meeting (10/21/2019)

Finance Committee Positions on Articles votes taken :

9/16/2019 10/1/2019 10/21/2019

Y-N-Def

Article #	Description	Dollar Amount	Moved	Seconded	Gary G	Scott W	Dave M	Bud R	Colby D	Art P	Total Vote
1	Prior Year Bills	3,195	AP	DM							6-0-0
2	Amend FY2 OPS Budget										
	Raise & Approp for Debt	70,393	DM	SW							6-0-0
	Raise & Approp for EMD Stipend	4,000	AP	DM							5-0-0
	Free Cash for Acctg Software	10,000	DM	SW							6-0-0
	Fire Dept. Recruit Class	37,741	AP	DM							5-0-0
3	Transfer within Water Enterprise	150,000	DM	AP							6-0-0
4	Transfer within Sewer Enterprise	0									Deferred
5	Transfer to Capital Stabilization	500,000	DM	SW							6-0-0
6	Transfer to General Stabilization	0	AP	DM		WITHDRAWN					6-0-0
7	Transfer to GDRSD Cap Stab	261,000	GG	DM							6-0-0
8	X Walk Sign Main St/Middle Schl	15,000	AP	SW							6-0-0
9	CPC Prescott Sprinkler System					WITHDRAWN					Deferred
10	Assessors Cyclical Inspections	21,600	AP	DM							5-0-0
11	Stormwater Strategy	15,000	DM	AP							6-0-0
12	Plastic Bag By-Law Amendment										
13	ConsCom Trimper Prop Grant		DM	CD		WITHDRAWN					6-0-0
14	Glass Plant/Sr Ctr Revolving Fund		GG	AP							6-0-0
15	Spending Limits on Art 14 Funds	\$10,000 ann. limit each	GG	AP							6-0-0
16	Acceptance of Amelia Way					WITHDRAWN					
17	Acceptance of Mockingbird Hill										
	Total from CPC Funds	0									
	Total from Enterprise E&D	150,000									
	Free Cash Certified 9/2019	1,335,762									
	Free Cash Committed 10/2019	841,936									
	FY20 Free Cash Bal. Remaining	493,826									

absent 9-16