



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

John F. Reilly, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Clerk*
Alison S. Manugian, *Member*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

SELECT BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023

AGENDA

SELECT BOARD MEETING ROOM

2nd FLOOR

GROTON TOWN HALL

7:00 P.M. Announcements and Review Agenda for the Public

7:05 P.M. Public Comment Period

I. 7:06 P.M. Town Manager's Report

1. Approve Installation of Conservation Markers on Bissel Property (Parcel 202-83)
2. Consider Supporting Fitchburg's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Regional Grant Application
3. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development Update (Including Snow and Ice Deficit Update)
4. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through 2023 Spring Town Meeting

II. 7:10 P.M. Items for Select Board Consideration and Action

1. Approve and Issue the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting
2. Approve Annual Fuel Storage Permits
3. Consider Appointing Charlotte Weigel to the Sustainability Commission
4. Consider Making Associate Member Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

OTHER BUSINESS

ON-GOING ISSUES – Review and Informational Purposes – Brief Comments - Items May or May Not Be Discussed

- A. Water Department – Manganese Issue
- B. PFAS Issue
- C. Green Communities Application and Implementation
- D. Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project
- E. ARPA Funding

SELECT BOARD LIAISON REPORTS

III. Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting of March 27, 2023
Special Meeting of April 3, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Votes may be taken at any time during the meeting. The listing of topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting is not intended as a guarantee of the topics that will be discussed. Not all topics listed may in fact be discussed, and other topics not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Select Board*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Agenda Update/Report*

Date: *April 10, 2023*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Other than the Town Manager's Report, Items for Select Board Consideration and Action and a review of the On-going Issues List, there are no specific items scheduled on Monday's Agenda.

1. During a recent inspection of the Bissel Property (open space parcel off of Townsend Road under the control of the Select Board) by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, they are requesting permission for the State to install conservation markers along the edge of the property. The Conservation Commission is recommending that the Select Board approve this request. Conservation Administrator Nikolis Gualco will be in attendance at Monday's meeting to review this request with the Board. I would respectfully request that Board consider approving this request and grant the requested permission.
2. We have been approached by the City of Fitchburg to support their Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant application. Specifically, this would be a regional grant application to protect the Nashua River Watershed. The intent of the project is to identify nature-based projects within the Watershed to mitigate climate impacts. I have drafted a letter of support and would respectfully request that the Board supports signing on to the Regional Grant Application.
3. As you are aware, the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee has voted to reduce their Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, which brings their proposed Operational Assessment to \$25,937,716, which is the amount we have set aside in the Balanced Budget. This eliminates the need to seek an Override of Proposition 2½ for FY 2024. I am pleased and appreciate the School Committee's willingness to work within the Town's budgetary constraints. It should be noted that Superintendent of Schools Dr. Laura Chesson has been a true partner with the Town throughout this year's budget development.

Continued on next page – Over >

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Weekly Agenda Update/Report
April 10, 2023
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3. **Continued:**

That said, this still leaves a serious issue with regards to the balanced budget. Specifically, one of the reductions we made to balance the budget was eliminating the FY 2023 Snow and Ice Deficit and not raise the deficit on next year's Tax Recap. Originally, the amount set aside was \$100,000 and we were going to utilize Free Cash to eliminate the deficit. Unfortunately, due to the late season storms we were hit with in March, the deficit has grown to \$150,000. That said, using Free Cash to offset this deficit would zero out Free Cash and I am not in favor of doing that. Therefore, I would respectfully request that the Select Board authorize the use of ARPA Funds to eliminate the deficit. Currently, we had set aside approximately \$450,000 for Sewer Department upgrades (Nod Road Pump Station and inflow and infiltration repairs). I have discussed this with the Chair of the Sewer Commission and we have reduced the set aside to a maximum of \$195,000 for this work, leaving a balance of \$255,000. I would like use some of this balance for the Snow and Ice Deficit. In addition, after discussing my proposal to seek a stipend for the Council on Aging Director with several members of the Board, I have decided to wait until the Fall to pursue this request. We can discuss both of these issues in more detail at Monday's meeting.

4. Please see the update to the meeting schedule that will take the Board through the 2023 Spring Town Meeting:

Monday, April 17, 2023	-No Meeting (Patriot's Day)
Monday, April 24, 2023	-Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2023	-2023 Spring Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1. Enclosed with this report is the Final Draft of the 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant. I would respectfully request that the Board vote to approve and issue the Warrant for the 2023 Spring Town Meeting.
2. Enclosed with this report are the annual Fuel Storage Licenses that require approval by the Select Board. I would respectfully request that the Board approve these Licenses at Monday's meeting.

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3. The Sustainability Commission has requested that the Select Board appoint Charlotte Weigel to the Commission. I would respectfully request that the Board make this appointment.
4. There are three vacancies for Associate Members on the Zoning Board of Appeals. I will have a recommendation on who the ZBA is recommending for appointment at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb
enclosures



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-1106
Fax: 978-448-1113
conservation@grotonma.gov



To: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Select Board

From: Nikolis Gualco – Conservation Administrator

Subject: Recommendation on marking of Conservation Restrictions held by Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.

Date: March 23, 2023

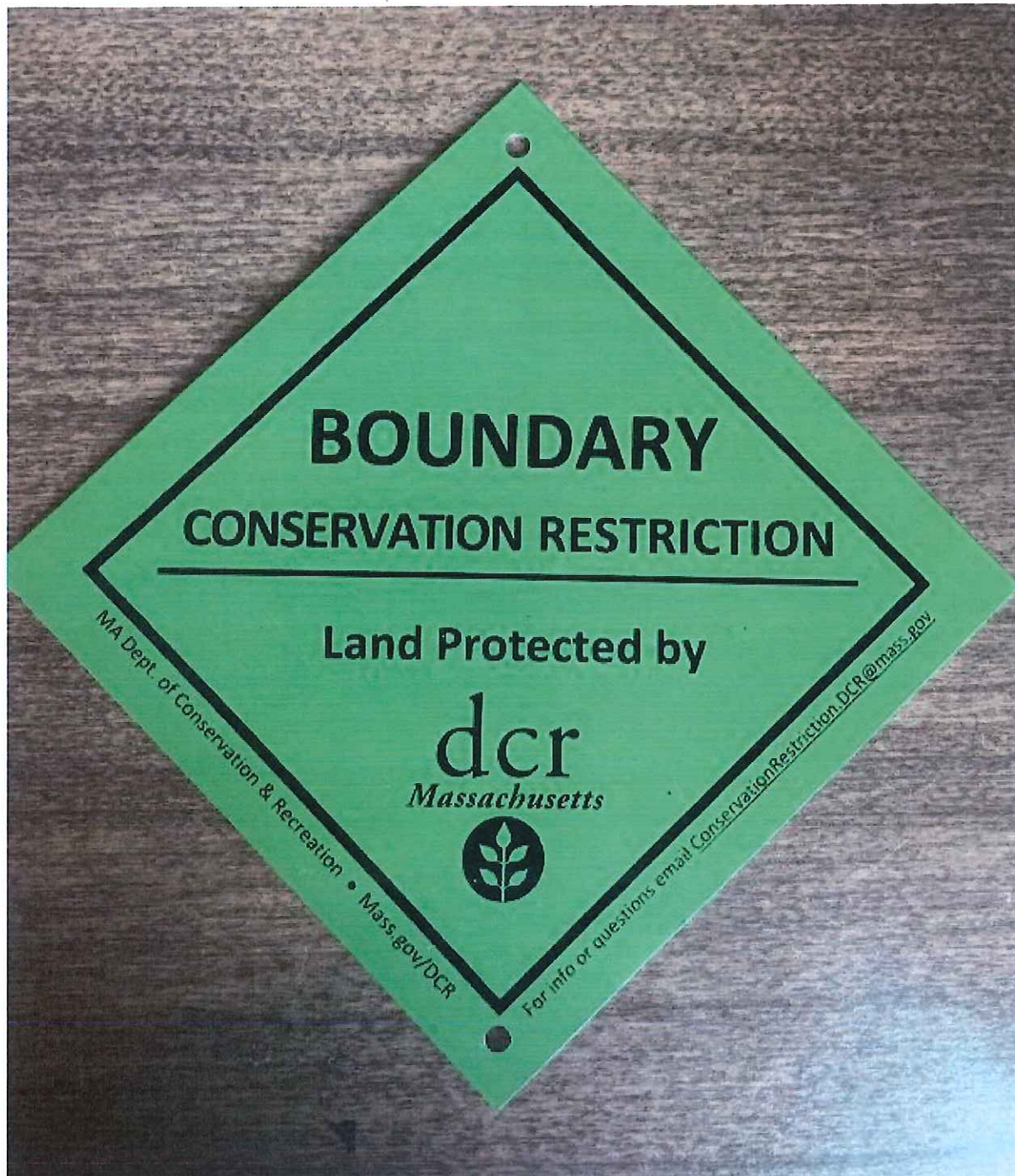
On January 25, 2023, I participated in an inspection of the “Bissel Property” (Groton Assessor’s Parcel 202-83), which is an open space parcel under the care and control of the Select Board. This parcel has a Conservation Restriction on it held by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Groton Conservation Commission. A report on the inspection will be forthcoming.

On the inspection, DCR inquired if the Town would be agreeable to the State installing conservation boundary markers along the edge of the property spaced between 50 and 100 feet apart. These markers would consists of an approx. 4”x4” green sign with text indicating that the property is under a conservation restriction – **please see the attached photo for a visual reference.** This type of marking is similar to what the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife uses to demarcate similar boundaries on lands they hold control over.

I was authorized on March 14, 2023 by the Conservation Commission to recommend that you approve DCR’s request and allow them to mark the boundaries of the properties you control that have a CR held by DCR. This includes the aforementioned “Bissel Property” (Groton Assessor’s Parcel 202-83) and the “Norris Property” (Groton Assessor’s Parcel 213-60) – **please see the attached map for a visual reference.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Enclosures



Marker to be installed along property boundary by DCR. Markers to be installed on trees.



Select Board Properties (CR held by DCR and Con Com)

Groton, MA



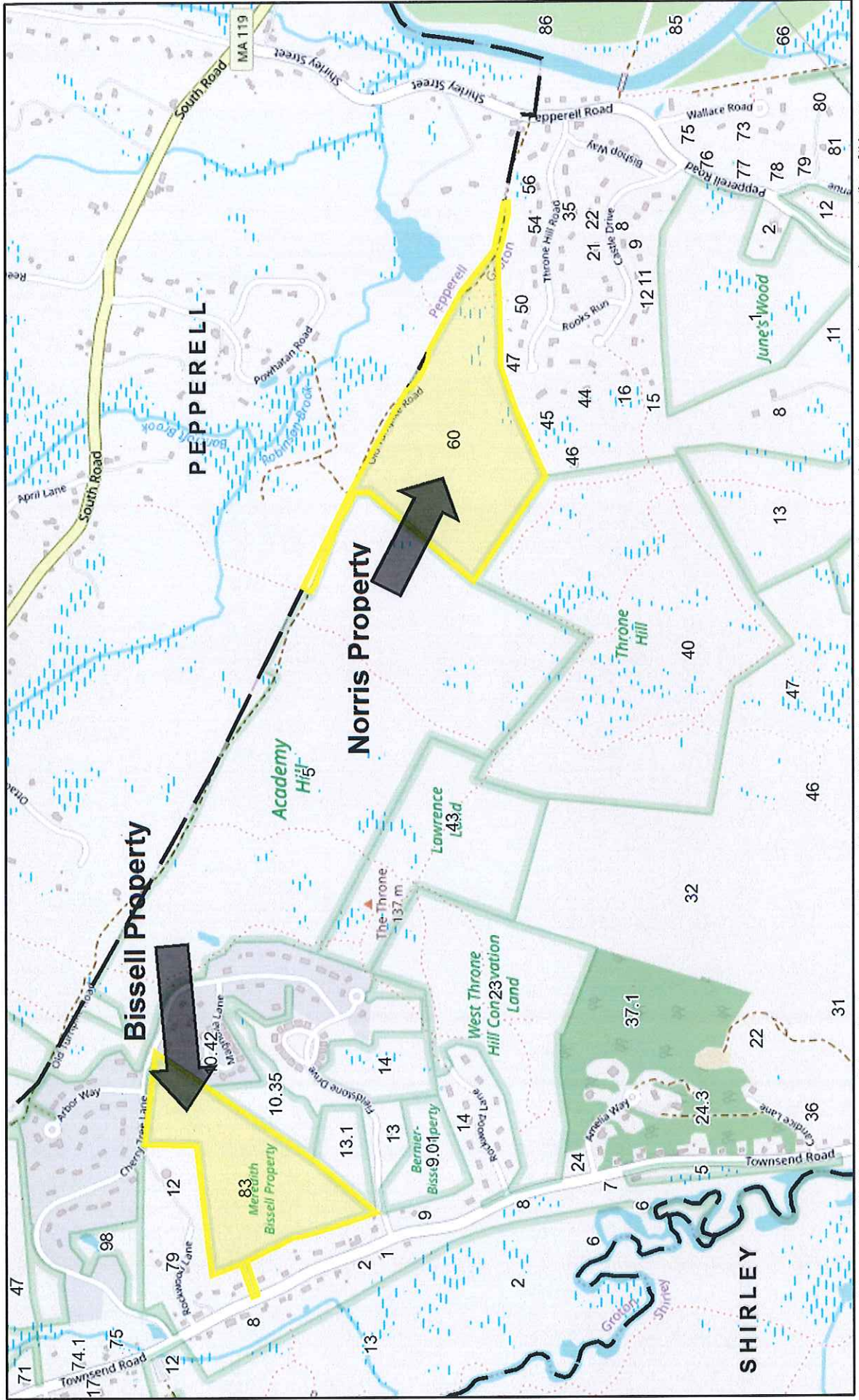
Producers: Mapping Geospatial Solutions

March 23, 2023

1 inch = 1200 Feet



www.cai-tech.com



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.



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Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

April 11, 2023

Kara Runsten, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Fitchburg Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) ENV 24 MVP 01

Dear Ms. Runsten:

On behalf of the Town of Groton, I am pleased to support Fitchburg's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant project, entitled "Nashua River Watershed Natural Solutions (NBS) Action Project". It will identify conceptual, nature-based projects on public and private properties within the Nashua River Watershed to mitigate climate impacts. Impacts of climate change can adversely affect communities such as Groton, and thus we are willing to be listed as a Supporting Applicant.

This project will support our town's commitment improve stormwater infrastructure and reduce stormwater flooding, increase awareness and knowledge of climate resilience in the community and protect local assets and access to those assets from climate change impacts. Specific future projects of potential interest to Groton may include culvert replacements, dam removals, bioretention swales and greenscaping.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Fitchburg's Watershed-Scale NBS FY24 MVP Action Grant application.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager

MWH/rjb

cc: Select Board
R. Thomas Delaney – Public Works Director
Takashi Tada – Land Use Director/Town Planner
Nikolis Gualco – Conservation Administrator

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



2023 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Saturday, April 29, 2023 @ 9:00 AM

Attention – Voters and Taxpayers

Please bring this Report to Town Meeting

*THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE
IN THE BACK OF THE WARRANT*

Introduction to Groton Town Meeting

Voters are familiar with casting ballots in local and state elections, but they have another important civic duty in towns, the Town Meeting.

What is Town Meeting?

The Town Meeting is the legislative body in the town form of government in Massachusetts. Town Meeting is a formal gathering of registered voters who propose, debate and vote on measures. Groton holds at least two Town Meetings per year.

What is a warrant?

The warrant is the official notice to voters that a Town Meeting is scheduled. The warrant includes the date, time, location and a description of each subject to be acted on at Town Meeting. In Groton, the warrant must be posted in two public places and mailed to each household 14 days in advance of Town Meeting. “The warrant must contain a sufficient description of what is proposed so as to constitute an adequate warning to all the inhabitants of the town.”¹ “Every action taken at the meeting must be pursuant to some article in the warrant and must be within the scope of such article.”²

How does Town Meeting proceed?

Voters attending Town Meeting must first check in with the clerks and receive a voting card which is required to vote. The meeting typically acts on the articles in the order they are printed in the warrant. For each article, a main motion is made and seconded by voters and placed by the moderator on the floor for debate. Permission of the moderator is required to speak. The moderator presides and regulates the proceedings, decides all questions of order, and calls and declares all votes. After debate has ended, the moderator will call for a vote by a show of voter cards. If the vote is too close to call by sight or if seven voters immediately question the moderator’s declaration of the vote, the moderator will order a hand count to confirm the vote.

¹ *Town Meeting Time: A Handbook of Parliamentary Law* (page 12) Johnson, Trustman and Wadsworth, Third Edition, 2001.

² *Id.*

Who can attend?

Town Meeting is open to the public. Only Groton voters are entitled to attend, speak and vote. Non-voters may be required to sit in a separate section. Non-voters may ask the moderator to speak on the topic of the debate.

How long is town meeting?

Town Meeting concludes when all articles on the warrant have been acted upon. Town Meeting may conclude in one session or adjourn for subsequent sessions.

Explanation of a Consent Agenda

A consent agenda is a procedure to group multiple main motions into a single motion for voting. A consent agenda saves time by eliminating the reading of multiple motions and explanations when there are no objections or questions. In Groton, a consent agenda generally consists of articles unanimously supported by the Select Board and Finance Committee. Articles that change by-laws or introduce new spending are typically not included. In this warrant, the Select Board has grouped articles in consent agendas and labeled them for easy reference.

How Consent Agendas Work

As the first step to act on a consent agenda, the moderator will read the titles of the included articles. A voter who wishes to remove an article from the consent agenda for separate debate and vote should state "hold." The held article will be set aside and acted on after the vote on the consent agenda. After the meeting agrees on the contents of the consent agenda, there will be no debate and the moderator will immediately call for a vote. Every motion included in the consent agenda will either pass or fail as a group. Voters should read the warrant and review the proposed consent agendas to identify articles they wish to remove for separate consideration.

Electronic Voting at Town Meeting



Voting at Town Meeting will be conducted using an electronic voting system purchased by the Town of Groton as authorized by Town Meeting in October, 2022. Instead of using placards to be raised and counted, voters will use wireless handsets to cast their vote quickly, accurately and privately.

Voter Check-In

At check-in, voters will be given a handset. No record is made of which voter receives which handset. All handsets will be tested prior to the meeting. Voters physically unable to use a handset, will be seated in a manual-count section and their votes will be counted by tellers. For those with visual impairments, large handsets with braille are available.

Test Vote

At the beginning of the meeting, the Moderator will conduct a test vote to get everyone comfortable with the voting procedures.

Proxy Voting Prohibited

The handset given to a voter at check-in is for the exclusive use of that voter. Voting with a handset that has been issued to another individual is strictly forbidden.

Voting

When the Moderator announces it is time to vote:

- Press 1A (green button) for YES →
- Press 2B (red button) for No →
- If you wish to not vote, press no buttons



Handset Display

The display on the handset:

- OK means the system receiver has received your vote
- A "1" for Yes or "2" for No shows the vote the system received.
- The small "R" at the top of the screen indicates the handset is communicating with the receiver
- The icons in the top left indicate the WiFi signal strength.

Help Desk

A Help Desk will be able to assist voters who have trouble with using the handset. If a handset malfunctions, a voter will receive a new handset.

Handset Return

If you leave the meeting temporarily, please keep the handset with you. If the meeting ends or you leave, return the handset to the check-in table.



Town Meeting Access for Voters with Disabilities

Parking – Universally accessible parking spaces are available in the parking lot in front of the Groton Dunstable Middle School South. There is a ramp providing access from the parking lot to the front door of the Middle School.

Wheelchair Accessible & Companion Seating – Wheelchair spaces, seating for people with mobility issues and companion seats are available in the center aisle on both sides of the auditorium.

Sign Language – A Sign Language Interpreter will be provided for the hearing impaired, upon request, at least one week prior to the meeting.

Speaking at Town Meeting – There will be volunteers available to bring hand-held microphones to voters who have mobility issues or cannot stand in line and wait at the microphones.

Restrooms – Accessible restrooms are available near the entrance to the auditorium.

Transportation to Town Meeting - The Council on Aging van will be available to Groton residents attending Town Meetings at no charge. All riders will be at the meeting prior to the start. The van is wheelchair accessible. Your reservation can be made by calling the Senior Center at 978-448-1170. Seats will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Questions or concerns - If you or a member of your household has questions or would like to request a sign language interpreter, please contact the Select Board's Office at Town Hall at 978 448-1111 at least one week before the Town Meeting.

SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT
APRIL 29, 2023

Middlesex, ss.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Saturday, the twenty-ninth day of April, 2023 at Nine O'clock in the morning, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the twenty-third day of May, 2023, between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M., at an adjourned session thereof at the following locations:

Precincts 1 & 3A	The Groton Center	Precincts 2 & 3	Middle School North Gymnasium
	163 West Main Street		346 Main Street

to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for Two	Select Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Park Commission	2 Years
Vote for Two	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Trustee of the Groton Public Library	1 Year
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years

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*Will be presented as one Consent Motion

**The Budget will be presented as one Motion

***Annual Consent Agenda. To be presented as one Motion

Article 1: Hear Reports

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Select Board and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions and to accept the annual report and other reports that may be presented to Town Meeting.*

Article 2: Elected Officials Compensation

To see if the Town will vote to set the compensation for the elected officials of the Town for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager. The Town Moderator is proposed to receive a salary of \$1,000 in FY 2024.*

Article 3: Wage and Classification Schedule

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2024 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to set the wage and classification schedule for the three (3) employees (Executive Assistant to the Town Manager, Human Resources Director and IT Director) covered by the Personnel Bylaw. Under the policy of the Select Board, these employees receive the same benefits as contained in the Town Supervisors' Union Contract. These employees will receive a 2% cost-of-living adjustment in Fiscal Year 2024.*

Article 4: *Appropriate FY 2024 Contribution to the OPEB Trust*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to be added to the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20, of the Massachusetts General Laws, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Select Board
Town Manager***

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this article is to fund the Town's OPEB Liability. The Select Board and Finance Committee have adopted a funding policy for this purpose. One of the funding goals is to commit to an annual appropriation to the Trust that would keep the Net Present Value Liability from growing until such time as the Town can begin to pay down the liability. In Fiscal Year 2024, the anticipated amount necessary for this purpose is estimated to be \$185,000. This Article will seek an appropriation of \$185,000 from Free Cash to add to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund.*

Article 5: *Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Operating Budget*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2024), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Finance Committee
Select Board
Town Manager***

Select Board:
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *In accordance with Section 6 of the Town Charter, the Finance Committee conducts its annual budget process by receiving the Town Manager's proposed balanced budget on or before December 31st; meeting with department heads and boards; holding public budget hearings in preparation for issuing its recommendations to Town Meeting; and presenting its budget recommendations at the Spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see the Finance Committee's and Town Manager's Report which includes the Finance Committee's and Select Board's recommendations.*

Article 6: Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of funding the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Summary: *The following is the proposed Town Manager's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2024:*

Item #1 – Ambulance 1 Replacement	\$442,900	Fire and EMS
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Summary: *Ambulance 1 will be due for replacement in 2024. The cost of the Ambulance is approximately \$442,900. To pay for this ambulance, the Town will borrow the total amount through State House Notes and pay it back over 5 years. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Town will appropriate \$105,951 from the EMS Fund to pay the first year's Debt Service.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #2 – Command Vehicle	\$70,000	Fire and EMS
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Summary: *In FY 2024, the Command Vehicle to be replaced is the vehicle that the Deputy Chief uses for emergency response and management of incidents.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #3 – Loader**\$220,000****Highway**

Summary: *The current loader is a 1995 model and is 25 years old. This is an important piece of equipment for the Highway Department as it performs many functions, including snow removal operations. This should be considered a scheduled replacement.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #4 – IT Infrastructure**\$50,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *This item in the Capital Budget was established eleven years ago and has been very successful. In Fiscal Year 2024, the following items will be purchased/upgraded with this allocation: 10 replacement computers; Replace aging servers and storage arrays; Investment to expand the network and keep equipment and maintenance costs current; and network switch upgrades and increased wireless coverage and improve door lock and security system maintenance.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #5 – Municipal Building Repairs**\$25,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *This appropriation will be used to continue to maintain all municipal buildings by performing various maintenance activities to prevent major breakdowns in the Town's building infrastructure. Priorities continue to change when it comes to the minor repairs and upgrades in the municipal buildings. Furnaces, a/c units, flooring and painting are some of the small items this capital program handles.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #6 – Building Maintenance Van**\$60,000****Town Facilities**

Summary: *This Van is used by the DPW's Maintenance Foreman to carry tools and other necessary items used in the maintenance of our buildings. The current van was purchased used (2003) four years ago and needs to be replaced. This is a vital and necessary vehicle for the maintenance of Town Facilities.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #7 – Property Improvements	\$25,000	Park Department
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Summary: *The Park Commission has been working over the past several years developing a strategy to address deficiencies in the various Park Department Properties located throughout Groton. By appropriating \$25,000 each year, the Park Commission can develop a capital improvement program that will allow them to keep our various park locations in good shape and avoid a major construction project.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #8 – Police Cruisers	\$125,142	Police Department
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Summary: *Purchase of two police cruisers and related equipment to replace cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. This allows for lesser mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear. Un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #9 – Hazmat Storage Evidence Locker	\$40,000	Police Department
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Summary: *A secure twelve by twenty Out Building for the purpose of securing hazardous evidence (narcotics and flammables) as well as large items of evidence. The out building will need to have a concrete foundation and floor. The building wall will be on block construction. The overhead and wall through doors will be of industrial grade steel construction.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #10 – Golf Carts	\$25,000	Country Club
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Summary: *In FY 2023, the Town replaced the fleet of twenty-five golf carts with new 21 Yamaha gas powered carts and four Yamaha electric carts using a five year lease to purchase agreement at an annual cost of approximately \$25,000. This is the second of five payments.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #11 – Driving Range Improvements**\$50,000****Country Club**

Summary: *This item will pay for the replacement of driving range mats, addition of range targets, addition of poles and netting on the right side of the range, as well as, addressing drainage issues throughout the range which prevents maintenance in those areas.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Item #12 – Greens Equipment**\$10,000****Country Club**

Summary: *The Country Club needs to replace aging greens equipment. Some pieces age better than others and the maintenance staff attempt to use all the equipment until repairing it becomes cost prohibitive. The greens superintendent and course mechanic will determine the items needed most. The Town will enter into lease purchase agreements for the equipment and pay it off over five years.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Town Manager

Article 7: *Revenue Dedication of Opioid Settlements to Special Purpose Stabilization Fund*

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 5B, of the Massachusetts General Laws, to establish a special purpose stabilization fund, known as the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund, for money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors, to be expended for all of the purposes allowed by law, including those outlined in applicable opioid litigation settlement documents and consistent with any state guidelines or regulations further clarifying allowable uses of opioid litigation settlement funds; and further, to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of the fourth paragraph of said Section 5B to dedicate all or a percentage, which may not be less than 25 percent, of the money received from judgments or settlements in litigation or claims against opioid manufacturers or distributors to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article, effective for Fiscal Year 2024 beginning on July 1, 2023; and further, to transfer from Free Cash the amount of such judgments or settlements received by the Town to date to the special purpose stabilization fund established under this Article; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Town of Groton is eligible to receive up to \$38,306 in Opioid Abatement funds pursuant to settlements reached between the Attorney General and companies and individuals that allegedly fueled the opioid crisis. 40% of the payments to be received by the state, will be directly passed on to its political subdivisions. The allocation of abatement funds will be made over a period of 17 years, ending in 2038. These funds can only be used by the Town for very specific purposes, namely opioid abuse prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery. Accordingly, in order to give municipalities time to strategize how best to meet their community's needs, as well as aid in the long-term tracking, spending and reporting requirements, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is permitting towns to create a special purpose stabilization fund to which this revenue can be dedicated. To date, Groton has received \$4,990.48 of Opioid Settlement funds.*

Article 8: *Funding for Destination Groton Committee*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager in Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, for the purpose of providing funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Destination Groton Committee

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor – 1 Against, Manugian)*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Destination Groton Committee to carry out its charge, which is to pursue a course of action intended to engage all Town stakeholders, including the business and non-profit communities, Town leaders, and Town residents in a series of public information forums in order to prepare for an increase in visitors to town while at the same time work to preserve its rural small-town charm. A portion of this funding will be used to hire consultants to assist in procuring grant funding to create tourism programing, strategic marketing, infrastructure and regional transportation mitigation.*

Article 9: *Funding for Sustainability Commission*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow pursuant to any applicable statute, a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, for the purpose of providing funding for the Sustainability Commission to carry out the Charge of the Committee and all cost associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Sustainability Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 2 Against – Manugian and Green)*

Summary: *The purpose of this Article is to provide funding for the Sustainability Commission to pay for their tire recycling program, pollinator garden program and provide educational materials to residents in their endeavor to have informational/educational seminars that focus on Sustainability. At the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change and resilience to their purview. Beginning in 2022, the Commission added climate change work projects and a tire recycling program to their ongoing pollinator garden program. Continuing and bringing these projects to fruition requires funding. The Commission is seeking \$15,000 for the above-mentioned activities in FY 2024.*

Article 10: *Amend the Charge of the Sustainability Commission*

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 20 of the April 28, 2008 Spring Town Meeting which created the Sustainability Commission by authorizing the Select Board, in conjunction with the Sustainability Commission, to create a new Charge of the Commission, including the number of members of the Commission and length of terms, and authorize the Select Board to amend said Charge and Membership from time to time as the Board deems appropriate at a duly posted meeting of the Select Board, or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Select Board
Sustainability Commission***

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The Sustainability Commission has been in existence for the past 13 years operating under the original Charge and membership as voted by the 2008 Spring Town Meeting. Sustainability has taken on a more and more important role in today's world. The focus of the Commission needs to be able to adapt to changing priorities. Unfortunately, since the Commission and Charge were voted on by Town Meeting, only Town Meeting can amend it. This can cause a delay in addressing issues. The purpose of this Article is to authorize the Select Board, working with the Sustainability Commission, to*

draft a Charge that can be amended from time to time by the Select Board. In addition, at the direction of the Select Board in October, 2021, the Sustainability Commission added climate change to their purview. Members were added to the Commission to work on this initiative. At present, the Commission is at maximum capacity, with one alternate member temporarily authorized. However, the work involved requires additional flexibility in the membership and the expertise members can bring.

Article 11: Election Equipment Purchase – Poll Pads

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to purchase Poll Pads for use by the Town Clerk to check-in voters at all elections and Town Meetings, and all costs associated and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Clerk
Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The use of Poll Pads will help to accelerate the check-in process at Town Meetings and at Elections by taking the place of the paper check-in system we currently use. These tablets will allow the election worker to look up the voter by manually entering the first few letters of the voters first and last name or by scanning the bar code on the back of a driver's license or state issued ID. If an ID is scanned, the Poll Pad matches the name and date of birth of the person on the voter list with the name and date of birth it reads from the bar code. At Town Meetings, voters will have the ability to check-in at any staffed station as the Poll Pads automatically sync to one another via Bluetooth connectivity and not Wi-Fi, which eliminates any chance of checking in more than once. The Town Clerk's Office staff will also be able to electronically record voter turnout totals, load voter history into the State Voter Registration System post-election and run essential reports in a more time efficient manner. Over 200 cities and towns in the Commonwealth are currently utilizing this technology.*

Article 12: Construct New Water Main to Address PFAS Issue at GDRSD High School

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money for the purposes of financing the planning, designing, permitting, and constructing of a new water main from the Groton Water Distribution System to the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and on Kemp Street and Groton Street In Dunstable and a portion of North Street in Groton in order to bring potable drinking water to the School and private homes, required for the treatment of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in said water supply sources, and all incidental and related costs, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the Massachusetts General Laws; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This Article is for the extension of municipal drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and the surrounding properties in Dunstable on Groton Street and Kemp Street and on North Street in Groton. In 2021, the drinking water source was tested for PFAS/PFOS as required by the MassDEP. Measured levels at the High School were well over the Mass DEP's limits for potable drinking water and the drinking water source was removed from service. It appears that the surrounding properties have also been impacted by the PFAS contamination at the High School. A new water source for the High School and surrounding properties is necessary to address this issue. The estimated cost of this project is \$16.5 million. The Town is seeking all available Federal and State Grants to offset the cost of this water main extension.

Article 13: Community Preservation Funding Accounts

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund: Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 20,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$106,991
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$106,991
Community Housing Reserve:	\$106,991
Unallocated Reserve:	\$728,937

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This is an accounting procedure that is necessary so that the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during Fiscal Year 2024. Except for the CPC Operating Expenses, none of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.

Article 14: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2024, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the Massachusetts General Laws, and by authorizing the Select Board, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain, such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A: Housing Trust Funds Request \$200,000

Summary: *This application is seeking \$200,000 in CPA funds to be used to help the Affordable Housing Trust meet its affordable housing goals. This application is requesting that the funding be transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust to be used for any and all allowable community housing purposes. Community housing funds can be used to acquire, create, support and rehabilitate and / or restore housing if acquired or created with CPA funds. The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 3 Abstentions – Easom, Eliot, Perkins)*

CPC Proposal B: Preservation of Lake Massapoag \$4,000

Summary: *This application is requesting \$4,000 in CPA funds to cover a portion of the 2023 rehabilitation/preservation costs for the Upper Massapoag Pond. The pond is currently overrun by invasive aquatic plants and the eighteen-acre cove portion of the pond located in Groton has added significant costs to the treatment. Both the Town of Tyngsboro and the Town of Dunstable have been supporting this project since it first started. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Easom)*

CPC Proposal C: Conservation Fund – FY 2024 \$400,000

Summary: *The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 in CPA funds to be added to the Town's Conservation Fund to help preserve open space, protect water resources and wildlife habitat, and preserve land for agricultural, recreational, and forestry activities. The Conservation Fund allows the Town to move quickly in the event a priority parcel becomes available. In the past, the Conservation Fund has been used to purchase Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and fee ownership of conservation land in the Town. The Commission adheres to the Select Board's General Financial Guideline #6, which states the goal "to maintain a balance in the Conservation Fund of at*

least 2% of the Town's current line-item budget." 2% of the FY24 operating budget would be approximately \$983,720. As of April 1, 2023 the Conservation Fund balance was \$1,684,962. Of this amount, \$1,005,750 is expected to be used for land purchases already in process. With the rising cost of land, the need to augment the Fund is as crucial this year as ever. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.

Select Board: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Manugian)

Finance Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Against – Green)

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Easom)

CPC Proposal D: Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond \$80,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$80,000 in CPA funds to replace an existing baseball field located at Town Field (behind the Library) that has served the Town since the 1930's. The funds will be used towards excavating and removing infield grass and clay. The excavated area will then be laser graded in which the layout will meet the major league diamond standards. A new home plate, pitcher's mound, and left and right foul poles will be set. An irrigation only well will be drilled for irrigation purposes only. An irrigation system will be installed for the benefit of the entire playing surface. An electrical service will be installed in the existing maintenance shed. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Easom)

CPC Proposal E: Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler Field \$90,000

Summary: *The Park Commission is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funds to build over the site of the former Little League regulation diamonds at Cutler Field in West Groton. The funds will be used towards excavating and removing infield grass and clay. The excavated area will then be laser graded in which two softball diamonds will be constructed in adherence with the proper guidelines and standards. This project will include all necessary materials required to construct the two softball diamonds. The full amount to be paid from the Unallocated Reserve.*

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Community Preservation Committee: Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Easom)

CPC Proposal F:**Housing Coordinator – FY 2024****\$55,857**

Summary: *This application is requesting \$55,857 in CPA funding from the Community Housing category to fund the wages and benefits of the Housing Coordinator position (25-hours/week). The full amount to be paid from the Community Housing Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Easom)*

CPC Proposal G:**Squannacook River Rail Trail****\$90,000**

Summary: *Squannacook Greenways is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funding for construction of Phase 4 of the Squannacook River Rail Trail (SRRT) from the northern Crosswinds Drive crossing of the MBTA Railroad right of way to the Groton/Townsend town line for a total distance of .25 miles. Construction of the SRRT is being conducted in phases due to environmental permitting requirements which limit construction activity to a period of between 11/15-3/15. Squannacook Greenways is also relying on DCR MassTrails grants to underwrite a large portion of construction costs and has been the successful recipient on three MassTrails grants: 2019, 2020 and 2022. Squannacook Greenways will be applying for the next round of grants and if successful will commence construction in 11/2023. The full amount to be paid from the Open Space Reserve.*

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Cunningham)*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Community Preservation Committee: *Recommended (6 In Favor, 1 Abstention – Easom)*

Community Preservation Committee

Article 15: *An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would merge Precincts 1 and 3A into one Precinct known as Precinct 1 as follows:

An Act Merging Certain Voting Precincts in the Town of Groton

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, Precinct 1 and Precinct 3A in the Town of Groton shall merge and become Precinct 1 of the Town of Groton.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

***Town Clerk
Town Manager***

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *In 2021, and as a result of the 2020 Federal Census, boundary lines for Precincts 1 and 3 were adjusted due to shifts in population. The new boundary lines took effect on December 31, 2021 and are in effect for 10 years. During the 2021 process, the Massachusetts Legislature pre-empted the timeline used for reprecincting, and started redistricting simultaneously. The 2010 precinct boundaries were used to redistrict which affected part of Precinct 3. Because of this, the Town now has a sub-precinct, which you will see referred to as Precinct 3A and the Town was split into two (2) Representative Districts, the First Middlesex District and 37th Middlesex District. There are currently 236 Residents residing within the newly formed Precinct 3A. This article seeks Town Meeting permission to request Special Legislation to merge Precinct 3A into Precinct 1. This merger will reduce voter confusion and yield a cost savings to the Town as it would require less support during elections.*

Article 16: *Amend Town Charter – Article 3, Section 3.2.2 (v)*

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 3.2.2(v) and inserting in place thereof the following:

3.2.2(v) sign all payroll and expense warrants; provided, however, that the select board, at its sole discretion, may delegate this authority to the town manager and one member of the Select Board by a vote of the board at a posted meeting.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Against – Manugian)*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The signing of the payroll and accounts payable warrants is the responsibility of the Select Board, as identified in M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 56. This responsibility serves as an oversight on the town treasury. On a bi-weekly basis, the warrants are delivered, usually with a large number of detailed expense and payroll items. Individual Select Board Member practices vary with respect to their detailed review of the warrants. It is recommended that the Charter be revised to authorize the Select Board to delegate the authority, at their discretion, to sign expense and payroll warrants to the Town Manager and one member of the Select Board. The Select Board can also revoke this delegation and impose limits on signing authority.*

Article 17: Amend Town Charter – Article 4, Sections 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv)

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for a special act that would amend the Groton Town Charter as follows:

An Act Relative to the Charter in the Town of Groton

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. The charter of the town of Groton, which is on file in the office of the archivist of the commonwealth as provided in section 12 of chapter 43B of the general laws, is hereby amended by striking out section 4.2(iii) and 4.2(iv) and inserting in place thereof the following:

4.2(iii) appointing and removing department heads, officers and subordinates and employees and other appointed members of town government for whom no other method of appointment or removal is provided in this charter or by-law. Appointments made by the town manager shall be confirmed by the select board within 15 days of the date the town manager files notice of the action with the select board. Failure by the select board to confirm an appointment within 15 days shall constitute rejection of the appointment.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Deferred – Cunningham)*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The Charter Committee in 2017 amended the original Town Charter's appointing authority of the Town Manager by creating a cumbersome, unnecessary procedure of nominating appointments to the Select Board, instead of having the Town Manager appoint members of Town Government, subject to the ratification of the Select Board. It was a change that was not necessary, as the Select Board still has the ultimate authority on who serves in Town Government. They also changed the authority of the Town Manager to remove members of Town Government without the approval of the Select Board at a duly posted public meeting. This has the potential to embarrass volunteers and cause unnecessary drama. This proposal would return the appointing authority of the Town Manager back to the original wording in the Charter that was approved in 2010 that worked without issue or complaint for many years.*

Article 18: *Amend General Bylaws – Dog Hearings*

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 128, Dogs, by amending Section 128-3, Enforcement, as follows (deleted text in ~~striketthrough~~, new text underlined):

- H. Appeals. The Hearing Authority's ~~initial~~ decision shall become effective upon filing said decision with the Town Clerk with notice to the owner or keeper. ~~The owner or keeper of a dog may appeal the initial decision of the Hearing Authority to the Select Board within 10 days of the decision being filed with the Town Clerk. The Select Board shall review the decision in open session and determine whether or not to modify or uphold the decision. The Select Board may conduct a further hearing or accept additional evidence as the Board deems appropriate.~~ An owner or keeper may further appeal the ~~Select Board's final action~~ Hearing Authority's decision to the district court pursuant to MGL c. 140, § 157.

or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *Town Counsel has advised that our current internal appeal process deviates from state law and gives appellants technical arguments that may jeopardize the Town's decisions on appeal. This article seeks to eliminate the discrepancy between our appeal process and State law. State law affords dog owners a mechanism to appeal the Town's dog hearing decisions in district court, with an initial hearing before a district court magistrate that often resolves matters without the need for a full trial.*

Article 19: Amend Zoning Bylaw – Accessory Apartment Clarifications

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning as follows:

1. In Section 218-3 Definitions, amend the existing definition of Accessory Apartment by deleting the words "one bedroom" and inserting in their place the words "eight hundred (800) square feet of habitable floor area".
2. Amend Section 218-9.4 Accessory Apartment as follows:
 - a. In Section 218-9.4.2 Attached Accessory Apartment, by inserting the words "of habitable floor area" in the first sentence after the words "eight hundred (800) square feet".
 - b. In Section 218-9.4.2.k, by inserting the word "attached" in the first sentence before the words "accessory apartment".
 - c. In Section 218-9.4.3 Detached Accessory Apartment, by deleting the words "detached-accessory apartment" in the first sentence and inserting in their place the words "detached accessory apartment not to exceed eight hundred (800) square feet of habitable floor area".
 - d. In Section 219-9.4.3.a, by deleting the words "and j-l" and inserting in their place the words "j, and l".

or to take any other action relative thereto.

Planning Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board:

Summary: *This article clarifies certain inconsistencies in the provisions regulating Attached and Detached Accessory Apartments in Section 218-9.4. Specifically, this article clarifies that all accessory apartments, whether attached or detached, shall have a maximum of 800 square feet of living area (i.e., habitable floor area). This article also modifies the definition of Accessory Apartment to be consistent with Section 218-9.4 by inserting the maximum living area provision.*

Article 20: Conservation Land Purchase

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from the Town's Conservation Fund the sum of \$601,500, for the purpose of acquiring for conservation and passive recreation purposes, by eminent domain, negotiated purchase, or otherwise, certain real property known as the "Casella Property", consisting of 119 acres, more or less, owned by the Casella Realty Trust as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Groton, Massachusetts" prepared by Dillis & Roy Civil Design Group, dated 03/01/2023, which is on file in the Town's Conservation Commission Office, said parcel to be acquired by the Conservation Commission and held under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 8C, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to file on behalf of the Town any and all applications deemed necessary for grants and/or reimbursements under Chapter 132A, Section 11 and/or any other applicable statute for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Conservation Commission to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary for said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to said parcel to a qualified entity under terms and conditions the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in best interest of the Town and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 184, Sections 31 through 33; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *The Conservation Commission has reached an agreement with the Casella Realty Trust to purchase a parcel of land, of approximately 119 acres, using Conservation Commission Funds. The Conservation Commission has applied for, and been awarded a LAND (Land Acquisition for Natural Diversity) Grant from the Commonwealth of MA to defray the cost of the purchase. While the Conservation Commission is able to spend monies from the Conservation Fund without a Town Meeting vote, the Commission needs Town Meeting approval to receive reimbursement from the LAND grant. The negotiated purchase price for this property is \$601,500 and the grant would reimburse approximately \$360,900 (approx. 60% of total project cost) to the Conservation Fund. This land has frontage on Nashua Road and is adjacent to the Reedy Meadow Conservation Area to the south, and the GDRSD High School property to the east. In addition to providing an extensive trail connection between Chicopee Row, Reedy Meadow Road, and Nashua Road, the Casella Property features exceptionally diverse habitats for its size. It is the last parcel of land with such habitats within the ring of development from Reedy Meadow Road to the south, Nashua Road to the west, Wyman Road to the*

north, and the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School to the east. This article asks the Town Meeting to endorse this purchase.

Article 21: Grant Conservation Restrictions on Various Parcels

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant conservation restrictions with respect to all or a portion of the parcels of land described below, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws:

1. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Chicopee Row (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-85.1), referred to as the "Unkety Well Site", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on June 27, 2011, in Book 57046 at Page 248;
2. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Chicopee Row (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-94), referred to as the "Torrey Woods Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 18, 1997, in Book 27992 at Page 315;
3. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Hawtree Way (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-63), referred to as the "Hawtree Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on October 24, 1997, in Book 27801 at Page 119;
4. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Chicopee Row (Groton Assessor's Parcel 231-95), referred to as the "Floyd Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 13, 1973, in Book 12477 at Page 130;
5. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 243-17), referred to as the "Harrison Ripley Forest", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 31, 1986, in Book 17744 at Page 99;
6. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 244-26), referred to as the "Harrison Ripley Forest", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 31, 1986, in Book 17744 at Page 99;
7. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Sawtell Drive, Groton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-9), referred to as the "Sawtell Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 2, 2003, in Book 41544 at Page 397;

8. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Sawtell Drive (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-14), referred to as the "Sawtell Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 2, 2003, in Book 41544 at Page 397;
9. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Kailey's Way (Groton Assessor's Parcel 232-38), referred to as the "Groton Hills Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 24, 1996, in Book 26519 at Page 185;
10. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 243-31.1), referred to as the "Baddacook Pond East Shore", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on March 3, 2011, in Book 56554 at Page 226;
11. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 233-98.2), referred to as the "Fuccillo Land", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on November 30, 2009, in Book 53921 at Page 1;
12. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 233-98.1), referred to as the "Fuccillo Land", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on November 30, 2009, in Book 53921 at Page 1;
13. To the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, the parcel of land located off Otter Lane (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-3), referred to as the "Heron Ridge Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on December 18, 1987, in Book 18766 at Page 24;
14. To the Groton Conservation Trust, the parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 224-15.1), referred to as the "Priest Family Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on February 13, 2020, in Book 74129 at Page 313;
15. To the Groton Conservation Trust, parcel of land located off Martins Pond Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 224-18), referred to as the "Martins Pond Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on March 14, 2019, in Book 72329 at Page 472;
16. To the Groton Conservation Trust, parcel of land located off West Main Street (Groton Assessor's Parcel 106-31), referred to as the "Patricia Hallet Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on September 27, 2018, in Book 71675 at Page 143;
17. To the Groton Conservation Trust, parcel of land located off West Main Street (Groton Assessor's Parcel 106-32), referred to as the "Patricia Hallet Conservation Area", described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on September 27, 2018, in Book 71675 at Page 143;

And further, to authorize the Select Board to petition the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation to authorize any of said conservation restrictions in accordance with Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, provided, however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Select Board approves amendments thereto before enactment by the General Court, which amendments shall be within the public purposes of said petition; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Conservation Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *This article will satisfy the requirement of the LAND Grant to have all properties purchased with CPA funds protected by a Conservation Restriction (CR). With this requirement met, the Town will be eligible for the 60% reimbursement the LAND grant will provide to the Town for the purchase of the Casella Property. A Conservation Restriction, held by a different entity than the owner of the land, provides an additional level of protection for land set aside for conservation. Please see the Explanation narrative with its accompanying maps in your meeting packet for further information on the specifics of this warrant article.*

Article 22: *Grant Conservation Restriction to Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game*

To see if the Town will vote to modify the vote taken under Article 19 at the 2011 Spring Town Meeting and authorize the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to grant a conservation restriction with respect to all or a portion of the real property located off of Lowell Road (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04) described in a deed to the Town of Groton recorded with the Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds on July 21, 1999, in Book 30446 at Page 61, to the Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game, upon such terms and conditions as the Select Board and the Conservation Commission deem to be in the best interest of the Town and in accordance with Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, of the Massachusetts General Laws; and further to authorize the Select Board to transfer the care, custody, and control of said parcel to the Conservation Commission after granting said conservation restriction to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife; or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Conservation Commission

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *As part of the work to address the outstanding parcels needing conservation restrictions as required by the Community Preservation Act and LAND grant conditions, the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW) has expressed an interest in protecting the "Brown Loaf" parcel (Groton Assessor's Parcel 234-04), by purchasing a Conservation Restriction on it. The Brown Loaf parcel is a 103 +/- acre parcel, located south of Lowell Road behind the GELD substation. This property was originally purchased by the Town, at the Spring Town Meeting in 1999, for general municipal purposes. Options were explored for the best development potential but none worked out. This resulted in a 2011 Spring Town Meeting (Article 19) authorizing the Select Board to transfer the parcel to the Conservation Commission. This article would allow the Town to negotiate the terms and award a CR to DFW, thereby recouping most of the funds it spent to purchase the property. Once the CR is completed, the Select Board will finalize the transfer of ownership of the parcel to the Conservation Commission.*

Article 23: Citizens' Petition – Rezone 797 Boston Road

To see if the Town will vote to rezone the property situated at 797 Boston Road, which is shown on the Groton Assessor's Maps as Parcel 133-49 and described in a deed recorded with Middlesex County South District Registry of Deeds in Book 45322 at Page 597, as Neighborhood Business (NB), allowing for the construction of an indoor pickleball facility, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Citizens' Petition

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
James McLean	4 Little Hollow Lane	Roberta Fusari	331 Riverbend Drive
Alfred Von Campe	29 Worthen Drive	Kristen Von Campe	29 Worthen Drive
Michael J. Hutton	33 Overlook Drive	Karen Hutton	33 Overlook Drive
Catherine Pauly	42 Forest Drive	Kathy Pietras	9 West Street
David Fusari	331 Riverbend Drive	Robert E. Anderson	270 Whiley Road

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Planning Board:

Summary: The following summary was prepared by the petitioners and represents their view on the Article: *The owner of this parcel wishes to change the zoning of the property from Residential–Agricultural (R-A) to Neighborhood Business (NB) to allow for the development of an indoor pickleball facility. The proposed facility would require the issuance of a Special Permit by the Zoning Board of Appeals, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw.*

ARTICLES 24 THROUGH 33 WILL BE PART OF THE CONSENT AGENDA. PLEASE SEE EXPLANATION PROVIDED ON PAGE 2 OF THIS WARRANT.

Article 24: *Transfer within the Water Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Department Operating Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Water Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article will request a transfer of funds from Water Surplus to help fund the Fiscal Year 2023 Water Department's Operational Expenses. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$75,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 25: *Transfer Within the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Center Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Center Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$100,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 26: *Transfer Within the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Four Corners Sewer Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Board of Sewer Commissioners

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Four Corners Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$75,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 27: *Transfer Within Cable Enterprise Fund*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Cable Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2023 Cable Enterprise Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Cable Advisory Committee

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article allows the Cable Advisory Committee to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget. As of the Printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$10,000 will be transferred for this purpose.*

Article 28: *Prior Year Bills*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money for the payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *Town Meeting approval is required to pay bills from a prior fiscal year. A list of unpaid bills will be provided at Town Meeting.*

Article 29: *Current Year Line-Item Transfers*

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Select Board

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *To transfer money within the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfers will be available at Town Meeting.*

Article 30: *Appropriate Money to Offset the Snow and Ice Deficit*

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money, to be expended by the Town Manager, to reduce the deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Snow and Ice Budget, as approved under Article 5 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *This article will allow the Town to fund any deficit in the Snow and Ice Account in FY 23.*

Article 31: Amend Funding Distribution for Middle School Track

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to pay additional costs of designing, constructing and equipping a new Middle School track, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto; to determine whether this amount shall be raised by borrowing, including a borrowing to be repaid with Community Preservation Act funds, or otherwise provided, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: Article 7 of the 2021 Spring Town Meeting approved a bond of \$1.4 million to construct a new Middle School Track as part of the elementary school project. The Town has issued Bond Anticipation Notes on this approval and is paying interest. It is the Town's intent to permanently borrow these funds within the next two years. Article 9 of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting approved an additional \$1 million for this project as the original \$1.4 million was insufficient to construct the Track. The Town has yet to borrow this additional \$1 million. It was the Town's intent to issue a BAN for this \$1 million this June. That said, the Community Preservation Committee has decided that they have sufficient funding in their unallocated reserve to reduce the borrowing authorization of Article 9 by \$880,000 so only \$120,000 will need to be borrowed (instead of the \$1 million authorized).

Article 32: Debt Service for Middle School Track

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Chapter 44B, Section 5, of the Massachusetts General Laws, for debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Middle School Track Project, as authorized under Article 7 of the May 1, 2021 Spring Town Meeting and Article 9 of the April 30, 2022 Spring Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Community Preservation Committee

Select Board: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: This article appropriates the debt payments for the Middle School Track Project. The anticipated debt service for Fiscal Year 2024 is \$55,000. Funding for this article will come from the Unallocated Reserve of the Community Preservation Fund.

Article 33: Establishing Limits for the Various Revolving Funds

To see if the Town will vote, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44 sec 53E½ and the Revolving Fund Bylaw, to amend the Revolving Fund Bylaw to add or delete any revolving account and/or to set the FY 2024 spending limits for the various revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2024 Spending Limit
Stormwater Management	\$20,000
Conservation Commission	\$50,000
Building Rental Fund	\$50,000
Affordable Housing Marketing	\$20,000
Home Recycling Equipment	\$10,000
Access for Persons with Disabilities	\$10,000
Council on Aging Program Fund	\$50,000
Boat Excise Tax Fund	\$ 5,000
Transfer Station Glass	\$10,000
Senior Center Fitness Equipment	\$10,000

or take any other action relative thereto.

Town Manager

Select Board: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This Article sets the limit of annual spending for the various revolving funds authorized by previous Town Meeting votes and currently set forth in the Town's Bylaw for said purpose.*

Hereof fail not and make return of your doings to the Town Clerk on or before time of said meeting.

Given under our hands this 10th Day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Three.

John F. Reilly

John F. Reilly, Chair

Rebecca H. Pine

Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair

Matthew F. Pisani

Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk

Alison S. Manugian

Alison S. Manugian, Member

Peter S. Cunningham

Peter S. Cunningham, Member

OFFICERS RETURN
Groton, Middlesex

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have this day notified the Inhabitants to assemble at the time, place, and for the purpose mentioned as within directed. Personally posted by Constable.

Constable

Date Duly Posted

BUDGET MESSAGE FROM THE TOWN MANAGER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2024

Pursuant to Article 6 “Finance and Fiscal Procedure”, Section 6.4 “The Budget”, of the Charter of the Town of Groton, Massachusetts, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager are pleased to submit for your consideration the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget for the Town of Groton. When preparing the Proposed Operating Budget, the goal was to submit a budget to Town Meeting that would maintain services in Fiscal Year 2024 at the same level as the current Fiscal Year, and support the Operating Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District. While this proved to be difficult, the Finance Committee, Select Board and Town Manager worked diligently and cooperatively to balance the proposed budget without the need of an Override of Proposition 2½.

In accordance with the Groton Charter and the Town’s Financial Policies, in October 2022, the Finance Committee and Select Board issued the following guidance to the Town Manager prior to the development of the initial Proposed Operating Budget:

1. The Town Manager shall prepare a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2024 with no proposed Override of Proposition 2½.
2. The Town Manager shall work with representatives of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District and Nashoba Valley Technical School District to balance the budget.

To meet the challenge of balancing the Budget without the need of an Override, Local Receipts were thoroughly reviewed with an eye on increasing them to the maximum amount that could be anticipated in Fiscal Year 2024 and accepted by the Department of Revenue in approving the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2024. While the Town’s History is to be as conservative as possible when developing Local Receipts, balancing the Budget was the priority. Even though there was some serious apprehension pushing revenues to this extreme, this was a necessary step in order to meet the budgetary needs of the Town and the School District. Based on this, the Town is estimating an increase in local receipts of \$613,763 from \$4,808,620 to \$5,422,383, or 12.7%. This is the largest increase in local receipts in the past 15 years. Please consider the following:

1. **Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes** – The Town Budgeted \$1,778,290 in Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes in FY 2023. Needing to stretch this line item as much as possible, it is estimated that the Town will receive \$1,820,583 for FY 2024, or an increase of \$42,293 over FY 2023.

2. **Meals Tax/Room Occupancy Tax** – This has been an excellent revenue source over the last year. In Fiscal Year 2023, this line item was increased by \$100,000 and collections thus far in FY 2023 have exceeded this estimate. It is anticipated that the Town will collect an additional \$50,000 in FY 2024.
3. **Recreational Marijuana Revenue** – This is a new revenue line item for Fiscal Year 2024. Currently, two companies are in the process of receiving both local and state approvals to open Recreational Marijuana facilities in Groton. Both companies should be open sometime in Fiscal Year 2024. The Town will receive a 3% tax on total sales. A conservative estimate is that \$5 million in sales will be generated, which will provide the Town with \$150,000 in tax revenues for Fiscal Year 2024.
4. **Payments in Lieu of Taxes** – This line item has been increased by \$71,500 from \$300,000 in FY 2023 to \$371,500 in FY 2024 based on an anticipated receipt of \$25,000 for the new ticket surcharge agreed to by Groton Hill Music. In addition, Groton School has increased its voluntary donation to the Town by \$34,000, while Lawrence Academy and the Groton Electric Light Department have increased their voluntary donations by \$7,500 and \$5,000 respectively.
5. **Other Charges for Services** – This line item has been increased by \$9,000 to \$99,000 to reflect the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Dunstable for their reimbursement for Dispatch Services.
6. **Other Departmental Revenue** – This line item has been increased by \$25,000 to \$800,000 in anticipation of the reimbursement from the Enterprise Funds due to the anticipated increase in Health Insurance.
7. **Licenses and Permits** – Based on the anticipated redevelopment of the Deluxe Property and other subdivisions currently before the Planning Board for approval, this line item has been increased in FY 2024 by \$113,619, from \$315,681 to \$429,300 or 36%.
8. **Investment Income** – This line item has been increased by \$40,000 from \$50,000 to \$90,000, or 80% due to the higher interest rates we have been experiencing in the last year and the money the Town has on hand for the Florence Roche Elementary School Construction Project. While this will not continue in future fiscal years, it is a safe estimate in FY 2024.
9. **Recreation Revenues** – Based on the last three years of the outstanding success of the Groton Country Club (the Town collected \$739,701 in Fiscal Year 2022), we are increasing this estimate by \$94,733 from \$605,267 to \$700,000, or 15.7%.

The Finance Committee and Town Manager have developed the following estimated revenues for Fiscal Year 2024:

<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Budgeted FY 2023</u>	<u>Proposed FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Property Tax*	\$ 35,383,886	\$ 36,550,003	\$ 1,166,117	3.30%
State Aid	\$ 1,077,749	\$ 1,183,073	\$ 105,324	9.77%
Local Receipts - Excluding Country Club	\$ 4,203,353	\$ 4,722,383	\$ 519,030	12.35%
Country Club Revenue	\$ 605,267	\$ 700,000	\$ 94,733	15.65%
Free Cash	\$ 619,994	\$ 662,827	\$ 42,833	6.91%
Other Available Funds	\$ 309,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 41,000	13.27%
TOTAL	\$ 42,199,249	\$ 44,168,286	\$ 1,969,037	4.67%

*Includes 2½ percent increase allowed by law and \$18 million in new growth.

The first area that needed to be reviewed in preparing the Proposed Operating Budget is mandatory expenditures, followed by areas in the budget that are routine in nature. With regard to mandatory expenditures, two categories fit this definition, Pension and Health Insurance. In Fiscal Year 2024, the Town has been notified by the Middlesex County Retirement Board that the Pension Budget will decrease by \$44,630, from \$2,538,910 to 2,494,280, or 1.76%. Health Insurance will increase by \$164,987 from \$1,925,576 to \$2,090,563, or 8.57%.

The Town has seven (7) Collective Bargaining Units. All contracts will be entering the second year of three-year Agreements. All Unions have agreed to a 2% wage adjustment in FY 2024. Contractual salary and wage obligations to these employees, By-Law employees, and others with individual contracts will increase by \$168,739 in FY 2024. Two of the Unions (the Town Hall/Library Union and the DPW Union) are also eligible for a performance incentive that allows employees to receive an increase in their base pay of up to two (2%). In Fiscal Year 2024, this will likely account for an increase in wages of \$50,639. Finally, some employees are eligible for a one-time performance incentive of up to 2½% that is not added to their base. This will be paid from Free Cash. The Fiscal Year 2024 impact for this program is \$41,357. Please note that salaries and wages will increase by a total of \$260,735 in FY 2024, including one-time cash payments.

The Town will continue to see a significant increase in Excluded Debt for Fiscal Year 2024 as the Town continues to pay debt service on the Florence Roche Elementary School Project to cover both debt that has been permanently financed (\$28 million), as well as borrowed using bond anticipation notes (approximately \$27 million). For Fiscal Year 2024, Municipal Excluded Debt will increase from \$3,362,553 to \$4,506,102, an increase of \$1,143,549 or 34%. Excluded Debt from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District will decrease by \$15,731 or 3.7% from \$422,713 to \$406,982. Overall, Excluded Debt will increase in Fiscal Year 2024 by \$1,128,088, or 29.8% from \$3,783,842 to \$4,911,930.

For the last two years, the Country Club has been a success and a revenue generator for the Town of Groton. Fiscal Year 2022 was the most successful year the Country Club has ever had in terms of revenue generation. In Fiscal Year 2022, the Club made a profit of \$118,086 (total expenses of \$621,615; total revenues of \$739,701). Over a three-year period, there has been no taxpayer subsidy for the operation of the Country Club, with the Club returning a profit to the Town of \$168,348. The Town will continue to manage the Club in the most cost-effective way to the benefit of the taxpayers.

There are two additional highlights in the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget that the Town Manager and Finance Committee would like to call to your attention. First, the position of Town Accountant has been reclassified and renamed Assistant Finance Director/Town Accountant based on a thorough review of the job description and duties required of the position. The salary for the newly titled position in Fiscal Year 2024 has been set at \$110,000. Second, the current DPW Director has notified the Town of his intention to retire in two years. The Town has instituted an "In-Training" Program whereby existing employees are trained to take over the Department Head Position when the current incumbent retires. This training program has been used to appoint the current Town Accountant, Town Treasurer/Tax Collector and Building Commissioner to great success. A DPW Director In-Training Program has been instituted in the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget. A stipend of \$7,000 has been set aside in the Highway Budget to pay a current employee for the additional time spent training for the position of DPW Director, while still performing their regular duties.

The collaboration between the Town of Groton and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District continues to be strong. This collaboration has never been more important than in developing the FY 2024 Proposed Operating Budget. The initial Budget of the Town Manager provided to the Finance Committee and Select Board in December, 2022, had set aside an increase in the Assessment of \$1,218,398, or 5.01% based on the historical growth of the Assessment caused by the lack of a significant increase in State Aid. Unfortunately, due to an unprecedented increase in District expenses, including a 14% increase in out-of-District placements, a 3.2% increase in regular transportation costs, a significant increase in their Middlesex County Retirement Assessment, and increased utility costs and union obligations, the District's Proposed Assessment for Fiscal Year 2024 was significantly higher than the amount of funding set aside in the Town Manager's Proposed Budget. This required the Town and the District to reevaluate proposed increases in the budget to avoid an Override of Proposition 2½. To do this, several reductions were made in the Municipal Budget. The Town did not fund an additional Firefighter/EMT position in the Fire Department and a current vacancy in the Communications Department has been eliminated. Reductions were also made in minor capital and snow and ice removal costs. The Town will also realize an increase in revenues from the anticipated Fiscal Year 2024 Unrestricted Local Aid and PILOT payments from the two Private Schools and the Groton Electric Light Department. Based on this, the Town was able to set aside an additional \$400,000 for the Operating Assessment of the District, bringing the increase to \$1,618,398, or an increase of 6.65%. The School District also made significant reductions in its proposed FY 2024 Budget by eliminating positions and services allowing the Town to avoid an Override of Proposition 2½ and eliminating the need for further reductions in the Municipal Budget. As stated, the collaboration between the Town and the School District was a key factor in balancing the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget.

With regard to the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School, the Town has been informed that the number of Groton students attending the School has decreased from 45 to 41. The proposed Assessment for Nashoba Tech is \$762,656, a decrease of \$47,381, or 5.85%.

Section 6-5 of the Groton Charter requires the Finance Committee to provide a report that details the differences between the Town Manager's Proposed Budget and their final Proposed Budget. The following Chart shows the differences between the budget received by the Finance Committee from the Town Manager on December 31, 2022 and the budget that will be proposed to the 2023 Spring Town Meeting:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Department/Description</u>	<u>Original Proposed</u>	<u>Committee Approved</u>
1241	Building Inspector Expenses	\$ 23,750	\$ 21,750
1305	Police Department Minor Capital	\$ 11,420	\$ 6,420
1311	Fire Department Wages	\$ 1,142,499	\$ 1,112,490
1312	Fire Department Expenses	\$ 213,896	\$ 207,096
1370	Police & Fire Communications Wages	\$ 500,064	\$ 448,073
1400	NVRTHS Operating Expenses	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656
1410	GDRSD Operating Expenses	\$ 25,537,716	\$ 25,937,716
1504	Highway Department Minor Capital	\$ 20,000	\$ 15,000
1542	Municipal Buildings Minor Capital	\$ 10,000	\$ -
1601	Council on Aging Wages	\$ 122,695	\$ 103,143
1661	Library Wages	\$ 343,002	\$ 314,504
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Non-Excluded	\$ 85,174	\$ 212,949
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ 7,500	\$ 30,676
3010	Employee Benefits Health Insurance	\$ 2,115,563	\$ 2,090,563

The following is a breakdown of the Finance Committee's Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget by function:

<u>Category</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>	<u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar Difference</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
General Government	\$ 2,293,398	\$ 2,349,147	\$ 55,749	2.43%
Land Use	\$ 460,356	\$ 492,508	\$ 32,152	6.98%
Protection of Persons and Property	\$ 4,833,510	\$ 4,737,597	\$ (95,913)	-1.98%
Department of Public Works	\$ 2,345,816	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 5,679	0.24%
Library and Citizen Services	\$ 1,892,083	\$ 1,945,270	\$ 53,187	2.81%
Sub-Total - Wages and Expenses	\$ 11,825,163	\$ 11,876,016	\$ 50,853	0.43%
Debt Service	\$ 3,651,258	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 1,329,449	36.41%
Employee Benefits	\$ 4,797,706	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 132,957	2.77%
Sub-Total - All Municipal	\$ 20,274,127	\$ 21,787,386	\$ 1,513,259	7.46%
Nashoba Tech	\$ 810,037	\$ 762,656	\$ (47,381)	-5.85%
Groton-Dunstable Operating	\$ 24,319,318	\$ 25,937,716	\$ 1,618,398	6.65%
Groton-Dunstable Excluded Debt	\$ 422,713	\$ 406,982	\$ (15,731)	-3.72%
Groton-Dunstable Debt	\$ 60,191	\$ 58,814	\$ (1,377)	-2.29%
Groton Dunstable Capital	\$ 577,026	\$ 552,203	\$ (24,823)	-4.30%
Sub-Total - Education	\$ 26,189,285	\$ 27,718,371	\$ 1,529,086	5.84%
Grand Total - Town Budget	\$ 46,463,412	\$ 49,505,757	\$ 3,042,345	6.55%

The total Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Operating Budget, including Regional School Assessments and excluded debt, is \$49,505,757, or an increase of 6.55%. This proposed budget is at the anticipated FY 2024 Proposition 2½ Levy Limit. When you take into consideration the proposed Capital Budget, Enterprise Fund Budgets and additional appropriations raised on the recap sheet, the total proposed budget is \$53,510,505. The Fiscal Year 2023 Tax Rate has been certified at \$15.64. Based on the Proposed Balanced Budget, the estimated Tax Rate in Fiscal Year 2024 is \$16.44, or an increase of \$0.80. In Fiscal Year 2023, the average Tax Bill in the Town of Groton (based on a home valued at the current average of \$633,985) is \$9,916. Under this proposed balanced budget, that same homeowner can expect a tax bill of \$10,423, or an increase of \$507. The following chart shows a comparison between FY 2023 and FY 2024:

	<u>Actual</u> <u>FY 2023</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>FY 2024</u>	<u>Dollar</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>Percent</u> <u>Change</u>
Levy Capacity Used	\$ 35,383,886	\$ 36,550,003	\$ 1,166,117	3.30%
Tax Rate on Levy Capacity Used	\$ 14.13	\$ 14.49	\$ 0.36	2.55%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 8,958	\$ 9,186	\$ 228	2.55%
Excluded Debt	\$ 3,783,842	\$ 4,911,930	\$ 1,128,088	29.81%
Tax Rate on Excluded Debt	\$ 1.51	\$ 1.95	\$ 0.44	29.14%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 957	\$ 1,236	\$ 279	29.14%
Final Levy Used	\$ 39,167,728	\$ 41,461,933	\$ 2,294,205	5.86%
Final Tax Rate	\$ 15.64	\$ 16.44	\$ 0.80	5.12%
Average Tax Bill	\$ 9,916	\$ 10,423	\$ 507	5.12%

The Town Manager and Finance Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Select Board, Town Accountant Patricia DuFresne, Town Treasurer/Collector Hannah Moller, Assistant Treasurer/Collector Michael Hartnett, Town Clerk Dawn Dunbar, Principal Assessor Megan Foster, Human Resources Director Melisa Doig, Executive Assistant Kara Cruikshank and all of the Departments, Boards, Committees and Commissions for their outstanding work and cooperation in assisting in the preparation of the Proposed Operating Budget. In addition, the outstanding support and cooperation by Superintendent Dr. Laura Chesson, Business Manager Sherry Kersey and the Groton Dunstable Regional School District Committee was extremely important in developing this budget.

The Finance Committee encourages the public to attend its meetings and contribute through asking questions, providing comments, and listening to others debate the many important financial issues before the Town today.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark W. Haddad

Groton Town Manager

Respectfully submitted,

Bud Robertson, Chair
Colby Doody, Vice Chair
Gary Green
David Manugian
Scott Whitefield
Michael Sulprizio
Mary Linskey

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2024
REVENUE ESTIMATES**

	BUDGETED FY 2023		ESTIMATED FY 2024		CHANGE
PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	\$ 35,383,886	\$	36,550,003	\$	1,166,117
DEBT EXCLUSIONS	\$ 3,741,491	\$	4,911,930	\$	1,170,439
CHERRY SHEET - STATE AID	\$ 1,077,749	\$	1,183,073	\$	105,324
UNEXPENDED TAX CAPACITY	\$ 6,980	\$	-	\$	(6,980)
LOCAL RECEIPTS:					
General Revenue:					
Motor Vehicle Excise Taxes	\$ 1,778,290	\$	1,820,583	\$	42,293
Meals Tax and Room Occupancy Tax	\$ 350,000	\$	400,000	\$	50,000
Marijuana Revenue	\$ -	\$	150,000	\$	150,000
Penalties & Interest on Taxes	\$ 110,000	\$	110,000	\$	-
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	\$ 300,000	\$	371,500	\$	71,500
Other Charges for Services	\$ 90,000	\$	99,000	\$	9,000
Fees	\$ 385,446	\$	392,000	\$	6,554
Rentals	\$ 32,000	\$	40,000	\$	8,000
Library Revenues	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Other Departmental Revenue	\$ 775,000	\$	800,000	\$	25,000
Licenses and Permits	\$ 315,681	\$	429,300	\$	113,619
Fines and Forfeits	\$ 10,000	\$	20,000	\$	10,000
Investment Income	\$ 50,000	\$	90,000	\$	40,000
Recreation Revenues	\$ 605,267	\$	700,000	\$	94,733
Miscellaneous Non-Recurring	\$ 6,936	\$	-	\$	(6,936)
Sub-total - General Revenue	\$ 4,808,620	\$	5,422,383	\$	613,763
Other Revenue:					
Free Cash	\$ 619,994	\$	662,827	\$	42,833
Capital Stabilization Fund for GDRSD	\$ 577,026	\$	253,407	\$	(323,619)
Stabilization Fund for Tax Rate Relief	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Capital Asset Stabilization Fund	\$ 538,000	\$	620,142	\$	82,142
EMS/Conservation Fund Receipts Reserve	\$ -	\$	525,951	\$	525,951
Community Preservation Funds	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Water Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Sewer Department Surplus	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Insurance Reimbursements	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
Bond Surplus Transfer	\$ 15,224	\$	-	\$	(15,224)
Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$ 309,000	\$	-	\$	(309,000)
Sub-total - Other Revenue	\$ 2,059,244	\$	2,062,327	\$	3,083
WATER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 1,647,167	\$	1,940,823	\$	293,656
SEWER DEPARTMENT ENTERPRISE	\$ 837,839	\$	889,498	\$	51,659
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE ENTERPRISE	\$ 223,219	\$	230,137	\$	6,918
FOUR CORNER SEWER ENTERPRISE	\$ 79,134	\$	77,812	\$	(1,322)
STORMWATER UTILITY ENTERPRISE	\$ 241,095	\$	242,520	\$	1,425
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE	\$ 49,865,328	\$	53,510,505	\$	3,645,177

**TOWN OF GROTON
FISCAL YEAR 2024
TAX LEVY CALCULATIONS**

FY 2024 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET			
General Government	\$	2,349,147	
Land Use Departments	\$	492,508	
Protection of Persons and Property	\$	4,737,597	
Regional School Districts	\$	27,718,371	
Department of Public Works	\$	2,351,495	
Library and Citizen Services	\$	1,945,270	
Debt Service	\$	4,980,707	
Employee Benefits	\$	4,930,663	
Sub-Total - Operating Budget			\$ 49,505,757
A. TOTAL DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS			\$ 49,505,757
B. CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS			\$ 690,142
C. ENTERPRISE FUND REQUESTS			\$ 3,044,303
D. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION REQUEST			
OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED			
1. Amounts certified for tax title purposes	\$	-	
2. Debt and interest charges not included	\$	-	
3. Final court judgments	\$	-	
4. Total Overlay deficits of prior years	\$	-	
5. Total cherry sheet offsets	\$	25,054	
6. Revenue deficits	\$	-	
7. Offset Receipts	\$	-	
8. Authorized deferral of Teachers' Pay	\$	-	
9. Snow and Ice deficit	\$	-	
10. Other	\$	-	
E. TOTAL OTHER AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED			\$ 25,054
F. STATE AND COUNTY CHERRY SHEET CHARGES			\$ 95,249
G. ALLOWANCE FOR ABATEMENTS AND EXEMPTIONS			\$ 150,000
TOTAL PROPOSED EXPENDITURES			\$ 53,510,505
FY 2024 ESTIMATED RECEIPTS			
ESTIMATED TAX LEVY			
Levy Limit	\$	36,550,003	
Debt Exclusion	\$	4,911,930	
A. ESTIMATED TAX LEVY			\$ 41,461,933
B. CHERRY SHEET ESTIMATED RECEIPTS			\$ 1,183,073
C. LOCAL RECEIPTS NOT ALLOCATED			\$ 5,422,383
D. OFFSET RECEIPTS			\$ -
E. ENTERPRISE FUNDS			\$ 3,380,789
F. COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDS			\$ -
G. FREE CASH			\$ 662,827
OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS			
1. Stabilization Fund	\$	-	
2. Capital Asset Fund	\$	620,142	
3. GDRSD Capital Asset Fund	\$	253,407	
4. EMS/Conservation Fund	\$	525,951	
5. Bond Surplus Transfer	\$	-	
6. Coronavirus Recovery Funds	\$	-	
H. OTHER AVAILABLE FUNDS			\$ 1,399,500
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS			\$ 53,510,505
FY 2024 SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)			\$ (0)

APPENDIX A

TOWN OF GROTON FISCAL YEAR 2024

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GENERAL GOVERNMENT							
MODERATOR							
1000	Salaries	\$ 65	\$ 65	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	0.21	0.00%
1001	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ 80	\$ 80	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 65	\$ 145	\$ 1,080	\$ 1,080	0.22	0.00%
BOARD OF SELECTMEN							
1020	Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1021	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1022	Expenses	\$ 2,023	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	\$ 6,800	1.40	0.01%
1023	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1024	Minor Capital	\$ 25,683	\$ 25,800	\$ 24,054	\$ 24,054	4.97	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 27,706	\$ 32,600	\$ 30,854	\$ 30,854	6.37	0.06%
TOWN MANAGER							
1030	Salaries	\$ 232,258	\$ 240,331	\$ 243,914	\$ 243,914	50.38	0.48%
1031	Wages	\$ 114,378	\$ 119,223	\$ 117,005	\$ 117,005	24.17	0.23%
1032	Expenses	\$ 41,993	\$ 24,700	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,100	2.50	0.02%
1033	Engineering/Consultant	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1034	Performance Evaluations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 388,629	\$ 384,254	\$ 373,019	\$ 373,019	77.04	0.74%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
FINANCE COMMITTEE							
1040	Expenses	\$ 210	\$ 215	\$ 220	\$ 220	0.05	0.00%
1041	Reserve Fund	\$ 69,641	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	30.98	0.30%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 69,851	\$ 150,215	\$ 150,220	\$ 150,220	31.03	0.30%
TOWN ACCOUNTANT							
1050	Salaries	\$ 96,408	\$ 101,125	\$ 115,615	\$ 115,615	23.88	0.23%
1051	Wages	\$ 50,864	\$ 52,906	\$ 54,491	\$ 54,491	11.25	0.11%
1052	Expenses	\$ 37,706	\$ 40,204	\$ 39,100	\$ 39,100	8.08	0.08%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 184,978	\$ 194,235	\$ 209,206	\$ 209,206	43.21	0.41%
BOARD OF ASSESSORS							
1060	Salaries	\$ 81,993	\$ 85,280	\$ 94,300	\$ 94,300	19.48	0.19%
1061	Wages	\$ 59,949	\$ 65,551	\$ 68,486	\$ 68,486	14.14	0.14%
1062	Expenses	\$ 23,373	\$ 45,215	\$ 47,374	\$ 47,374	9.78	0.09%
1063	Legal Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 165,315	\$ 196,046	\$ 210,160	\$ 210,160	43.41	0.42%
TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR							
1070	Salaries	\$ 138,946	\$ 139,455	\$ 147,363	\$ 147,363	30.44	0.29%
1071	Wages	\$ 74,924	\$ 79,042	\$ 80,256	\$ 80,256	16.58	0.16%
1072	Expenses	\$ 19,909	\$ 21,695	\$ 26,253	\$ 26,253	5.42	0.05%
1073	Tax Title	\$ 1,557	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	\$ 7,100	1.47	0.01%
1074	Bond Cost	\$ 1,050	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	0.48	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 236,386	\$ 249,592	\$ 263,272	\$ 263,272	54.37	0.52%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
TOWN COUNSEL							
1080	Expenses	\$ 60,496	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	18.59	0.18%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 60,496	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	18.59	0.18%
HUMAN RESOURCES							
1090	Salary	\$ 82,822	\$ 87,984	\$ 94,300	\$ 94,300	19.48	0.19%
1091	Expenses	\$ 14,376	\$ 11,400	\$ 12,400	\$ 12,400	2.56	0.02%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 97,198	\$ 99,384	\$ 106,700	\$ 106,700	22.04	0.21%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY							
1100	Salary	\$ 115,193	\$ 121,981	\$ 121,627	\$ 121,627	25.12	0.24%
1101	Wages	\$ 58,730	\$ 61,269	\$ 63,115	\$ 63,115	13.04	0.13%
1102	Expenses	\$ 20,031	\$ 22,800	\$ 24,800	\$ 24,800	5.12	0.05%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 193,954	\$ 206,050	\$ 209,542	\$ 209,542	43.28	0.42%
GIS STEERING COMMITTEE							
1120	Expenses	\$ 3,975	\$ 10,800	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.71	0.02%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 3,975	\$ 10,800	\$ 8,300	\$ 8,300	1.71	0.02%
TOWN CLERK							
1130	Salaries	\$ 90,853	\$ 104,438	\$ 98,472	\$ 98,472	20.34	0.20%
1131	Wages	\$ 63,733	\$ 76,040	\$ 72,675	\$ 72,675	15.01	0.14%
1132	Expenses	\$ 5,547	\$ 9,867	\$ 13,600	\$ 13,600	2.81	0.03%
1135	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 160,133	\$ 190,345	\$ 184,747	\$ 184,747	38.16	0.37%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ELECTIONS & BOARD OF REGISTRARS							
1140	Stipend	\$ 6,065	\$ 21,795	\$ 20,430	\$ 20,430	4.22	0.04%
1141	Expenses	\$ 6,700	\$ 12,437	\$ 15,417	\$ 15,417	3.18	0.03%
1142	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,765	\$ 34,232	\$ 35,847	\$ 35,847	7.40	0.07%
STREET LISTINGS							
1150	Expenses	\$ 4,818	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700	1.18	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,818	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700	1.18	0.01%
INSURANCE & BONDING							
1160	Insurance & Bonding	\$ 282,024	\$ 300,000	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	66.09	0.63%
1161	Insurance Deductible Reserve - Liability	\$ 3,089	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	2.48	0.02%
1162	Insurance Deductible Reserve - 111F	\$ 6,449	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.16	0.05%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 291,562	\$ 337,000	\$ 357,000	\$ 357,000	73.73	0.71%
TOWN REPORT							
1170	Expenses	\$ 1,364	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,364	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
POSTAGE/TOWN HALL EXPENSES							
1180	Expenses	\$ 55,011	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 13.42	0.13%
1181	Telephone Expenses	\$ 13,043	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 6.20	0.06%
1182	Office Supplies	\$ 24,835	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 3.51	0.03%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 92,889	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 23.13	0.22%
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	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 1,992,084	\$ 2,293,398	\$ 2,349,147	\$ 2,349,147	\$ 485.18	4.65%

LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

CONSERVATION COMMISSION							
1200	Salary	\$ 69,481	\$ 73,971	\$ 73,351	\$ 73,351	\$ 15.15	0.15%
1201	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1202	Expenses	\$ 6,260	\$ 7,565	\$ 8,770	\$ 8,770	\$ 1.81	0.02%
1203	Engineering & Legal	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1204	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 75,741	\$ 81,536	\$ 82,121	\$ 82,121	\$ 16.96	0.16%
<hr/>							
PLANNING BOARD							
1210	Salaries	\$ 84,016	\$ 89,236	\$ 89,453	\$ 89,453	\$ 18.48	0.18%
1211	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1212	Expenses	\$ 9,877	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,950	\$ 9,950	\$ 2.06	0.02%
1215	M.R.P.C. Assessment	\$ 3,849	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,200	\$ 4,200	\$ 0.87	0.01%
1216	Legal Budget	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 97,742	\$ 103,186	\$ 103,603	\$ 103,603	\$ 21.40	0.21%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS							
1220	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1221	Expenses	\$ 666	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 666	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION							
1230	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1231	Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
BUILDING INSPECTOR							
1240	Salaries	\$ 94,254	\$ 104,760	\$ 104,904	\$ 104,904	21.67	0.21%
1241	Wages	\$ 57,054	\$ 58,769	\$ 60,823	\$ 60,823	12.56	0.12%
1242	Expenses	\$ 6,334	\$ 3,700	\$ 21,750	\$ 21,750	4.49	0.04%
1243	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 157,642	\$ 167,229	\$ 187,477	\$ 187,477	38.72	0.37%
MECHANICAL INSPECTOR							
1250	Fee Salaries	\$ 41,430	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000	8.05	0.08%
1251	Expenses	\$ 2,774	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	0.83	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 44,204	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	\$ 43,000	8.88	0.09%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
EARTH REMOVAL INSPECTOR							
1260	Stipend	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	0.52	0.00%
1261	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	0.04	0.00%
1262	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700	0.56	0.01%
BOARD OF HEALTH							
1270	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1271	Expenses	\$ 308	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	\$ 1,575	0.33	0.00%
1272	Nursing Services	\$ -	\$ 14,455	\$ 17,798	\$ 17,798	3.68	0.04%
1273	Nashoba Health District	\$ 61,933	\$ 31,675	\$ 38,833	\$ 38,833	8.02	0.08%
1274	Herbert Lipton MH	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1275	Eng/Consult/Landfill Monitoring	\$ 9,133	\$ 10,200	\$ 10,600	\$ 10,600	2.19	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 79,374	\$ 57,905	\$ 68,806	\$ 68,806	14.21	0.14%
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES							
1280	Fee Salaries	\$ 1,090	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	0.66	0.01%
1281	Expenses	\$ 440	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	0.02	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,530	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,300	0.68	0.01%
TOTAL LAND USE DEPARTMENTS		\$ 459,399	\$ 460,356	\$ 492,508	\$ 492,508	101.72	0.98%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY</u>							
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
1300	Salaries	\$ 291,262	\$ 278,889	\$ 286,466	\$ 286,466	\$ 59.17	0.57%
1301	Wages	\$ 1,956,346	\$ 2,086,001	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 2,116,748	\$ 437.18	4.19%
1302	Expenses	\$ 185,392	\$ 214,450	\$ 215,370	\$ 215,370	\$ 44.48	0.43%
1303	Lease or Purchase of Cruisers	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.03	0.01%
1304	PS Building (Expenses)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1305	Minor Capital	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 6,420	\$ 6,420	\$ 1.33	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,449,000	\$ 2,595,340	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 2,630,004	\$ 543.19	5.21%
FIRE DEPARTMENT							
1310	Salaries	\$ 235,000	\$ 260,754	\$ 276,595	\$ 276,595	\$ 57.13	0.55%
1311	Wages	\$ 1,035,806	\$ 1,220,616	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 1,112,490	\$ 229.77	2.20%
1312	Expenses	\$ 124,201	\$ 195,600	\$ 207,096	\$ 207,096	\$ 42.77	0.41%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,395,007	\$ 1,676,970	\$ 1,596,181	\$ 1,596,181	\$ 329.67	3.16%
GROTON WATER FIRE PROTECTION							
1320	West Groton Water District	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1321	Groton Water Department	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR							
1330	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 0.43	0.00%
1331	Expenses	\$ 20	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 0.08	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,102	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 0.51	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER							
1340	Salary	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 2,082	\$ 0.43	0.00%
1341	Expenses	\$ 40	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 0.08	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 2,122	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	\$ 2,482	0.51	0.00%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY							
1350	Salary	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 0.83	0.01%
1351	Expenses	\$ 9,998	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2.07	0.02%
1352	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 13,998	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	2.89	0.03%
DOG OFFICER							
1360	Salary	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 17,500	\$ 3.61	0.03%
1361	Expenses	\$ 2,356	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 0.62	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 17,356	\$ 18,000	\$ 20,500	\$ 20,500	4.23	0.04%
POLICE & FIRE COMMUNICATIONS							
1370	Wages	\$ 453,495	\$ 500,359	\$ 448,073	\$ 448,073	\$ 92.54	0.89%
1371	Expenses	\$ 10,826	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,875	\$ 23,875	\$ 4.93	0.05%
1372	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 464,321	\$ 524,234	\$ 471,948	\$ 471,948	97.47	0.94%
TOTAL PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY		\$ 4,343,906	\$ 4,833,510	\$ 4,737,597	\$ 4,737,597	978.48	9.39%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
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REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGETS

NASHOBA VALLEY REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

1400 Operating Expenses	\$	807,474	\$	810,037	\$	762,656	\$	762,656	\$	157.51	1.51%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$	807,474	\$	810,037	\$	762,656	\$	762,656	\$	157.51	1.51%

GROTON-DUNSTABLE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1410 Operating Expenses	\$	24,023,134	\$	24,319,318	\$	25,937,716	\$	25,937,716	\$	5,357.03	51.40%
1411 Debt Service, Excluded	\$	-	\$	422,713	\$	406,982	\$	406,982	\$	84.06	0.81%
1412 Debt Service, Unexcluded	\$	-	\$	60,191	\$	58,814	\$	58,814	\$	12.15	0.12%
1413 Out of District Placement	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.00%
1414 Capital Assessment	\$	217,298	\$	577,026	\$	552,203	\$	552,203	\$	114.05	1.09%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$	24,240,432	\$	25,379,248	\$	26,955,715	\$	26,955,715	\$	5,567.28	53.41%

TOTAL SCHOOLS	\$	25,047,906	\$	26,189,285	\$	27,718,371	\$	27,718,371	\$	5,724.79	54.92%
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

1500 Salaries	\$	113,785	\$	120,523	\$	120,293	\$	120,293	\$	24.84	0.24%
1501 Wages	\$	685,051	\$	743,115	\$	743,323	\$	743,323	\$	153.52	1.47%
1502 Expenses	\$	138,154	\$	136,900	\$	136,900	\$	136,900	\$	28.27	0.27%
1503 Highway Maintenance	\$	73,852	\$	90,000	\$	80,000	\$	80,000	\$	16.52	0.16%
1504 Minor Capital	\$	-	\$	20,000	\$	15,000	\$	15,000	\$	3.10	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$	1,010,842	\$	1,110,538	\$	1,095,516	\$	1,095,516	\$	226.26	2.17%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
STREET LIGHTS							
1510	Expenses	\$ 12,209	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.10	0.03%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 12,209	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	3.10	0.03%
SNOW AND ICE							
1520	Expenses	\$ 154,236	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 165,000	34.08	0.33%
1521	Overtime	\$ 291,882	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 140,000	28.91	0.28%
1522	Hired Equipment	\$ 55,369	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	7.23	0.07%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 501,487	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	\$ 340,000	70.22	0.67%
TREE WARDEN BUDGET							
1530	Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
1531	Expenses	\$ 2,499	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	0.62	0.01%
1532	Trees	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
1533	Tree Work	\$ 8,322	\$ 10,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	6.20	0.06%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 10,821	\$ 14,500	\$ 34,500	\$ 34,500	7.13	0.07%
MUNICIPAL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE							
1540	Wages	\$ 150,671	\$ 159,057	\$ 166,348	\$ 166,348	34.36	0.33%
1541	Expenses	\$ 263,725	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	\$ 270,950	55.96	0.54%
1542	Minor Capital	\$ 9,941	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 424,337	\$ 440,007	\$ 437,298	\$ 437,298	90.32	0.87%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL							
1550	Wages	\$ 140,322	\$ 150,995	\$ 154,315	\$ 154,315	\$ 31.87	0.31%
1551	Expenses	\$ 45,741	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 45,686	\$ 9.44	0.09%
1552	Tipping Fees	\$ 133,758	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 145,000	\$ 29.95	0.29%
1553	North Central SW Coop	\$ 3,088	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 5,850	\$ 1.21	0.01%
1554	Minor Capital	\$ 4,312	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1.03	0.01%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 327,221	\$ 352,531	\$ 355,851	\$ 355,851	73.50	0.71%

PARKS DEPARTMENT							
1560	Wages	\$ 15,817	\$ 17,481	\$ 17,571	\$ 17,571	\$ 3.63	0.03%
1561	Expenses	\$ 57,700	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 55,759	\$ 11.52	0.11%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 73,517	\$ 73,240	\$ 73,330	\$ 73,330	15.15	0.15%

TOTAL DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	\$ 2,360,434	\$ 2,345,816	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 2,351,495	\$ 485.66	4.66%
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LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

COUNCIL ON AGING							
1600	Salaries	\$ 73,786	\$ 85,855	\$ 87,446	\$ 87,446	\$ 18.06	0.17%
1601	Wages	\$ 57,873	\$ 121,590	\$ 103,143	\$ 103,143	\$ 21.30	0.20%
1602	Expenses	\$ 15,517	\$ 11,054	\$ 12,254	\$ 12,254	\$ 2.53	0.02%
1603	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 147,176	\$ 218,499	\$ 202,843	\$ 202,843	41.89	0.40%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
SENIOR CENTER VAN							
1610	Wages	\$ 42,865	\$ 54,331	\$ 74,808	\$ 74,808	15.45	0.15%
1611	Expenses	\$ 12,865	\$ 13,673	\$ 18,023	\$ 18,023	3.72	0.04%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 55,730	\$ 68,004	\$ 92,831	\$ 92,831	19.17	0.18%
VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER							
1620	Salary	\$ 5,192	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,120	\$ 6,120	1.26	0.01%
1621	Expenses	\$ 25	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100	0.23	0.00%
1622	Veterans' Benefits	\$ 17,062	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	5.16	0.05%
1623	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		\$ 22,279	\$ 37,100	\$ 32,220	\$ 32,220	6.65	0.06%
GRAVES REGISTRATION							
1630	Salary/Stipend	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250	0.05	0.00%
1631	Expenses	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	\$ 760	0.16	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,010	0.21	0.00%
CARE OF VETERAN GRAVES							
1640	Contract Expenses	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	0.31	0.00%
OLD BURYING GROUND COMMITTEE							
1650	Expenses	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 800	0.17	0.00%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
LIBRARY							
1660	Salary	\$ 411,697	\$ 428,544	\$ 441,807	\$ 441,807	\$ 91.25	0.88%
1661	Wages	\$ 290,240	\$ 342,055	\$ 314,504	\$ 314,504	\$ 64.96	0.62%
1662	Expenses	\$ 199,361	\$ 217,697	\$ 226,873	\$ 226,873	\$ 46.86	0.45%
1663	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 901,298	\$ 988,296	\$ 983,184	\$ 983,184	203.06	1.95%
COMMEMORATIONS & CELEBRATIONS							
1670	Expenses	\$ 50	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 0.10	0.00%
1671	Fireworks	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 50	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	0.10	0.00%
WATER SAFETY							
1680	Wages	\$ 3,927	\$ 4,418	\$ 4,560	\$ 4,560	\$ 0.94	0.01%
1681	Expenses and Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ 2,907	\$ 4,683	\$ 4,683	\$ 0.97	0.01%
1682	Property Maint. & Improvements	\$ 1,323	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 1.86	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 5,250	\$ 16,325	\$ 18,243	\$ 18,243	3.77	0.04%
WEED MANAGEMENT							
1690	Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
1691	Expenses: Weed Harvester	\$ 12,562	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 4.54	0.04%
1692	Expenses: Great Lakes	\$ 2,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 12,385	\$ 2.56	0.02%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 14,947	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	\$ 34,385	7.10	0.07%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
GROTON COUNTRY CLUB							
1700	Salary	\$ 162,122	\$ 170,414	\$ 172,675	\$ 172,675	\$ 35.66	0.34%
1701	Wages	\$ 176,746	\$ 193,000	\$ 237,305	\$ 237,305	\$ 49.01	0.47%
1702	Expenses	\$ 180,650	\$ 162,250	\$ 167,774	\$ 167,774	\$ 34.65	0.33%
1703	Minor Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 519,518	\$ 525,664	\$ 577,754	\$ 577,754	\$ 119.33	1.14%
TOTAL LIBRARY AND CITIZEN SERVICES		\$ 1,668,758	\$ 1,892,083	\$ 1,945,270	\$ 1,945,270	\$ 401.76	3.85%
DEBT SERVICE							
DEBT SERVICE							
2000	Long Term Debt - Principal Excluded	\$ 1,229,153	\$ 2,112,000	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 1,870,000	\$ 386.22	3.71%
2001	Long Term Debt - Principal Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 158,786	\$ 153,506	\$ 153,506	\$ 31.70	0.30%
2002	Long Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ 674,914	\$ 1,208,202	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 1,418,852	\$ 293.04	2.81%
2003	Long Term Debt - Interest - Non-Excluded	\$ -	\$ 82,021	\$ 77,474	\$ 77,474	\$ 16.00	0.15%
2004	Short Term Debt - Principal - Town	\$ -	\$ 85,174	\$ 212,949	\$ 212,949	\$ 43.98	0.42%
2005A	Short Term Debt - Interest - Non Excluded	\$ 3,740	\$ 5,075	\$ 30,676	\$ 30,676	\$ 6.34	0.06%
2005B	Short Term Debt - Interest - Excluded	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,217,250	\$ 1,217,250	\$ 251.40	2.41%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 1,907,807	\$ 3,651,258	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 1,028.69	9.87%
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE		\$ 1,907,807	\$ 3,651,258	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 4,980,707	\$ 1,028.69	9.87%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							
GENERAL BENEFITS							
3000	County Retirement	\$ 2,385,255	\$ 2,538,910	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 2,494,280	\$ 515.15	4.94%
3001	State Retirement	\$ 177,094	\$ 181,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 185,000	\$ 38.21	0.37%
3002	Unemployment Compensation	\$ 9,891	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2.07	0.02%
INSURANCE							
3010	Health Insurance/Employee Expenses	\$ 1,749,313	\$ 1,925,576	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 2,090,563	\$ 431.77	4.14%
3011	Life Insurance	\$ 3,549	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 3,820	\$ 0.79	0.01%
3012	Medicare/Social Security	\$ 142,291	\$ 138,400	\$ 147,000	\$ 147,000	\$ 30.36	0.29%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL		\$ 4,467,393	\$ 4,797,706	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 1,018.35	9.77%
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		\$ 4,467,393	\$ 4,797,706	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 4,930,663	\$ 1,018.35	9.77%

LINE	DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	FY 2024 FINCOM BUDGET	FY 2024 AVERAGE TAX BILL	FY 2024 PERCENT OF TAX BILL
<u>ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS</u>							
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS							
	Capital Budget Request	\$ 625,000	\$ 728,000	\$ 690,142	\$ 690,142	\$ 142.54	1.37%
	Offset Reciepts		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 22,346	\$ 22,346	\$ 25,054	\$ 25,054	\$ 5.17	0.05%
	Snow and Ice Deficit	\$ 80,000	\$ 168,040	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
	State and County Charges	\$ 97,077	\$ 95,249	\$ 95,249	\$ 95,249	\$ 19.67	0.19%
	Allowance for Abatements/Exemptions	\$ 273,169	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 30.98	0.30%
<hr/>							
	DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,097,592	\$ 1,063,635	\$ 960,445	\$ 960,445	\$ 198.36	1.90%
	GRAND TOTAL - TOWN BUDGET	\$ 43,345,279	\$ 47,527,047	\$ 50,466,202	\$ 50,466,202	\$ 10,423	100.00%

024 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGETS

DEPARTMENT/DESCRIPTION	FY 2020 ACTUAL	FY 2021 ACTUAL	FY 2022 ACTUAL	FY 2023 APPROPRIATED	FY 2024 DEPARTMENT REQUEST	FY 2024 TOWN MANAGER BUDGET	PERCENT CHANGE
WATER DEPARTMENT							
WD Salaries	\$ 145,271	\$ 151,444	\$ 152,121	\$ 161,518	\$ 166,505	\$ 166,505	3.09%
WD Wages	\$ 167,539	\$ 186,050	\$ 255,303	\$ 264,003	\$ 278,587	\$ 278,587	5.52%
WD Expenses	\$ 547,269	\$ 499,510	\$ 526,019	\$ 676,063	\$ 587,900	\$ 587,900	-13.04%
WD Debt Service	\$ 402,140	\$ 381,977	\$ 369,185	\$ 545,583	\$ 907,830	\$ 907,830	66.40%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 1,262,219	\$ 1,198,981	\$ 1,302,628	\$ 1,647,167	\$ 1,940,823	\$ 1,940,823	17.83%
SEWER DEPARTMENT							
Sewer Salaries	\$ 19,440	\$ 20,488	\$ 21,579	\$ 23,339	\$ 22,623	\$ 22,623	-3.07%
Sewer Wages	\$ 36,540	\$ 50,727	\$ 51,737	\$ 46,114	\$ 49,872	\$ 49,872	8.15%
Sewer Expense	\$ 633,821	\$ 534,552	\$ 683,919	\$ 734,494	\$ 783,578	\$ 783,578	6.68%
Sewer Debt Service	\$ 38,338	\$ 5,504	\$ 5,316	\$ 33,892	\$ 33,426	\$ 33,426	-1.37%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 728,139	\$ 611,271	\$ 762,551	\$ 837,839	\$ 889,498	\$ 889,498	6.17%
FOUR CORNERS SEWER DEPARTMENT							
Four Corners Sewer Salaries	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,361	\$ 2,361	100.00%
Four Corners Sewer Wages	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,683	\$ 5,541	\$ 5,541	-27.87%
Four Corners Sewer Expense	\$ 20,619	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 71,451	\$ 69,909	\$ 69,909	-2.16%
Four Corners Sewer Debt Service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 20,619	\$ 37,903	\$ 54,555	\$ 79,134	\$ 77,812	\$ 77,812	-1.67%
LOCAL ACCESS CABLE DEPARTMENT							
Cable Salaries	\$ 77,180	\$ 93,104	\$ 69,975	\$ 69,916	\$ 69,656	\$ 69,656	-0.37%
Cable Wages	\$ 53,999	\$ 55,272	\$ 55,827	\$ 65,235	\$ 58,510	\$ 58,510	-10.31%
Cable Expenses	\$ 61,355	\$ 58,737	\$ 52,535	\$ 88,069	\$ 91,971	\$ 91,971	4.43%
Cable Minor Capital	\$ 803	\$ 2,357	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	0.00%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ 193,337	\$ 209,470	\$ 183,337	\$ 223,219	\$ 230,137	\$ 230,137	3.10%
STORMWATER UTILITY							
Stormwater Wages/Benefits	\$ -	\$ 31,330	\$ 74,091	\$ 78,095	\$ 79,520	\$ 79,520	1.82%
Stormwater Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	-75.00%
Stormwater Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,201	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	0.00%
Stormwater Compliance Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,616	\$ 49,000	\$ 35,978	\$ 35,978	-26.58%
Stormwater Disposal/Expenses	\$ -	\$ 27,537	\$ 5,800	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	0.00%
Stormwater Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,000	\$ 51,022	\$ 51,022	121.83%
DEPARTMENTAL TOTAL	\$ -	\$ 58,867	\$ 173,708	\$ 241,095	\$ 242,520	\$ 242,520	0.59%
ALL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$ 2,204,314	\$ 2,116,492	\$ 2,476,779	\$ 3,028,453	\$ 3,380,789	\$ 3,380,789	11.63%

APPENDIX B**FACTOR: 1.0200**

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2024 (Effective July 1, 2023)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
4	Salary	41,459	51,307
	Wages	19.96	24.65
5	Salary	43,826	54,192
	Wages	21.09	26.08
7	Salary	50,676	64,190
	Wages	24.95	30.86
8	Salary	57,529	71,231
	Wages	27.66	34.04
9	Salary	58,915	72,903
	Wages	28.33	35.05
10	Salary Executive Assistant to Town Manager	67,568	85,279
	Wages	32.50	41.00
11	Salary Human Resources Director	70,502	89,828
	Wages	33.89	43.19
12	Salary	72,808	92,004
	Wages	35.03	44.24

APPENDIX B**FACTOR: 1.0200**

**Town of Groton Personnel By-Law
Wage and Classification Schedule
Fiscal Year 2024 (Effective July 1, 2023)**

Grade	Position Title	Low	High
13	Salary	75,408	95,710
	Wages	36.25	46.01
14	Salary	77,010	97,463
	Wages	37.03	46.86
15	Salary	79,505	98,354
	Wages	38.22	47.29
16	Salary	82,377	100,164
	Wages	39.61	48.15
17	Salary	92,289	114,170
	Wages	44.37	54.89
18	Salary	99,805	123,516
	IT Director Wages	47.98	59.38
19	Salary	102,425	126,736
	Wages	49.25	60.93
20	Salary	109,825	135,070
	Wages	52.81	64.93

APPENDIX B

NON-CLASSIFIED, TEMPORARY SEASONAL AND STIPEND POSITIONS

NON-STEP AND STIPEND POSITIONS

FIRE/EMS DEPARTMENT

Call Captain: Fire	26.14
Call Lieutenant: Fire	25.61
Call Firefighter	22.41
Call Emergency Medical Technician	22.41
Probationary Firefighter	18.67
Probationary Emergency Medical Technician	18.67
Call Fire Mechanic	62.73

Country Club Seasonal Employees

Pro Shop Staff	MW *- 18.00
Pool Staff	MW - 18.00
Lifeguards	MW - 19.00
Swim Coaches	MW - 24.00
Camp Staff	MW - 18.00
Counselors	MW - 19.00
Buildings & Grounds	MW - 28.00
Library Shelves	MW - 19.00

MISCELLANEOUS

Veteran's Agent	6,000
Earth Removal Inspector	2,500
Dog Officer	17,500
Animal Inspector	2,082
Animal Control Officer	2,082
Town Diarist	1.00
Keeper of the Town Clock	1.00
Per Diem Van Driver	19.13 - 21.53
Park Ranger	Minimum Wage
Graves Registration Officer	250
Emergency Management Director	4,000
Election Worker: Warden	Minimum Wage
Election Worker: Precinct Clerk	Minimum Wage
Election Worker: Inspectors (Checker)	Minimum Wage

* - Minimum Wage

NOTES

Town of Groton
Select Board
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Groton, MA 01450
PERMIT #3

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON GROTON, MA



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Select Board

John F. Reilly, *Chair*
Rebecca H. Pine, *Vice Chair*
Matthew F. Pisani, *Clerk*
Alison S. Manugian, *Member*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Haddad, Town Manager
FROM: Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant
DATE: April 5, 2023
RE: 2023 License Renewals - Fuel Storage

The following licenses require Select Board approval for renewal:

1. A.L Prime

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at 619 Boston Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on July 13, 2009
Contingent upon receipt of Certificate of Registration

2. GDRSD

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at 342 Main Street
Fuel Storage license originally granted on December 15, 2003
Contingent upon receipt of Certificate of Registration

3. Alliance Energy

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at 6 Boston Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on March 25, 2002

4. Energy North (Haffners)

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at 318 Main Street
Fuel Storage license originally granted November 1, 2004

5. NESSP (Temple)

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at 1003 Boston Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on December 12, 2016

6. Groton School

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at Farmers Row
Fuel Storage license originally granted on October 4, 2021

7. Groton Highway Department

License to expire on April 30, 2023
Located at 500 Cow Pond Brook Road
Fuel Storage license originally granted on January 1, 2011

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023
TOWN HALL SECOND FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

UN-APPROVED

SB Members Present: John Reilly, Chair; Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair; Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk; Alison S. Manugian, Peter S. Cunningham

SB Absent: none

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant; Dr. Laura Chesson, GDRSD Superintendent; Sherry Kersey, Business Manager; Bruce Easom, CPC Chair; Fay Raynor, Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee; Brian Callahan, DPW Director in Training
Finance Team: Megan Foster, Principal Assessor; Hannah Moller, Treasurer/Collector; Dawn Dunbar, Town Clerk; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Melisa Doig, Human Resource Director
Finance Committee Members: Bud Robertson, Chair; Colby Doody, Vice Chair; Gary Green; Mary Linskey; Michael Sulprizio; Scott Whitefield

Mr. Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Robertson called the Finance Committee meeting to order.

Mr. Pisani announced on Sunday, April 2nd from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, the Groton Firefighter Association will be hosting a breakfast with the Easter Bunny. Tickets are still available.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Prest said three children and three adults were killed today in Nashville, Tennessee. Respectfully, Mr. Prest asked for a moment of silence for the children and adults.

Ms. Dunbar reminded everyone that nomination papers are still available in the Town Clerk's office for the May 23, 2023 Election. Papers must be pulled by 5:00 pm on March 31, 2023, and must be returned by Tuesday, April 4th at 5:00 pm. Nomination Papers must have at least 50 registered voters' signatures to be certified. There are still several elected boards with potential vacancies. The committees with vacancies are as follows: Park Commission, (1) three-year term; Board of Health, (1) three-year term; Planning Board (1) three-year term; Sewer Commission, (1) three-year term; Groton Dunstable School Committee, (1) three-year term; and the Groton Housing Authority, (1) five-year term. If anyone's interested, please contact the Clerk's office for further details. The last day to register to vote and to participate in the 2023 Spring Town Meeting and the 2023 Town Election is Wednesday, April 19th by 5:00 pm. The Town Hall will be open until 5:00 pm on Friday, March 31, 2023.

In Joint Session with the Finance Committee

Mr. Haddad started by saying he believes the best way to continue the review of the FY 2024 Budget is to walk everyone through his memo that was provided in the packet, a memo dated March 23, 2023. Then he will walk everyone through the memo that was provided on March 25, 2023, which explains the various options in more detail.. Mr. Haddad said on March 22, 2023, the Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee held a public meeting to discuss revisions to their FY24 Budget and Operating Assessments for the Town Of Groton. At that meeting, they voted for an Operating Assessment of \$26,177,213, which puts the Towns proposed budget out of balance by \$239,497. The Town of Groton Cannot present a budget to

the Town Meeting that is out of balance. Mr. Haddad believes there are three options for the Select Board and Finance Committee to consider to balance the Budget:

Option# 1- Reduce the Municipal Budget by \$239,497. The Town would need to reduce the Town Manager's Proposed Operating Budget by another \$239,497 and vote to appropriate \$26,177,213 for the Operating Assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, plus \$465,796 for the District's Debt Assessment. Mr. Haddad said he and the Finance Team do have the cuts available that totals \$239,497 but they are significant reductions and he did not want to discuss them in public unless the Select Board and Finance Committee were seriously considering this option.

Option #2- Amend GDRSD Assessment at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee's Main Budget Motion to Town Meeting must contain the Proposed Operating Assessment that was voted from the Groton Dunstable Regional School District (\$26,177,213). This is the same Main Motion as Option #1. Mr. Haddad explained that the law requires that the Finance Committee has to present the approved budget of the School District to Town Meeting. Since this would put the budget out of balance, under Option #2, the Finance Committee would need to present a motion that would amend the main motion by reducing the Assessment by \$239,497. If the Motion to Amend fails, the Select Board and Finance Committee would need to make another Motion to Amend that would require an Override to fund the additional \$239,497. Mr. Haddad is not in favor of this Option because it is wrought with many problems. If either of the two proposed amendments fail, would be forced to scramble to reduce the Municipal Budget by \$239,497 at Town Meeting, or call for a Special Override Election that does not have a contingent vote at Town Meeting, meaning that if the Override fails, the Select Board would need to call for another Town Meeting prior to June 30th to balance the budget.

Option #3- Under Option #3, the Select Board would call for an Override Ballot Question (or Questions) at the May 23, 2023 Annual Town Election (based on the recommendation in his March 23rd Memo, the amount of the Override would be for \$490,547). Town Meeting would be asked to vote for a balanced budget and for an additional amount of \$490,547 that would be contingent on the approval of an Override at the Annual Town Election.

Mr. Haddad said both Boards would have to agree to support an Override of Proposition of 2 ½. Approval of all the votes would be by majority vote at Town Meeting. Ms. Pine asked if we would have to vote on all the Motions and if would they all have to pass. Mr. Haddad confirmed yes, they would. Ms. Pine stated people that who are opposed to the Override may vote against a Motion. She asked what happens then. Mr. Haddad said the Override question would already be on the Ballot and if Town Meeting doesn't appropriate that money and the Override passes, you have Excess Levy Capacity. Only Town Meeting Can Appropriate the Levy.

Mr. Robertson asked what happens if you go through the Motions and only the Groton Dunstable School passes. Mr. Haddad said it would still be contingent upon the Override. If the Override passes, we would end up with \$251,000 of Excess Levy Capacity. Mr. Cunningham asked if anyone has any insight on where Dunstable is at with their budget. Dr. Chesson said Dunstable is continuing to discuss its budget. They were about \$350,000 out of balance the last they spoke with them. The School Committee has another meeting scheduled for April 5th. Mr. Haddad said on April 10th the Select Board issues the Warrant, there is a lot of work to do by April 10th. Mr. Reilly wanted to make clear to everyone that the Municipal Budget has already been reduced to increase the appropriation to the School District. As far as the amount that Mr. Haddad is requesting for the Municipal Override, he would like to ask the Select Board and the Finance Committee to consider adding back some of the positions into the budget that have been cut. (i.e.: The

Additional Firefighter Position; Vacant Dispatcher Position; Library Sunday Hours; Health Insurance; Snow and Ice Deficit) Ms. Pine said she has some concerns about the number, she believes it is a small number to request an Override. She has concerns about needing an Override in the upcoming years. Ms. Pine wondered if they should consider asking for a larger amount. Mr. Haddad said over five years his projection shows a potential deficit of \$3.6 million. He believes \$3.6 is a conservative number. Mr. Robertson agreed and said we could wait to see what next year brings. Ms. Pine wanted to be clear, it may not be a small number for a lot of people to pay. She said in the context of the situation, it may not be the smartest thing. Ms. Manugian said she does not think she can support the idea of doing a larger Override this year. She's struggling with this and would like to understand more about what the cuts would be on the school side. Ms. Fay Raynor, Groton- Dunstable Regional School Committee Member, said it is a bit premature to talk about what the next few years will bring us. Ms. Pine asked are you saying no Override this year and focus on a multi-year Override next year? Ms. Raynor could not answer this question at this time. Mr. Pisani said a lot of people came to him saying they were disappointed with what the School Committee is doing. He said it is encouraging to hear the School Committee is going to regroup. Dr. Chesson read aloud the proposed cuts from the GDRSD. Mr. Robertson said he supports and relies on Dr. Chesson's opinion. She made the recommendations to the School Committee for the cuts. The School Committee has to agree with her. Mr. Reilly said Dr. Chesson made the recommendations to the School Committee, but they didn't go with her recommendations. Finance Committee Member, Ms. Mary Linskey, said she thinks this is our reality now, we are here because of the lack of State Funding. We are going to revisit this every year. She would like to see the School Committee go back and review this, as it was disappointing. Mr. Haddad said he and the Superintendent speak often and try to bring all the numbers to the decision-makers. The communication between the Town and the School has never been stronger. The question is whether or not to put an Override question on the Ballot and let the voters decide. Mr. Green said the Finance Committee will need to hear from the Select Board if they support an Override or not.

Ms. Pine said to go on the record, if the School Committee does not reduce the Assessment they are asking for today, then she is in favor of putting an Override on the Ballot. She is not in favor of reducing the Municipal Budget further at this point. If we can get by without needing an Override this year, we should start very early in the year planning for an Override next year. Dr. Chesson wanted to remind everyone that next year is a contract year. Groton Herald's, Ms. Connie Sartini, asked if it is possible to separate the Municipal Budget from the School Budget and only do an Override from the school request. Ms. Pine said it could be done but she is not in favor of separating the two. Mr. Cunningham believes it should include both if they do an Override. Mr. Cunningham asked how soon we need to take a vote on an Override. Mr. Haddad was hoping the Select Board would give some signal to the Finance Committee letting them know what the debate should be (i.e.: Cutting the Municipal Budget further; Cutting the School Budget; What to present at Town Meeting). The drop-dead date is April 10th. Mr. Haddad is recommending an Override in the amount of \$490,547 should the Select Board and Finance Committee agree on pursuing an override.

Ms. Pine moved that the Select Board begin preparing for an Override of up to \$490,547, with the understanding if the School Assessment is reduced to \$25,937,716, we would not proceed with an Override. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prest asked if this Motion is to prepare for Option #3. Ms. Pine said yes it's to prepare for Option #3.

REVIEW PROPOSED WARRANT ARTICLES FROM THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Mr. Bruce Easom, CPC Chair was in attendance, along with other members of the Community. Mr. Easom said the CPC convened their meeting at 6:30 pm in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall. He would like to reconvene the meeting of the CPC.

Article 13- Community Preservation Funding Accounts: Mr. Easom said this Article allocates the expected revenue received from the Local Surtax Interest and the State. This Article is to see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the CPC Fund: Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub-accounts: Open Space Reserve; Historic Resource Reserve; and Community House Reserve. None of these amounts are authorized for spending except without additional approval at Town Meeting for the CPC Operating Expense.

Article 14- Community Preservation Funding Recommendations: Mr. Easom said for the record he is a member of the Squannacook Greenways and will recuse himself from these votes but he is happy to summarize the Articles.

Proposal A: Housing Trust Funds Request-This application is seeking \$200,000 in CPA funds. No questions were asked.

Proposal B: The CPC is requesting \$4,000 in CPA funds to cover a portion of the 2023 rehabilitation/preservation costs for the Massapoag Pond. No questions were asked.

Proposal C: The Conservation Commission is requesting \$400,000 in CPA funds to be added to the Town's Conservation Fund. Mr. Haddad asked what is the balance of the Conservation Fund. Mr. Easom said we can get that number from Conservation Administrator, Nik Gualco.

Proposal D: The Park Commission is requesting \$80,000 in CPA funds to replace an existing baseball field located at Town Field. No questions were asked.

Proposal E: The Park Commission is requesting \$90,000 in CPA funds to build over the site of the former Little League regulations diamonds at Cutler Field. Mr. Doody asked when it comes to projects like this are there community members coming forward to have some of the items done? Mr. Haddad said the request came from the Parks Commission, a community group. Mr. Cunningham asked if these are currently little league fields. Will they be turned into softball fields? Park Commissioner, Ms. Eliot said this would be to construct two new softball fields at Cutler Field.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING FROM JANUARY 30, 2023- Consider Opting Out of Vote by Mail for the May 23, 2023, Annual Town Election

Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to reconvene the Public Hearing to Consider Opting Out of Vote by Mail for the May 23, 2023, Annual Town Election and then to continue the public hearing until the end of the discussion.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to re-convene the public hearing to consider Opting Out of Vote by Mail for the May 23, 2023, Annual Town Election. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine made a motion to continue the public hearing to Consider Opting Out of Vote by Mail until the close of the current discussion. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposal F: Housing Coordinator- This application is requesting \$55,857 in CPA Funding from the Community Housing category. No questions were asked.

Proposal G: Squannacook River Rail Trail- Squannacook Greenways is requesting \$90,000 in CPA Funding. No questions were asked.

Article 33: Amend Funding Distribution for Middle School Track- The CPC has decided they have sufficient funding in the unallocated reserve to reduce the borrowing authorization of Article 9, of the 2022 Spring Town Meeting, by \$900,000 so only \$100,000 will need to be borrowed (instead of the \$1million authorized)

Article 34: Debt Service for Middle School track- This article appropriates the debt payments for the Middle School Track Project. The anticipated debt service for FY24 is \$55,000.

Ms. Pine asked why we have to vote. Mr. Haddad said because Town Meeting approved borrowing \$1 million for the project and that would have to be reduced if the Town did not intend to borrow those funds.

There were no other questions.

Consider Ratifying the Town Manager's Appointment of Brian Callahan as the DPW Director-in-Training.

Mr. Haddad said he brought forward to the Select Board a proposal to institute a DPW Director in Training Program for when Tom Delaney retires. Two Candidates came forward. After interviewing the two Candidates, Mr. Haddad said there was no doubt Brian Callahan is the right person for this program. Mr. Haddad said we are very excited to work with him and believes Mr. Callahan will make a phenomenal Public Works Director. Ms. Manugian said Mr. Callahan was very compelling.

Ms. Manugian made a motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Brian Callahan as the DPW Director-in-Training. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING- EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT EXTENSION REQUEST-RICHARD BLOOD- 94 WEST MAIN STREET, WEST GROTON, MA

Mr. Haddad read aloud the Public Hearing notice for 94 West Main Street into the record.

Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to open the public hearing and to continue it until the conclusion of the 7:15 pm public hearing.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to open the public hearing for Earth Removal Permit Extension Request for 94 West Main Street. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine made a motion to continue the Earth Removal Permit Extension request at 94 West Main Street until after the 7:15 pm public hearing. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Select Board to re-convene the public hearing to consider Opting Out of Vote by Mail for the May 23, 2023, Annual Town Election.

Ms. Pine moved to reopen the public hearing to consider Opting Out of Vote by Mail for the May 23, 2023, Annual Town Election. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Our Town Clerk, Ms. Dawn Dunbar, said during the previous meeting, in late January, to have a Vote by Mail was going to cost about \$7,000. This included an estimate of about \$3,000 for postcards. There was good conversation but it did not sound like the board wanted to spend the money on sending postcards for Early Voting, so it would reduce that cost. Ms. Dunbar said they will be ready for Vote by Mail. On April 11th she will be ready to send her draft Ballot to the printer. The Town Clerks' office will be ready to proceed however the Board wishes. Mr. Cunningham asked if there was any feedback about Vote by Mail after the previous meeting. Mr. Haddad said not in the Town Manager's office or Town Clerk's office.

Applications could be available at Town Meeting, Ms. Dunbar said.

Ms. Pine moved to close the public hearing without taking action. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING- EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT EXTENSION REQUEST-RICHARD BLOOD- 94 WEST MAIN STREET, WEST GROTON, MA

Ms. Pine made a motion to re-open the public hearing for Earth Removal Permit Extension Request for 94 West Main Street. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad read the standard conditions to be included in the Earth Removal Permit.

Mr. Haddad recommended that if the Select Board votes to issue the extension, they include the conditions as recommended by the Earth Removal Committee. Ms. Collette said this Earth Removal Operation has been very low key and it has gone on for decades with very little activity and no complaints. The Blood family would like to maintain their right to continue to remove sand and gravel when necessary.

Public Input

Mr. Blood said maybe one day they will want to build another slaughterhouse and this would create more jobs.

Ms. Pine made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine moved to approve the extension of the Earth Removal Permit to Richard Blood at 94 West Main Street for two years, through March 27, 2025, with the conditions as listed by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously

TOWN MANAGERS REPORT

- 1. Consider Accepting the Town Manger's Nomination and Appoint Brittain McKinley to the Trails Committee**

Mr. Pisani made a motion to appoint Brittain McKinley to the Trails Committee with a term to expire in June of 2023. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

- 2. 2023 Spring Town Meeting Warrant Review- Including, but not Limited To Consider Taking Positions on the Various Articles and Consider Opening the Warrant to Add an Additional Article for Change of Funding Distribution for Middle School Track**

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to open the Warrant to add the Article to allow the reduction of the Debt Service for the Middle School Track.

Ms. Manugian made a motion to open Warrant. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to please add Article 33 to the Warrant.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to add Article 33 to the Warrant. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The Motion was carried by unanimous vote.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to close the Warrant.

Ms. Pine made a motion to close the Warrant. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said Article 31 on the Warrant provides for Line-Item Transfers within the FY 2023 Budget. He will be requesting the Select Board and Finance Committee to approve Line-Item Transfers at the end of the Fiscal Year, but he said there are some rather large requests that the Town Accountant and he would like to present to the 2023 Spring Town Meeting. Funding that is needed: Building Inspection General Expenses; Board of Health Consulting; Country Club Wages; and Country Club General Expenses. The total request is \$80,355.00

Mr. Haddad wanted to point out that the Moderator did a great job preparing an explantinon on electronic voting that will be included in the Warrant.

Positions

Article 1- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 2- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 3- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 4- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 5- Deferred Until Town Meeting

Article 6- Ambulance 1 Replacement- Unanimous in favor to support

Command Vehicle- Unanimous in favor to support

Loader- Unanimous in favor to support

IT Infrastructure- Unanimous in favor to support

Municipal Building Repairs- Unanimous in favor to support

Building Maintenance Van- Unanimous in favor to support

Property Improvements- Unanimous in favor to support

Police Cruisers- Unanimous in favor to support

Hazmat Storage Evidence Locker- Unanimous in favor to support

Golf Carts- Unanimous in favor to support

Driving Range Improvements- Unanimous in favor to support

Greens Equipment- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 7- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 8- 4 in Favor to Support- 1 Against, Manugian

Article 9- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 10- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 11- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 12- Deferred Until Town Meeting

Article 13- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 14-CPC Proposal A: Housing Trust Funds Request- Unanimous in favor to support

CPC Proposal B: Preservation of Lake Massapoag- Unanimous in favor to support
CPC Proposal C: Conservation Fund-FY 2024- 4 in favor to support, 1 Against- Manugian
CPC Proposal D: Rebuild Major League Baseball Diamond- Unanimous in favor to support
CPC Proposal E: Construct Softball Diamonds at Cutler- Unanimous in favor to support
CPC Proposal F: Housing Coordinator- FY 2024- Unanimous in favor to support
CPC Proposal G: Squannacook River Rail Trail- 4 in favor to support, 1 Abstention- Cunningham
Article 15: Unanimous in favor to support
Article 16: Ms. Pine suggested amending the wording of this Article to:

3.2.2(v) sign all payroll and expense warrants; provided, however, that the select board, at its sole discretion, may delegate this authority to the town manager and one member of the select board by a vote of the board at a posted meeting- 4 in favor to support with amendment, 1 Against Manugian

Article 17: 4 in favor to support, Cunningham, deferred until Town Meeting.

Article 18: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 19: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 20: Mr. Haddad said it is his understanding this Article will be withdrawn by the Sewer Commission. The Sewer Commission is meeting on Wednesday, March 29th.

Article 21: Mr. Haddad said it is his understanding this Article will be withdrawn by the Sewer Commission. The Sewer Commission is meeting on Wednesday, March 29th.

Article 22: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 23: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 24: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 25: Deferred Until to Town Meeting

Article 26: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 27: This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the Fiscal Year 2023 Center Sewer Budget. As of the printing of the Warrant, it is anticipated that \$100,000 (amended from \$25,000) will be transferred for this purpose- Unanimous in favor to support

Article 28: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 29: There currently are no prior year bills- Deferred Until to Town Meeting.

Article 30: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 31: Deferred Until to Town Meeting

Article 32: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 33: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 34: Unanimous in favor to support

Article 35: Unanimous in favor to support

3. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Development Update

After the Finance Committee meets Wednesday at 7:00 pm, he will do a rough draft of the Budget Message for the Finance Committee and he will share it with the Select Board. That will be amended depending on what happens with the schools.

Mr. Haddad stated that he is seeking a \$5,200 annual stipend for the Council on Aging Director for the additional duties she has taken on managing the Center in West Groton. The Center in West Groton was constructed in 2019 primarily and ostensibly to house the Council on Aging Operation. During the design phase of the building, members of the Council on Aging's Strategic

Planning Committee and members of the Center's Building Committee conducted charettes and fundraising meetings describing the new building as a Community Center for use by all members of the Community. They even changed the name of the "Senior Center" to the "Center". This has created incredible interest and use of the Building. The Council on Aging Director's primary function is to manage the Department and create programming for our Seniors. She often works evenings and weekends overseeing those programs. We flex her time to address these additional hours. What we haven't accounted for is all the other requests for use of the Center. From the Garden Club to the Women's Club to the Nashoba Valley Artists to requests for birthday parties and other special events, the Council on Aging Director's schedule is constantly changing and requiring her to work more evenings and weekends serving as a Building Manager, not just the Council on Aging Director. This additional duty (including scheduling and setting up the various rooms for the requested events) is not contemplated in her job description and he believes we need to compensate the Director for taking on the added responsibility. Mr. Haddad will talk to the Finance Committee on Wednesday evening but would like to see support for the stipend. Ms. Manugian said she supports this but wonders if a stipend is a right mechanism, the stipend is not pensionable. She asked if there was a way to increase the job responsibilities to the salary. Mr. Haddad said we could change the job description and increase the salary. Town Treasurer, Ms. Moller clarified because she is actively working, the stipend is pensionable. Mr. Cunningham would like to discuss this further with Mr. Haddad.

5. Update on Select Board Meeting Schedule Through the 2023 Spring Town Meeting

Monday, April 10, 2023	- Approve Warrant for Posting
Monday, April 17, 2023	- No Meeting (Patriot's Day)
Monday, April 24, 2023	- Regularly Scheduled Meeting
Saturday, April 29, 2023	- 2023 Spring Town Meeting

ITEMS FOR SELECT BOARD CONSIDERATION AND ACTION

1 Adopt Proclamation Declaring April 2, 2023, Groton Garden Club Day in Honor of the Club's 100th Anniversary

Mr. Haddad said the Groton Garden Club is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. The Groton Garden Club requested the Select Board to adopt a proclamation to make April 2, 2023 "Groton Garden Club Day". Ms. Pine read aloud the proclamation into the record.

Mr. Cunningham moved to adopt the proclamation as written. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Pine said all of the plantings at the Town Commons are handled by the Garden Club. Mr. Cunningham said they did a great job with the plantings at the Fire Station.

2 Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for an Open Mic Night at the Prescott School on Friday, April 14, 2023 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Friends of Prescott for an Open Mic Night at the Prescott School on Friday, April 14, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Mr. Pisani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

3 Consider Approving a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage license for the Groton Neighbors for an Event at First Parish Church on Friday, May 5, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve a One Day Wine and Malt Beverage License for the Groton Neighbors for an event at the First Parish Church on Friday, May 5, 2023, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. contingent upon receiving an up-to-date certificate of insurance. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

ON-GOING ISSUES

Green Communities Application and Implementation-

Ms. Pine asked for an update on where they stand with Green Communities. Mr. Haddad said Quintin Shea has completed his class so we have completed the projects and we can apply in the Fall for the next round of funding. In the meantime, members of the Sustainability Commission would like to work with us on the application. Rise Engineering is working with the DPW and the Light Commission on potential solar at the middle school.

Florence Roche-

Mr. Cunningham asked for an update. Mr. Haddad said the Florence Roche building project is going remarkably well. We are very close to getting the gross maximum project price. This means everything has been bid and we will sign a document saying this is what the project cost will be. The committee did value engineering to cut the costs of the project. The demolition and landscaping are the big items left to bid. When the Building Committee and Project Team bid for the landscaping, they are going to have alternate bids.

MINUTES-*Mr. Pine made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting from March 13, 2023, as presented. Ms. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, APRIL 3 2023
173 MAIN STREET
UN-APPROVED

SB Members Present: Rebecca H. Pine, Vice Chair; Matthew F. Pisani, Clerk; Peter Cunningham

SB members Remotely Participating: John Reilly, Chair; Alison S. Manugian

Also Present: Mark Haddad, Town Manager; Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager; Laura Chesson, GDRSD Superintendent; Robert Rafferty, PE, Environmental Partners; Tyler Schmidt, PE, Environmental Partners; Paul Brinkman, Business Manager- Pepperell Department of Public Works; Michelle Collette, Groton Board of Health
Board of Water Commissioners: Greg Fishbone; James Gmeiner; John McCaffrey; Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent

Ms. Pine called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM and reviewed the agenda. Ms. Pine said there is one item on the agenda which was to discuss PFAS Solutions for the Groton Dunstable Regional High School.

The Board of Water Commissioners called the meeting to order.

Mr. Haddad said Representatives from the Town of Groton, Groton Dunstable Regional School District, Town of Pepperell and our Engineers from Environment Partners were all in attendance. The meeting is to discuss solutions to bring clean potable drinking water to the Groton Dunstable Regional School District High School to resolve the PFAS contaminated well at the High School. Mr. Haddad said the Department of Environmental Protection is looking for the District to provide a permanent solution to bring clean potable drinking water to the High School and properties in Dunstable that have been impacted by PFAS. Mr. Haddad said for the last several months he has worked diligently with Dr. Laura Chesson, Mr. Tom Orcutt, Groton Water Superintendent; Environmental Partners, and Representatives from the Town of Dunstable and the Town of Pepperell to look for various ways to address this issue.

Mr. Haddad said that based on a thorough review of all available options, Representatives have narrowed the potential solutions down to two. Option #1 would be to bring potable drinking water from the Town of Groton Water Department to the High School and the properties in Dunstable. Option #2 would be to bring potable drinking water from the Town of Dunstable Water Department (with an interconnection with the Town of Pepperell) to the High School and the properties in Dunstable. Mr. Haddad thought everyone should be aware that the least expensive solution and easiest solution is to make a direct interconnection to the Pepperell water system and supply water to the High School and surrounding properties. This Option was eliminated early on by the Board of Water Commissioners and Select Board since the Pepperell drinking water sources that would supply the potable drinking water have levels of PFAS that exceed current DEP standards. Mr. Haddad said having PFAS in the water to solve a PFAS problem makes no sense and was immediately discounted. The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District has been testing homes in the area. Several homes in the Kemp Street area of Dunstable have been affected by this and Mr. Haddad said we need to resolve those issues as well. Ms. Pine said

she wanted to clarify to the public that the state is requiring the School District to remediate the PFAS situation at both the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and impacted homes that surround the High school. Dr. Laura Chesson said they had to provide the DEP with their short-term solution today. The School District has to provide bottled water to those homes affected and they had to verify they are on the State Safe List.

Mr. Tyler Schmidt, from Environmental Partners, presented a PowerPoint to give background information about the PFAS problem and walked everyone through the two options. Mr. Schmidt said in 2022 the GDRHD sampled for PFAS and the results came in well above the Maximum Containment Level enforced by MassDEP. The cause of the contamination was a 2003 fire on the athletic field track that was extinguished with Aqueous Film Forming Foam, a known PFAS contamination contributor. He also said MassDEP has sampled the surrounding private wells along Groton Street and Kemp Street. Several have high levels of PFAS. MassDEP notified the GDRSD that they are responsible for the PFAS contamination and must provide a solution to all impacted residents.

Option #1 would be a 12-inch Groton water main extension up Chicopee Row to the GDRSD High School and an 8-inch loop along the school's emergency access road to the Kemp Street/Groton Street PFAS impacted properties. The estimated cost of this solution is approximately \$16,780,000. Some advantages and disadvantages:

- Schedule and Permitting timeline would be 1.5-3 years total
- Potential for 136 new water system customers
- More expensive option for Groton

Option #2 would be a Pepperell-Dunstable 12-inch water system interconnection from Route 113 in Dunstable down Groton Street and North Street to Jersey Street. Two 8-inch branches will serve the GDRSD High School and the Kemp Street/Groton Street PFAS-impacted properties. Option # 2 was reviewed and a cost estimate was provided by the Pepperell DPW. Pepperell is currently reviewing cost options to upgrade their Treatment Plant to deal with PFAS in Pepperell's system. This is a very expensive proposition. Pepperell is participating in this Option because installing an interconnection with Dunstable will allow them to avoid some upgrades to their Treatment Plant since Dunstable's water supply has consistently tested as "non-detect" with regard to PFAS. Since Pepperell would benefit from tying into the Dunstable System, regardless of assisting with the PFAS issue at the High School, they may be willing to offset a significant portion of the cost to provide potable drinking water at the Groton Dunstable Regional High School, as well as, the surrounding impacted properties in Dunstable. This participation by Pepperell would reduce the total estimated cost to Groton and Dunstable by \$10,400,000 to approximately \$7,230,000. The project being PFAS related would be eligible for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This would be a zero-percent interest program. Some advantages and disadvantages:

- Schedule and Permitting timeline would be 2-4 years total
- Less capital cost for Groton

- May provide irrigation water (with additional cost) sooner
- No new water customers for the Groton Water System

Mr. Haddad said If we go with the Groton Option, the Town of Groton would put an Article on the Warrant to seek funding for that article for approximately 17 million dollars. If we decide to go with the Pepperell Option, Groton would not need an Article on the Warrant at this Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said we would negotiate an inter- municipal agreement with Pepperell and Dunstable. It would be brought back to the Select Board for approval and we would start paying debt service to Pepperell in approximately two years.

Due to technical issues with the Zoom feed, Ms. Manugian left the meeting after Mr. Schmidt's presentation.

Questions/Comments:

Mr. Pisani said during the presentation it sounded like there could still be a potential problem with Pepperell joining. Mr. Paul Brinkman said everyone he has approached about this, says this makes sense. Ms. Pine asked Mr. Brinkman if Pepperell would need a Town Meeting Vote to approve this. Mr. Brinkman said they would need Pepperell Town Meeting, on May 1st, to appropriate the funds. Pepperell's Town Meeting would cover the funds for this Option. Mr. Haddad stated that Dunstable's preference is to work with Pepperell because it is a cheaper solution. It would also solve the irrigation problem for the School District faster.

Mr. Pisani said 136 homes on Chicopee Row could potentially hookup up to water. Mr. Pisani asked what would we charge to a resident for a potential hook-up fee. Mr. Orcutt said it is 136 homes from Hollis Street to the High School, plus streets off Chicopee Row. Mr. Orcutt said that the collection fees would be prorated. They are all on well water. Mr. Haddad said on an interim basis, we can run a pipe from Pepperell to the high school for irrigation only and treat that water on a short-term basis to eliminate PFAS. If we went with the Groton Solution, this is not an option and the high school would have to wait 2 years before they can get irrigation.

Ms. Pine asked what action are we looking at today. Mr. Haddad said he would like them to decide if we are going with the Groton Solution or the Pepperell Solution and then set a meeting up immediately with DEP. Mr. Haddad said he is recommending the Pepperell/Dunstable/Groton Solution based mainly on the cost. The taxpayers of Groton are being spread thin with the Florence Roche debt and the potential for an operational override for FY 24. There are a few important things if we went with the Dunstable/Pepperell Solution. If we contact DEP right away there may be a way to speed up the permitting process. Also, Pepperell is an Environmental Justice Neighborhood. They have access to better grants and loan forgiveness than the Town of Groton on its own.

Mr. Cunningham asked Mr. Schmidt if he has a meeting scheduled with DEP. Mr. Schmidt said not as of yet, but DEP has attended several other meetings and they are familiar with this issue. Mr. Schmidt can try to schedule a meeting with DEP within the next several weeks.

Michelle Collette, Groton Board of Health, said she respects the financial considerations. She believes having town water go up Chicopee Row to the school is a better long-term solution so she is in favor of the Groton Solution. Mr. Pisani agreed with Ms. Collette and said it would give us the option of tying water into those homes and giving fire protection for the biggest unprotected area in town.

Mr. Orcutt recommended keeping the Article on the Warrant. If Pepperell runs into problems with their Town Meeting Article, we would have to wait until Fall Town Meeting to get our Article back before Town Meeting. Mr. Cunningham asked if we will have communication with DEP before Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said he would like to set a meeting up as soon as possible.

Mr. John Reilly said he was leaning towards the Pepperell, Dunstable Solution.

Ms. Pine entertained a motion to endorse proceeding with the Dunstable/ Pepperell solution to treating the PFAS at the High School.

Mr. Cunningham moved to endorse proceeding with the Dunstable/Pepperell/Groton Solution. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Pine-aye; Pisani- nay; Reilly- aye (Manugian was not present for the vote).

Mr. Haddad wanted to thank Environmental Partners for putting the presentation together so quickly.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm

Respectively submitted by Kara Cruikshank, Executive Assistant to the Town Manager