

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES NOVEMBER 21, 2011  
APPROVED**

**Present:** Anna Eliot, Chairman; George Dillon, Jr., Vice Chairman; Peter Cunningham, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen; Stuart M. Schulman

**Also Present:** Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

Ms. Eliot called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda. Tessa David of the Recycling Committee stated that the Town received a Recycling Award from Mass Recycle regarding Groton FreeStuff.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Mr. Haddad stated that Vicki Smith, Tax Collector Treasurer was present to have the Board sign a short term bond. Ms. Smith informed the Board that the bond rate has come down due to the Towns high Bond rating.
2. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the tax rate has been approved by the Department of Revenue.  
*Mr. Degen moved that the Board certify the values of residential, commercial, open space and personal property at 100%, with a factor of 1. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.*
3. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that due to illness the Chapter 61 discussion will be brought back to the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.
4. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the Town Clerk has informed him that the Open Meeting Law has recently been updated to allow for remote participation under certain conditions. In order for Town public bodies to take advantage of this facility in the OML, the Chief Executive Body of the Town (Board of Selectmen) must ratify its acceptance by majority vote. The Town Clerk is recommending adoption of Remote Participation. The Clerk believes that in the Town's experience, various Town bodies have had legitimate reasons to have utilized this facility. The CMR details rigorous rules for its use and execution, which seems to be reasonable safeguards against abuse, while offering the public open access to all aspects of public meetings.  
*Mr. Cunningham moved to accept the provision that allows for remote participation for a government body. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion carried.*
5. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that it has been the custom over the last three years to allow employees to take vacation or personal time for the day after Thanksgiving. Usually, two or three departments remain open at Town Hall on this date. This year, all employees have chosen to take the day off. Therefore, since all Town Hall employees will either be taking vacation or personal time, Town Hall will be closed the day after Thanksgiving.
6. Mr. Haddad reported on his recent meetings with the former members of the Center Fire Station Relocation Committee. Mr. Haddad stated that he along with Mr. Cunningham and Ms. Eliot sat down with former members. Mr. Haddad stated that the meetings were productive. Mr. Haddad also reported that he had spoken to two architectural firms to determine the cost of having them assist the Town in reviewing potential fire station sites, as well as outline the actual needs for the Center Fire Station. Mr. Haddad reminded the board that before the Town can hire any firms, it would need to go through the procurement process. Depending on the number of sites we would ask them to review, the cost would be in the neighborhood of thirty thousand dollars. Mr. Cunningham stated that there is value in the information from the former committee and that with a consultant the town can get a better sense of what is a need. Mr. Cunningham suggested that the architect hired by the Prescott Reuse Committee should also consider that site as a potential fire station site. Mr. Haddad recommended looking at all of the identified Tier 1 sites. Mr. Degen stated that what is needed had to be substantiated prior to deciding where a fire station should go. Mr. Schulman recommended prioritizing needs. Mr. Dillon stated that the Town needed to determine the availability of sites.

**SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Dillon reported that he attended David Hopper's memorial service at the Groton Pool & Golf. Ms. Eliot reported that she attended the school committee meeting, where they discussed FY13.

**MINUTES**

*Mr. Cunningham to approve the regular minutes of October 24, 2011. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document 1-Draft Minutes 10-24-11]*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve regular minutes of November 7, 2011. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried, Mr. Degen abstaining. [Document 2-Draft Minutes 11-7-2011]*

*Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the regular session minutes of October 17, 2011. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried. [Document 5-Draft Minutes 10-17-11]*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Mr. Schulman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. Meeting Adjourned*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Peter Cunningham, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully submitted,  
Patrice Garvin  
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 1-9-12