**Groton Finance Committee Meeting**

March 8, 2023

**Minutes Approved 03/29/23**

1. Meeting called to order at 7:01 in the Town Hall first floor meeting room
   1. Members in attendance
      1. Bud Robertson (chair)
      2. Gary Green
      3. Colby Doody (vice chair)
      4. Mary Linskey
      5. Mike Sulprizio
      6. Scott Whitefield
      7. David Manugian
   2. Others in attendance
      1. Art Prest
      2. Matt Pisani
      3. Judy Anderson
      4. Bruce Easom
2. The Chair read agenda and summarized actions needed
   1. Is the Committee OK with the cuts currently proposed by the Town Manager in his March 6 memo (appr. $400k)?
   2. Should the Committee consider an override? Should it be a multi-year override?
3. The Committee discussed the Town Manager’s March 6 memo
   1. Discussed pros and cons of additional funds due to insurance and assessment updates
   2. Discussed the status of municipal positions and how to fund them
   3. The Committee asked the Police Chief about the SRO Officer vs. the dispatcher. The Chief was called in and advocated for the SRO Officer
   4. Discussed how they would figure out how to assess cuts. Ideas included waiting for the School Committee to vote their budget and having a number of relevant Committees (CPAC, School Committee, CPC) come in. The CPAC presentation will include a presentation of the capital items and discussion of the funding sources for capital assets. The Committee has a number of questions about the School Committee process
   5. Discussed how to evaluate wants vs. needs
   6. Decided to clarify that the Town Manager would find the funds to keep the state library funds AND fund both the SRO and dispatcher out of free cash or schools
4. The Committee felt it needed to decide what would be carried in the base budget vs carried in an override
5. The Committee started a discussion about an override but wanted to see the School Committee budget and talk with the School Committee. It discussed the premise of a town- versus a school-override
6. The Committee scheduled their next meeting to be Monday night March 13th jointly with the Select Board
7. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 by motion of Ms. Linskey and second of Mr. Doody. Motion carried unanimously

David Manugian