

**SELECT BOARD/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**  
**APPROVED by Select Board & FinCom**

**SB Members Present:** Peter Cunningham, Chair; John Reilly, Vice Chair (virtually present); Alison Manugian, Clerk; Matt Pisani; Becky Pine

**Also Present:** Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Patricia Dufresne, Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Takashi Tada, Town Planner/Land Use Director

**Finance Committee Present:** Bud Robertson, Chair (virtually present); Colby Doody, Vice Chair; Michael Sulprizio; Mary Linskey; Gary Green; Scott Whitefield

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Ms. Pine mentioned that it was the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. She attended a luncheon at the Center prepared and provided by Ebi Masalehdan to honor first responders. Our State Representative, Margaret Scarsdale, and State Senator John Coronin were also present and spoke. She wanted to thank them for attending and Mr. Masalehdan for his generosity.

Mr. Haddad announced that due to the storms that evening, lightning struck both the Fire Station and the Police Station. Thankfully, nobody was hurt.

Mr. Haddad said the Florence Roche Elementary School project was in need of a Scoreboard to be installed in the new gymnasium. The estimated cost for the Scoreboard was approximately \$20,000. He reached out to Groton School's Attorney Robert Collins to inquire if the school would be interested in sponsoring the new Scoreboard. Groton School's Headmaster, Temba Maqubela and Chief Financial Officer, Julie Dolan came to Town Hall and delivered a check in the amount of \$20,000 to the Town of Groton to pay for the Scoreboard for the new Florence Roche Elementary School Gymnasium. Additionally, they increased their PILOT for FY 2024 to \$200,000. Mr. Haddad expressed his gratitude and wanted to thank everyone at Groton School for their generosity to the town.

**TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

**1. Consider Approving the Installation of Stop Signs at the Intersection of Arlington Street and Gratuity Road and Hillside Road and West Street to make Both Intersections "All Way" Stop Intersections.**

Tom Delaney, the DPW Director, was present for the discussion. Mr. Haddad said both the Police Chief and DPW Director requested that the Board vote to approve the installation of Stop Signs at the intersections of Arlington Street, Gratuity Road, and Hillside Road to make both intersections "All Way" Stop Intersections. He said supporting the installation of these signs would make those Intersections much safer for the motoring public. Mr. Delaney explained that Mill Street, Arlington Street, and Gratuity Road was a terrible intersection with low visibility. He explained there would be a subdivision developed on Gratuity Road. The Planning Board reached out to him about this intersection. He was proposing a four-way intersection.



The next Intersection up for discussion was Hillside Road, West Street, and Whiting Ave. Mr. Delaney said it was very congested with Seven Hills located there and wanted to make it a three-way stop intersection. He also mentioned they would redo the sign at the end of Hillside Road. Ms. Pine said they received numerous traffic complaints in that area due to commuters using that road as a shortcut. She hoped that installing Stop Signs would deter that.

Mr. Cunningham asked if the Planning Board completed their public hearing for the subdivision on Gratuity Road and how many units it will entail. Takashi Tada, the Town Planner, said the Planning Board had reviewed this project based on the submittal of a Preliminary Subdivision Plan, which proposed 28 units. A traffic study has been completed with the Preliminary Subdivision Application, and they would most likely revise the study if the stop signs were approved on Mill Street. Mr. Cunningham said he would like to get more information from the developer of the subdivision on Gratuity Road and believed it was premature; he would like to put this off until a future date. Mr. Delaney said the Police Chief was in favor of this. Mr. Tada noted there was a lot of public input from abutters about the Mill Street intersection. The Planning Board had heard enough information to make the recommendation for the installation of a Stop Sign at that intersection.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the installation of a four-way stop sign at the intersection of Mill Street, Arlington Street, and Gratuity Road. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion.*

Mr. Reilly asked if there were stop signs there currently. Mr. Delaney said there were stop signs on Arlington Street and Gratuity Road but not on Mill Street.

*Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye; Pine-aye.*

*Ms. Pine made a motion to approve the installation of a three-way stop sign at the intersections of Whiting Ave, Hillside Road, and West Street. Ms. Manugian seconded. Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye; Pine-aye.*

**7:15 IN JOINT SESSION WITH THE FINANCE COMMITTEE- PUBLIC HEARING TO REVIEW ALL ARTICLES CONTAINED IN THE 2023 FALL TOWN MEETING WARRANT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 28, 2023**

Mr. Haddad read the Public Hearing notice into the record.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to open the public hearing.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to open the public hearing. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye.*

*Mr. Cunningham asked the Board to defer the public hearing.*

*Ms. Pine moved to defer the public hearing. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye.*

**ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION**

1. Consider Appointing Carole Carter, with a Term to Expire on June 30, 2026, and Berta Erikson (Effective October 1, 2023), with a Term to Expire on June 30, 2025 to the Groton Council on Aging.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to appoint Carole Carter, with a term to expire on June 30, 2026. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine- aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye-; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye.*

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to appoint Berta Erikson (Effective October 1, 2023) with a term to expire on June 30, 2025 to the Groton Council on Aging. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye-; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye.*

#### **REOPEN THE WARRANT PUBLIC HEARING**

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to reopen the public hearing.

*Ms. Pine made a motion to reopen the public hearing. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Roll Call: Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine- aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye-; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye.*

Mr. Doody called the Finance Committee to order.

*Mr. Doody made a motion to open the public hearing. Mr. Green seconded the motion. Roll Call: Robertson-aye; Doody- aye; Green-aye; Sulprizio-aye; Linskey-aye; Whitefield-aye.*

Mr. Haddad wanted to review the warrant articles and help answer any questions. In a memorandum to the Select Board and Finance Committee, Mr. Haddad provided the information and recommendations for the various Articles requesting funding in the 2023 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. The memorandum listed the balances in the Town's various Reserve Accounts. He read them off as follows:

Stabilization:	\$2,398,574
Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$ 102,911
GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund:	\$ 9,240
Unexpended Tax Fund:	\$ 235,261
Anticipated Free Cash:	\$ 2,300,000
Water Surplus:	\$ 803,000

#### **Article 1: Prior Year Bills-**

There is one unpaid bill from the Groton Water Department in the amount of \$400 owed to Nashoba Analytical.

#### **Article 2: Amend the Fiscal Year 2024 Town Operating Budget-**

1. Select Board Expenses: The Williams Barn Committee is requesting \$5,000 to assist them in carrying out their charge with maintaining the Williams Barn. Mr. Haddad said this would be a recurring cost in the amount of \$5,000. Ms. Manugian asked how they had previously been funded. He said they have used grant money and gift funds from the Trust Fund Commission.
2. Treasurer/Collector Salaries: The Treasurer/Collector has opted out of the Town's Health Insurance Program. Employees receive 25% of the Town's cost for the Plan in which a particular employee is enrolled. This recurring cost of \$3,406 would come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.



3. IT Wages: The IT Desktop Specialist's position was reclassified, and the salary was increased. This recurring cost of \$7,146 would come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.
4. Building Inspector Wages: During the development of the FY 2025 Budget, an error was made by the Town Manager in calculating the salary of the Land Use Administrative Assistant, resulting in a shortfall of \$630. This recurring cost would come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.
5. Library Wages-Requested: The Library is \$2600 short of reaching the MAR (Municipal Appropriation Requirement). Mr. Haddad explained this appropriation was necessary to qualify for State Aid to Public Libraries. This recurring cost would come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.
6. Town Clerk Expenses: Mr. Haddad said the Town Clerk was attending a Local Leadership and Management Program. The request of \$4,850 would cover the cost of the program and mileage reimbursement. This funding would come from Free Cash.
7. Town Clerk Wages: The Select Board has called for a Special Election on November 7, 2023 for the Town to consider a Proposition 2 ½ Debt Exclusion to cover the debt service for the new water main to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School to address PFAS. The request of \$450 would cover the overtime of the two Assistant Clerks to assist with the Special Election. This funding would come from Free Cash.
8. Election Expenses: The request of \$7,510 is needed to cover expenses associated with the November 7<sup>th</sup> Special Election. This funding would come from Free Cash.
9. Election Stipend: The request of \$2,500 is needed to cover the wages of the Election Workers covering the November 7<sup>th</sup> Special Election. This funding would come from Free Cash.
10. Fire Salaries: Mr. Haddad said this was similar to #2, Treasurer/Collector Salaries. The Fire Chief had opted out of the Town's Health Insurance Program. The recurring cost of \$5,000 would come from the Unexpended Tax Capacity.
11. Town Manager Salaries: Mr. Haddad said the Town Manager's Contract allows the Town Manager to buy back one week of vacation pay and provides for a Performance Incentive based on the Town Manager's Annual Review. Previously, this funding was transferred into the Town Manager's Salary Account at the end of the Fiscal Year. Mr. Haddad is proposing the recurring expense of \$8,150 to be budgeted appropriately at the onset of the year instead of the end.
12. Debt Service saved -Mr. Haddad said he had great news for the taxpayers. The Town went out to the Bond Market in June 2023 for Bond Anticipated Notes for the remaining funds necessary to complete the Florence Roche Elementary School project. The interest rate was around 2.5%, reducing the budgeted amount by \$179,144.

### Article 3: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget-



Mr. Haddad said he held out two items and informed the Select Board and Finance Committee that he would bring those two items to the Fall Town Meeting for funding from Certified Free Cash. He respectfully requested that this Article be added to the warrant, as he had accidentally omitted it before it closed.

Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to open the warrant, add Article 3, and then close the warrant. It was approved and recommended by the Capital Planning Committee and Finance Committee.

*Ms. Manugian made a motion to open the warrant, add Article 3, and close the warrant. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye-; Cunningham-aye; Reilly-aye.*

**Article 4: Transfer Money into Capital Stabilization Fund-**

Mr. Haddad said that Article 4 was for a requested transfer of \$637,697 from Free Cash into the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Article 5: Transfer Money into Stabilization Fund-**

Mr. Haddad said that Article 5 was for a requested transfer of \$71,00 from Free Cash into the Stabilization Fund.

**Article 6: Transfer Money into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund-**

Mr. Haddad said that Article 6 was for a transfer of \$541,000 from Free Cash into the GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Article 7: Transfer Money into the Special Purpose Opioid Fund-**

This fund would be used for opioid use prevention, harm reduction, and treatment and recovery programs. The funds were received before the new stabilization fund was established. Those funds in the amount of \$4,990.48, were certified as part of the Town's Free Cash on 6/30/23 and must be specifically appropriated for transfer to this new special purpose fund. Article 7 was for a transfer request of \$4,991 into the Special Purpose Opioid Fund.

**Article 8: Transfer Within the Water Enterprise Fund-**

Mr. Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent, explained the request for the transfer would be for \$150,000 to update the computer system at the Baddacook facility and integrate the high-speed internet between the Baddacook and Whitney Well facilities. Mr. Orcutt said the computer system was 18 years old.

**Article 9: Construct New Water Main to Address PFAS at the GDRSD High School-**

Mr. Haddad said that Article 9 pertains to the water main issue, which will address PFAS at the High School. At the request of the Groton Select Board and Dunstable Board of Selectmen, the Groton Town Manager and Dunstable Town Administrator formed a Town Manager's and Town Administrator's Working Group and have held two productive meetings so far. He said they were trying to find a final proposal that would meet the needs of a regional approach and future needs as the plume moves. During the first meeting, Mr. Haddad said the Working Group came up with a two-phase plan to eliminate the PFAS issue at the High school and surrounding properties while providing fire protection. During phase one, the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and surrounding properties in Dunstable would be connected. This would solve the PFAS problem at the High School, help the surrounding properties, and provide fire protection on Chicopee Row. The estimated cost of phase one would be approximately \$12.8M. The Select Board voted on a \$1M contribution from the Groton Water Department to Dunstable to make them whole on this approach. Mr. Haddad said that phase one would



satisfy the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and they liked the regional approach. Phase two of the plan would involve an interconnection from Pepperell and would tie into the Groton system. An inter-basin transfer would also be required, or another option would be giving up the interbasin transfer amount set aside for the Lost Lake sewer project, which would then make any water provided to Dunstable an issue of insignificance. Groton and Dunstable would need to come up with an additional \$3M for this approach. The estimated cost of the total project would be approximately \$15.8M. Groton and Dunstable would need an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) to negotiate for the \$3M from phase 2. The Dunstable Selectmen will meet in Joint Session with the Groton Select Board next week. Mr. Haddad said there would be a presentation at the meeting next week.

Mr. Cunningham unexpectedly had to leave the meeting.

**Article 10: Water Supply System at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street-**

Mr. Orcutt said this was for a Mass Works Grant to upgrade the water main at 500 Main Street and Taylor Street. The requested amount was for \$1,225,000. Ms. Pine asked what would happen if they didn't receive the grant. Mr. Orcutt stated that they would reapply. The responsibility would fall on the applicant if they didn't obtain the grant within two years.

**Article 11: Design Services for PFAS Treatment at Whitney Pond Treatment Facility-**

Article 11 was a placeholder if the Water Commissioners decided to proceed with the design services for the PFAS treatment at the Whitney Pond Treatment Facility.

**Article 12: Adopt M.G.L., c.53, §9A- Nomination Papers for Cities or Towns-**

Ms. Dunbar, the Town Clerk, was in attendance. Ms. Dunbar would like to Adopt 53, §9A to be consistent with current Town practice.

**Article 13: 7 Amend Town Charter- Article 6. Section 6.4.1-**

Mr. Haddad said that the Tri Comm Working Group had proposed this amendment to the Town Charter. This amendment would change the date the Town Manager has to submit the balanced budget to the Finance Committee to January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Article 14: Sale or Lease of Parcel 249-51 Hoyts Wharf Road, and Article 15: Sale of Lease 249-57 Cow Pond Brook Road-**

Mr. Haddad said Article 14 and Article 15 pertain to the 40B Comprehensive permit project with Heritage Landing to develop 40 houses, 10 of which would be deed-restricted affordable units eligible to be placed on the Town of Groton's Subsidized Housing Inventory. He said due to a nitrogen loading issue, the developer would have to find land that couldn't be developed and designate it as a Nitrogen Loading offset area. Mr. Haddad explained that he drafted an RFP allowing someone to bid on Town property to either lease or purchase and to be used for Nitrogen Loading. Ms. Stanley, the Housing Coordinator, provided a map of the parcels. She explained they would have to reduce the number of bedrooms in the project if this wasn't supported.

Ms. Pine has requested that the language reflected in both Articles 14 and 15 be updated to something similar to the following:

*"To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to sell and/or lease for a period not to exceed 99 years, Parcel 249-51, to add a portion or all of"*



She suggested that Town Counsel review the wording to give feedback.

**Article 16: Create Revolving Fund for Center Building Monitor-**

Patricia Dufresne, Assistant Finance Director stated that a Revolving Fund was already in place for the Center's programming. For this reason, Mr. Haddad recommended withdrawing Articles 16 and 17.

**Article 17: Annual Spending Limit for Revolving Fund-**

Article to be withdrawn.

**Article 18: Accept New Public Ways-**

Town Counsel recommended combining all the road acceptances into a single article. A public hearing for Academy Hill's Road Acceptance is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Haddad asked Mr. Tada what the status of Monarch Path was with the Planning Board. Mr. Tada said Monarch Path roadways were in good condition, but the Planning Board was still looking for a plan modification before scheduling the road acceptance. The public hearing would have to take place at least seven days prior to Town Meeting, so Mr. Haddad recommended the road acceptance hearing would have to take place on October 16<sup>th</sup> if they are ready. He would proceed with the hearing after receiving approval from Mr. Tada.

Ms. Manugian entertained a motion to close the public hearing on the Warrant.

*Ms. Pine motioned to close the warrant. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Pisani-aye (Mr. Reilly was having technical difficulties and could not participate in the vote).*

**TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**

2. **Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Mason Bergeron as Grounds Staff and Ryan Merrill and Jack Young as Golf Shop Staff at the Groton Country Club.**

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Mason Bergeron as Grounds Staff and Ryan Merrill and Jack Young as Golf Shop Staff at the Groton Country Club. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pisani-aye; Manugian-aye; Pine-aye (Mr. Reilly could not vote due to technical difficulties).*

3. **Consider Accepting the Town Manager's Nomination and Appoint Thomas Horsman to the Historical Commission with a Term to Expire on June 30, 2025.**

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to accept the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Thomas Horsman to the Historical Commission with a term to expire on June 30, 2025. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Manugian-aye; Pine-aye.*

4. **Consider Accepting the Town Manager's Nomination and Appoint Cy, Jed, and Josh Richards to the Weed Harvester Committee.**

*Mr. Pisani made a motion to accept the Town Manager's nomination and appoint Cy, Jed, and Josh Richards to the Weed Harvester Committee. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Reilly-aye; Pisani-aye; Manugian-aye; Pine-aye.*



**5. Update from the Town Manager on PFAS Discussions with the Town of Dunstable**

This update was provided during the public hearing regarding Article 9.

**6. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through Labor Day**

Monday, September 18, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, September 25, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, October 9, 2023	No Meeting (Indigenous People's Day)
Monday, October 16, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, October 23, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2023	2023 Fall Town Meeting
Monday, October 30, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 6, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 13, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, November 20, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023	No Meeting
Monday, December 4, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 11, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 18, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Monday, December 25, 2023	No Meeting (Christmas Day)
Monday, January 1, 2023	No Meeting (New Year's Day)
Monday, January 8, 2023	Regularly Scheduled Meeting

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Request for a Reserve Fund Transfer for an Appraisal of the Roadway Between Station Avenue and Broadmeadow Road**

Mr. Haddad asked the Finance Committee to support a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$5,000 to conduct an appraisal of the roadway between Station Avenue and Broadmeadow Road. The property owner had closed the roadway behind the former Light Department and refuse to allow its use as a public road. The main parcel of land is located at 20 Station Avenue (Assessors Map 113-56). It is approximately 1.08 acres and has a warehouse-type structure on it (former Groton Electric Light Department Garage Facility). The Town sold the property in 2017 for \$250,000. The Town currently has the property (the land and the building) valued at \$568,000. The property abuts the Nashua River Rail Trail (owned by Mass DCR). Between the building and DCR property, there is a strip of land of approximately 6,600 square feet that has been historically used as a roadway connecting Station Avenue to Broadmeadow Road (the Town of Groton owns most of the connecting Roadway but sold this 6,600 square foot piece when it sold the former Light Department Building/Land). Property owner Dan McElroy has closed off this portion of the road for liability reasons but has agreed to consider selling it back to the Town. To consider the purchase, the Town would need to have the property appraised. Mr. Haddad would like to take the roadway back and get the road open. He said they could do a friendly negotiation and purchase the land based on the value or take it back by eminent domain. Mr. Haddad reached out to Hunneman, a company located in Boston, and spoke to their Real Estate Division. He said they have experience in appraising this type of land. They told Mr. Haddad they could do the appraisal for a fee of \$5,000. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Finance Committee approve the Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 so he could contract with Hunneman to do the appraisal.



Mr. Doody made a motion to approve a Reserve Fund Transfer in the amount of \$5,000 for an appraisal of the roadway between Station Avenue and Broadmeadow Road, currently owned by Dan McElroy. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Doody-aye; Robertson-aye; Whitefield-aye; Green-aye; Sulprizio-aye.

#### **ON-GOING ISSUES**

- C. Green Communities Application and Implementation- Mr. Haddad said this year's proposed projects would be furnace and winterization-related. The furnace at Town Hall and Groton Dunstable Middle School North's winterization and furnace will be included in the applications.
- E. Town Manager's Tri-Comm Working Group- Mr. Haddad said they held a Tri-Comm meeting earlier that day, and it was the most productive meeting they have had and covered a lot. They are at a point to make a recommendation for next year. They will hold a Joint meeting with the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee on October 25<sup>th</sup> to make a formal presentation. Mr. Haddad stated that the town would need additional revenue sources for FY2025.

At this time (8:45 pm) the Finance Committee reconvened in the 1st Fl Meeting Room after participating in the Select Board's Public Hearing on the Fall Town Meeting warrant.

Town Meeting Warrant Article Positions: All votes taken based on presentation in Town Manager's memo as provided on 9/11/23 and attached.

**Article 1 – Prior Year Bills:** On a motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Green, the FinCom voted unanimously to approve payment of the \$400 Prior Year Bill to Nashoba Analytical. (The Vote 5-0-0)

**Article 2 – Budget Amendments –** Mr. Green was not in favor of approving the Williams Barn request (\$5,000) or the Town Clerk Training Program (\$4,850). He would like to see some policy decisions made regarding committee budget assignments and town-wide employee tuition reimbursement opportunities. The group opted to defer taking a position on those two amendments pending further discussion, but were in favor of approving the remaining proposed amendments. On a motion by Mr. Robertson, seconded by Mr. Doody, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve Article 2 FY23 Budget Amendments for Treasurer Salaries (\$3,406), IT Wages (\$7,146), Building Inspector Wages (\$630), Library Wages (\$2,600), Town Clerk Wages (\$450), Election Expenses (\$7,510), Election Stipend (\$2,500), Fire Salaries (\$5,000), Town Manager Salaries (\$8,150), and Debt Service (-\$179,144). (The Vote: 5-0-0)

**Article 3 – FY24 Capital Budget Parking Lot Improvements Country Club/Police/Fire:** On a motion by Mr. Doody, seconded by Mr. Whitefield, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve Article 3 in the amount of \$110,000. (The Vote 5-0-0)

**Articles 4,5,6 - Transfers of Free Cash to General Stabilization (71k)/Cap Stab (\$637,697)/GDRSD Cap Stab (\$541k):** On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Doody, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to transfer the sums necessary to the appropriate Stabilization Funds to comply with the Town's financial policies for reserve balances. (The Vote: 5-0-0)

**Article 7 – Free Cash transfer to Opioid Stabilization Fund:** On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Robertson, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$4,991 for future use in opioid remediation efforts. (The Vote: 5-0-0)



**Article 8 – Transfer of Water Enterprise E&D to FY24 Water Operations Budget:** On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Doody, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the transfer of \$150,000 from Water Enterprise E&D to Water Enterprise Operations. (The Vote: 5-0-0)

**Article 9 – Constructing PFAS Water Main (\$12.9 Mil):** The Finance Committee members deferred taking a position on this article pending receipt of additional information.

**Article 10 – Water Supply Design/Construction 500 Main St (\$1.225 Mil):** The members discussed that no spending would take place on this project unless a MassWorks Grant was awarded to the town sufficient to cover the entire cost. On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Sulprizio, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve design & construction of a water supply system for 500 Main St and Taylor St. (The Vote: 5-0-0)

**Article 11 – Design Services for Whitney PFAS Treatment Facility:** The members deferred taking a position on this article until a cost estimate is available.

**Article 13 – Amend Charter Budget Deadline:** On a motion by Mr. Green, seconded by Mr. Sulprizio, the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve amending the Charter budget deadline. (The Vote: 5-0-0)

Approval of Minutes: Deferred to a subsequent meeting

Mr. Robertson officially adjourned the meeting of the Finance Committee at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager.

Patricia Dufresne, Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant



REQUEST FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RESERVE FUND  
(To be submitted in triplicate)

FY24 RFT #1  
Land App  
BUDFY2417

Finance Committee  
Town of Groton

Date: September 11, 2023

Ladies & Gentlemen:

A request is hereby made for the following transfer from the Reserve Fund in accordance with Chapter 40, Section 6, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. Amount requested: \$5,000
2. To be transferred to: Town Manager General Expenses
3. Present balance in said appropriation: \$372.25

4. The amount requested will be used for (give specific purpose): For an appraisal of the roadway between Station Avenue and Broadmeadow Road currently owned by Dan McElroy. The main parcel of land is located at 20 Station Avenue (Assessors Map 113-56). It is approximately 1.08 acres and has a warehouse type structure on it (former Groton Electric Light Department Garage Facility). The Town sold the property in 2018 for \$250,000. (The Town currently has the property valued at \$588,500 - \$363,100 Building; \$225,400 Land). The property abuts the Nashua River Rail Trail (owned by Mass DCR). Between the building and DCR property, there is a strip of land of approximately 6,650 square feet (350 X 19) that has been historically used as a roadway connecting Station Avenue to Broadmeadow Road (the Town of Groton owns most of the connecting Roadway but sold this 6,650 square foot piece when it sold the former Light Department Building/Land). Dan McElroy has closed off this portion of the Road siting liability issues. He has agreed to consider selling it back to the Town, but we need it appraised. I have reached out to Hunneman, a company located in Boston, that has experience in appraising this type of land. They have told me they can do this for a fee of \$5,000.

5. This expenditure is extraordinary and /or unforeseen for the following reasons: The land owner closed off the road closing off access between Station Avenue and Broadmeadow Road abruptly. The Town needs to get this access open for emergency vehicles and the general public.

  
Officer or Department Head

Action of Finance Committee

Date of Meeting 9-11-23

Number Present and Voting 5

Transfer voted in the sum of \$ 5,000

  
Finance Committee Chair

Transfer NOT approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Committee Chair

Request must be made and transfer voted before any  
expenditure in excess of appropriation is incurred.