

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES DECEMBER 19, 2016
APPROVED**

BOS Members Present: John G. Petropoulos, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; Barry Pease, Clerk; Anna Eliot, Member; Peter S. Cunningham, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Petropoulos called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and reviewed the agenda.

Mr. Petropoulos asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. Mr. Degen moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21 Clause 1 "to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member of individual in regard to a complaint filed by a resident against the Town Manager." The motion was seconded. Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Degen-aye; Pease-aye; Eliot-aye; Degen-aye

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session because he wanted this complaint discussed in Open Session.

Mr. Cunningham moved to exit Executive Session. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. Roll Call: Cunningham-aye; Degen-aye; Pease-aye; Eliot-aye; Degen-aye

Mr. Petropoulos said that a complaint had been filed by Mr. Frank Kolak, a resident in town, against the Town Manager citing lack of supervision. He asked if the Board wanted to pursue an investigation and didn't feel that background information needed to be provided as the Board was aware of the circumstances surrounding this. Mr. Degen said he felt the previous Executive Sessions well vetted this issue and had concluded. He said that he didn't see how the findings they made related to the Town Manager and didn't believe this warranted any further action against the Town Manager. Mr. Cunningham concurred adding that based on what they knew and the information presented to them during the other matter, this didn't need to be explored further. Ms. Eliot agreed. Mr. Pease said he didn't disagree with the others but thought that this situation was a little different. He said that they let employees act based on policies and procedures and step in if something happens or they overstep them without permission. He said that based on that idea, he was prone to dismiss this. Mr. Petropoulos said that the complaint said that there was no response to a meeting request and failure to provide oversight. He said that he could not say this this was handled perfectly but also didn't think it rose to the level of an investigation. Mr. Pease said it sounded like they were all in agreement. Mr. Cunningham said that the recognized there was a shortcoming adding that had been addressed with a policy and procedure. Mr. Degen asked Mr. Haddad if he had anything he would like to add. Mr. Haddad said he wanted the record to be clear that he did respond to emails and he thought that he did supervise his staff.

Mr. Degen moved that the Board reject the request for an investigation from Mr. Frank Kolak. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Mr. Petropoulos said that he would vote for this but didn't want Mr. Haddad to think this was handled correctly. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that he and Mr. Bouchard attended a seminar the week before on updates to the Public Records Law that were going into effect on January 1. He said that the presentation was given by Lauren Goldberg of K&P. He said that they were told at that meeting that the Town needed to appoint a Records Access Officer by the first of the year and because this was their last meeting of the year, he was asking the Board to consider appointing Mr. Bouchard as the Records Access Officer effective January 1, 2017. He said that this was more administrative than anything else. Mr. Petropoulos suggested that they make this a temporary appointment and then bring it up again at their next meeting because it wasn't listed on the agenda. Mr. Cunningham said he didn't agree with that adding that they were confirming what really existed already. He said that Mr. Bouchard had been their point person for records

all along. He said that this was something they needed to do to comply with the Law and felt as though they could discuss it again at a future meeting if someone had an objection to the appointment. Mr. Degen agreed that the Town Clerk served as the de facto records clerk already and didn't have an issue making this appointment now and discussing it at a future date if someone had an issue.

Mr. Cunningham moved to appoint the Town Clerk Michael Bouchard as the Records Access Officer effective 12/19/16. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. Petropoulos opposed.

Mr. Haddad said that he, Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Sjoberg had been looking at the financial policies but wouldn't have them to the Board by December 31st because this was the last meeting of the year. He said that he would put them on the first agenda of the new year.

MINUTES

Mr. Degen moved to approve the Regular Session meeting minutes of December 5, 2016 as amended. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Degen moved to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of December 2, 2016 as corrected in yellow and red.

Mr. Cunningham said that he didn't recall the last line in red being discussed. Mr. Degen said that they authorized one individual to communicate this to the complainant. Mr. Pease said he recalled volunteering as the Clerk. Mr. Degen said that they discussed the fact that a letter should be sent by the Chair. Mr. Cunningham said that he didn't recall that but would defer to the recollection of the Board.

Mr. Degen restated his motion and amended it to say that the minutes not be released. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2017 ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS

Mr. Haddad read the following licenses on page 1 to be renewed and asked the Board to consider approving them:

- Omaha Realty, LLC , dba Boston Road Market, Piyush Patel, Manager
Located at 871 Boston Road
Package Store - All Alcohol & CVL
Hours of Operation: Daily 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM (no alcohol sales before 10:00 AM on Sundays)
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017
- Groton Market, Inc., John Madigan, Manager
Located at 235 Main Street
Package Store - All Alcohol
Hours of Operation: Mon to Sat 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM, Sun 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Marchand, Denis H. & Estelle C., dba Craven's Package Store, Denis H. Marchand, Manager
Located at 777 Boston Road
Package Store - All Alcohol
Hours of Operation: Mon to Sat 8:00 AM - 11:00 PM, Sun 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Bliss Bakery and Market, Inc., dba Bliss Bakery and Market, Sheryl A. Dean, Manager
Located at 134 Main Street, Unit 1B
CVL
Hours of Operation: Tues to Fri 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Sat & Sun 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017

- Filho's Cucina, Inc., dba Filho's Cucina, Oswaldo Filho, Manager
Located at 235 Main Street
CVL & Carry-In
Hours of Operation: Mon to Thurs 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM, Fri & Sat 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM, Sun 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017

Mr. Degen moved to approve the licenses as read. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad read the following licenses on page 2 to be renewed and asked the Board to consider approving them:

- Country Butcher & Deli, Inc., Kenneth Demers, Manager
Located at 68 Boston Road
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon - Wed 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Thurs & Fri 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Sun 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (April 1st-October 1st)
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Donelan's Supermarkets, Inc., Steve Smith, Manager
Located at 250 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon to Fri 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM, Sat & Sun 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Main House, Inc., Chang Wen Huang, Manager
Located at 495 Main Street, Unit 3C
CVL
Hours of Operation: Daily 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Groton House of Pizza, Theofanis Stefanakos, Manager
Located at 129 Main Street
CVL & Entertainment
Hours of Operation Daily: 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017
- Santi's Restaurant & Dairy Bar, dba Johnson's Restaurant & Dairy Bar, Richard Santiano, Manager
Located at 164 Boston Road
CVL & Carry-In
Hours of Operation:
 Summer Hours: Daily: 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM
 Winter Hours: Sun 6:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Mon-Wed 6:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Thurs-Sat 6:00AM – 8:00 PM
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017
- Gilson Family Herb Enterprises, dba The Herb Lyceum, David Gilson, Manager
Located at 368 Main Street
CVL & Carry-In
Hours of Operation: Daily 10:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017
- FJ Catalano Enterprises, Inc., dba Dunkin Donuts-Groton Center
Located at 133 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation Daily: 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017

- FJ Catalano Enterprises, Inc., dba Dunkin Donuts-Groton Forge, June Miner, Manager
Located at 3 Forge Village Road
CVL
Hours of Operation Daily: 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the licenses as read. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad read the following licenses on page 3 to be renewed and asked the Board to consider approving them:

- FJ Catalano Enterprises, Inc., dba Dunkin Donuts-Groton Shell
Located at 318 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation Daily: 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Groton Towing, Inc., Robert Olson, Manager
Located at 455 Main Street
Class II
Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM, 24/7 for towing
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Bruno Ferreira, dba Bruno's Pizzeria, Bruno Ferreira, Manager
Located at 195 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: Daily 9:30 AM – 8:30 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Gibbet Hill Grill LLC, dba Gibbet Hill Grill Restaurant and The Barn at Gibbet Hill Function Hall, Marth Lisio, Manager
Located at 61 Lowell Road
All Alcohol Restaurant License (2) & CVL (2)
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sun 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Groton Medical Wellness Spa, LLC, dba Groton Wellness Café, Jean Nordin Evans, Manager
Located at 493 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon to Thurs 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM, Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Groton Service Center, Inc., Shane Kuja, Manager
Located at 15 Elm Street
Class II
Hours of Operation: Mon-Fri 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sat 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Seven Hills Pediatric Center, Holly Jarek, Manager
Located at 22 Hillside Ave
CVL
Hours of Operation: 24/7
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017

Mr. Degen moved to approve the licenses as read. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad read the following license on to be renewed and asked the Board to consider approving it:

- A.L. Prime Energy, Mark Shiekhabdou, Manager
Located at 619 Boston Road
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM, Sun 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the licenses as read. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1-0 with Mr. Degen opposed.

Mr. Haddad read the following licenses on page 4 to be renewed and asked the Board to consider approving them:

- RiverCourt Residences, Sharon Amadon, Manager
Located at 8 West Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: 24/7
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- The Natural Market, Inc., dba The Natural Market, Joan Reardon, Manager
Located at 148 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon to Sat 9:30 AM to 6:30 PM, Sun 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Clover Farm General Store, Janet Shea, Manager
Located at 9 West Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon-Sat 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM, Sun 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Masa, Inc., dba Ixtapa Grill, Eric Brambila, Manager
Located at 765 Boston Road
Restaurant – All Alcohol & CVL
Hours of Operation: Sun to Thurs 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM, Fri & Sat 11:00 AM - 12:00 AM
Licenses to expire on December 31, 2017
- Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc., dba Shaw's Supermarket #7627;
Located at 760A Boston Road
CVL
Hours of Operation: Mon to Sat 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM, Sun 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Blackbird Café, Inc., dba Blackbird Café, Catherine Kenney, Manager
Located at 491 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation Daily: 6:00 AM – 5:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017
- Groton Exchange, Inc., Paul Palmer, Manager
Located at 318 Main Street
CVL
Hours of Operation: Daily 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM
License to expire on December 31, 2017

Mr. Cunningham moved to approve the licenses as read. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that in regard to the Country Club license, he said that the ABCC was way behind on approvals. He said that they followed the process that was listed on their website but were notified by the ABCC within the last few days that they didn't need to notify abutters like we had done, but instead needed to advertise the public hearing in the newspaper. He said that they noticed their information was incorrect but were unable to finish reviewing their applications because of this missing piece. He said that they were not able to advertise a hearing until the first meeting in January. He said that Blackbird Café would still be paying for the licenses but they needed to be kept in the Town's name until the transfer was completed. Mr. Degen said they made it clear they didn't want to see them back in the Town's name but was okay with granting the renewal of these licenses until the end of January. Mr. Cunningham said that they also understood that this was because of the ABCC.

Mr. Degen moved to grant the licenses to the Town of Groton through January 31, 2017. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Cunningham thanked the Woman's Club Berta Erickson, Art Prest and Barry Pease for the lights on Prescott Common.

Ms. Eliot said that the Planning Board was meeting on Thursday to discuss Indian Hill. She said it could be the last public hearing on the topic.

Mr. Petropoulos said that he was invited to go to the Chelmsford Temple on Thursday by the membership building the new temple in Groton. He said that they are committed to being a part of their community. Mr. Cunningham said that they reached out to Council on Aging also. Mr. Petropoulos said that as part of their culture, they work to provide food to the community and that's what they were reaching out about.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that Chief Palma requested that he appoint Michael Wilson as a Reserve Officer. He said that he had made that appointment and asked the Board to ratify the appointment. Chief Palma said that Mr. Wilson grew up in Wilmington, attended St. John's Prep and Northeastern, and had graduated in 2016. He said that he was currently employed by MIT Lincoln labs.

Mr. Degen moved to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Michael Wilson as a Reserve Officer term to expire June 30, 2017. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad said the Board requested at their last meeting that they be allowed to have individual interviews with the consultant hired to assist the School Committee in hiring a new Superintendent. He said that he passed this request on to the School Committee Liaison, Marlena Gilbert but unfortunately, she was unsuccessful in obtaining personal interviews for all Board members without incurring an additional cost to the District. He said that Ms. Gilbert requested, and the Consultant agreed to offer a 45-minute Community Leader Forum at no additional cost to the District. The date of the forum would be January 12, 2017, at the Black Box Theater at 6:15pm. He said that the School Committee was offering a personal interview with a designated member of the Board of Selectmen, in addition to the forum and asked the Board to designate a member.

Both Mr. Degen and Mr. Pease were interested. Ms. Eliot asked if there would be one member of the Board sitting in on interviews. Ms. Gilbert said she believed that was the plan. Mr. Degen nominated Mr. Pease. The Board was in agreement.

3. Mr. Haddad said that the Board asked him to obtain and provide an update to address the noise complaints coming from the abutters of the new Hindu Temple construction site. He said that the Town Planner said

that construction was limited to 7am-5pm Monday-Friday. Mr. Haddad read the following response from Scott Nelson, Construction Manager:

From: Scott Nelson [mailto:scott@mistry.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2016 4:33 PM
To: Laurie Bonavita <lbonavita@townofgronto.org> Cc: Nalin Mistry <nalin@mistry.com>
Subject: Temple Schedule Laurie

The recent noise, during the day, that the abutters have heard is rock hammering in the last sections of the water line installation. The installation of the waterline will be completed within the next 2 weeks. We expect that all other ongoing site work will not involve rock excavation. We will continue with the site work, mostly utility installation into the building, weather permitting. We expect to have the exterior of the building closed in, within the next few weeks, so the only exterior work will be the installation of the blockwork, which involves only saw cutting of the block, roofing installation and stucco installation. All other work will be done in the interior until spring. We anticipate that the first phase of the temple work, the main floor, will be ready for occupancy by May 2017. Work will continue in the interior first floor for the remainder of the year (2017). We trust that this answers your questions and concerns.

Scott K. Nelson, Sr
Construction Manager
NM Construction

Mr. Haddad said he hoped this addressed the Board's and the residents' concerns. Hope that addresses your concerns and the residents.

7:15PM - CONTINUATION OF TAX CLASSIFICATION PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Degen moved to reopen the tax classification hearing. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Garret Boles called the Board of Assessors meeting to order. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad said that the values had been certified on Friday with a tax rate of \$18.26. He said that the unexpended tax capacity was at \$178K adding that the budget was set up based on new growth estimates which came in higher. Mr. Haddad said that this was good news adding that this additional new growth was in this year's levy. Mr. Petropoulos said that they ended up with a surplus year over year and commended Mr. Haddad for ending up on that side consistently. Mr. Cunningham asked about the coding of open space. Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Greeno had spent all day Tuesday and Wednesday working with Vision reviewing facts and figures, recoded everything and sent it into DOR. Mr. Greeno explained how this had no impact on the recap.

Mr. Boles explained the handouts that were provided to the Board in their packet. He said that the amount of levy they were raising was slightly less than allowed. He said that they needed to raise \$30,222,216 to fund the budget. Mr. Boles said that the residential tax base was 94.12% and the commercial base was 5.88%. Mr. Boles said that speaking for himself, he recommended keeping single tax rate adding that they would be voting to adopt a residential factor of one.

Mr. Degen asked Ms. Evans what her level of confidence was for the numbers submitted on a scale of 1-10. Ms. Evans said that she was in the eight-range adding that any other year would have been a ten.

Mr. Degen moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Pease seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Degen moved that they adopt a factor of one on their tax rate. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Petropoulos said he appreciated the work the Board of Assessors and the office staff did to get to this point.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (EDC) ANNUAL REPORT

Members Gina Cronin and Art Prest Present

Mr. Degen left the room at 7:23pm so there wouldn't be a quorum of EDC members present.

Mr. Prest said they wanted to thank a lot of people for contributing to this matter. He said that the Town had some financial problems facing them and could be looking at overrides. Mr. Prest read the EDC's vision statement. He said that they wanted to try to differentiate themselves from Littleton, Westford and Devens adding that to do that they needed to leverage Groton's natural resources and educational and agricultural assets. He said that they came up with a mission statement based on that and further broke that down into four parts: growth, education, communication and regulation. Ms. Cronin said that the EDC was going to take on a different approach adding they needed to have 2-way communication which was critical to achieving goals.

Mr. Prest said that in 2016-2017 their goals and objectives were to identify key issues on what was needed and identify business types and locations. Ms. Cronin said that that also wanted to develop a web presence, they were working with Ms. Bonavita to develop marketing content, and they planned to hold some focus groups and have a presence with other boards. She said it was important that they had communication plans. Mr. Prest said that they had already begun to look at regulatory changes and what might be necessary working in conjunction with the Planning Board.

Ms. Eliot thanked them for bringing this to life. She said that the value of the commercial aspect of the Town was being brought to the forefront adding it was time they started to grow businesses and jobs. Mr. Cunningham applauded their work adding that communication was important. Mr. Pease said if zoning was an issue they should address that now. Mr. Prest said that one thing they always hear if that Groton is too far from a highway. He said that there are plenty of ski resorts and music centers that were not near a highway. He said that people looking for those things would travel away from the highway. Mr. Petropoulos said he was pleased to hear them talking about impacting the quality of life and not just the tax burden. He said he wanted to comment on the enthusiasm adding it was a very different change from last year's EDC report. He said he would like to see them come back to the Board with a list of properties that could be zoned business and what that impact would be. Mr. Prest said that they had been talking with Ms. Bonavita about some properties already.

Mr. Degen returned to the meeting at 7:50pm.

SUSTAINABLE BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Haddad called the meeting of the Sustainable Budget Committee to order at 7:50pm. Mr. Robertson second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad reviewed the charge of the Committee and explained how the Committee had met weekly for the last six months. He said that the first thing they did was come up with a definition of sustainability and went through some assumptions. He said that the bottom line was given all that information if they proceeded the way in which they had been, the budget was unsustainable. He said that as of FY17, salaries and wages made up 51.8% of the budget with benefits at 26.9% and expenses at 21%. He said that by FY 2036 52.8% would be wages and salaries and the rest of the budget would be to cover benefits. There would be no money for expenses. He said that they found that if they kept growth to 2.4% on the municipal side and schools had similar growth, they could sustain. He said that a few options they came up with were to increase revenue through overrides or come up with new revenue sources. He said that they could also decrease costs, like slowing growth to be equal or less then, or cut services. Mr. Haddad said that their long-term recommendations included limiting cola increases, providing employees with a lump sum merit increase and to maybe use free cash to fund merit increases, and to possibly increase the health insurance cost share. He said that the Committee supported the operational audit and supported the continuance of the Country Club cost benefit analysis. He said that the Committee also supported the Economic Development Committee's drive for new business and expanding pilot payments. Mr. Haddad said that the Sustainable Budget Committee could be a standing committee that worked over the summer to discuss recommendations prior to budget

discussions. He said that this 9-member committee had done great work. He said he also thought the Town's finances were tightly managed and the work of the Committee saw that.

Mr. Cunningham asked about the new actuarial being done by Middlesex County Retirement. Mr. Haddad said that through the hard work of Mr. Hartnett, Tax Collector/Treasurer, who really worked hard over the past few weeks, the Town's reviewed assessment dropped from 12.5% to 6.6%. Mr. Pease thanked Mr. Harnett for his diligence. Mr. Degen thanked the Committee for their hard work. He said that it codified what he had thought adding that achieving the recommendations would be the difficult work. Ms. Eliot asked if the Committee would continue their work. Mr. Haddad said that was up to the Board adding that the Committee was willing to continue. Ms. Eliot encouraged them to continue on. Mr. Pease applauded the Committee for their willingness to continue on and look at the outside of the box ideas every year. Mr. Degen said that salaries and benefits were their biggest nemesis and asked what recommendation they had to control that. Mr. Petropoulos said that salary growth was at 3.8% adding that the real problem was benefits growth at 6%. Mr. Robertson said that they discussed merit bonuses being paid by free cash if available as a onetime expenditure not tied to the base rate. It was asked if the schools understood the rationale of 2.4%. Mr. Petropoulos said that he thought they did understand. The Board thanked the Committee for their time and their hard work.

The Sustainable Budget Committee adjourned their meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - CONT

4. Mr. Haddad said that for the past year, the Great Ponds Advisory Committee had been working with the Groton Water Commission to identify a method to combat the invasive weeds and habitat deterioration in Baddacook Pond. He said that the scope defined by the Water Commission was a non-herbicide solution adding that both the Water Commission and the Great Ponds Advisory Committee had voted to support a mechanical harvesting method which was defined by a joint sub-committee. They were requesting an opportunity to present a draft path forward to the Board and to seek their support.

Mr. Luening called the GPAC to order. He said that instead of having a weed harvester go in and cut the weeds they had looked into a machine that would go in and take them away. He said that they had put together a three-year plan and applied to the CPC for funding to which they were looking for support from the Board. Mr. Haddad said that there would be a maintenance cost of \$26K annually that the Board needed to be aware of. Mr. Degen asked about the hand pulling approach they tried. Mr. Luening said that that method would take many years. Mr. Degen said that mowing regenerated new growth and asked about barriers. Mr. Luening said it was very expensive. Mr. Degen said that if this was the recommendation of both committees he saw no other way then to go along with this. Mr. Cunningham asked if there were any other environmental considerations such as time of year, Natural Heritage, etc. Mr. Luening said that Natural Heritage gave them a one year permit for hydro raking. Mr. Petropoulos asked if mechanical harvesting served as a partial solution. Mr. Luening said it was still cutting and they would not be prohibiting future growth. Mr. Petropoulos said that he was not prepared to jump on this adding he was surprised to hear that there was a request for CPC funds. Mr. Cunningham said that there had been considerable debate about this. He said that the Economic Development Committee talked earlier about things in Town that attracted people to it, this being one of them, adding that if this became a weed pit it would not be good. He said that they asked the groups to look at other ways to do this other than chemicals and they had done that adding he was prepared to move forward on this. Mr. Pease asked if it was possible to raise money through fees. Mr. Haddad said that he would have to look into that. Mr. Cunningham said that it was a Great Pond and wasn't sure if they could impose a fee. Mr. Woodle said that Fishing and Boating Access told them they couldn't charge fees. Mr. McCaffrey said they were looking at different alternatives adding they thought this was the best plan for Baddacook. Mr. Degen asked about grant opportunities. Mr. Luening said that they had not come across any as of yet. Mr. Degen said he would like to see them look at alternatives one more time.

Mr. Cunningham moved that pending seeing the CPC application that they offer support to GPAC moving forward for weed infestation at Baddacook Pond. Mr. Degen seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1. Mr. Pease abstained adding he didn't think they had all numbers on the alternatives.

5. Mr. Haddad said that the Friends of Prescott had also submitted a CPC application and would like to have the Board co-sponsor it. Ms. Jennings said that they had received \$165K last year in CPC funds for the second-floor sprinkler system, and a variety of other upgrades. She said that they were coming back with a proposal which focused on the first floor, stairwells, renovations to the gym, and sprinkler system in the gym. She said that \$105,600 would accomplish what they were looking to do. Mr. Platt said that the gym space could be used for anyone being one large open space. Mr. Degen asked what the status on the CPC funding from last cycle. Mr. Haddad said that the bids for the sprinkler system were due in January adding that the highway department had been working on a few things. He said that work should be done by the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Degen said he changed his support last year but if the senior center were to go in there, this could all change. He said that in light of the school district not amending their agreement to allow for rent to be charged he was concerned about this and inclined at this time to not support this. Mr. Platt said that they tried to think about all of this adding that this was about people that were committed to the building for the sake of the Town. Ms. Jennings said that they care about the historical aspect of the building and whether they became the managers of the building or not the gym was a strong aspect. Mr. Degen said he agreed with the first four items under level 1 but could not support the rest due to the unknown use of the building. Ms. Eliot said that she agreed with Mr. Degen adding that that the first four items might be able to be applied to whoever uses the building. She asked how many applications were submitted and what the status of funding was. Mr. Easom said that there was \$325K of available funds in the unallocated and historic bins combined. He said that there was not a budget requirement with the 2-page summary so the costs for the projects submitted was not completely known. He said that because of the number of applications, the Committee had asked applicants to come back with a prioritized list.

Mr. Degen offered a motion that the Board offer a letter of support to the Friends of Prescott for their CPC application and to sign off on the application for items 1-4 under level 1 for a grand total of \$42,350. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Chief McCurdy said that he had come up with two new programs to curb challenges that faced the call department. He said that they had done a good job so far of managing deficiencies up to this point but added he was concerned about the long-term sustainability. He said that he had implemented two new programs, the first of which was an explorer program in conjunction with the Boy Scouts of America. This program allowed kids/teens to get used to the fire service. He said that they nine kids in the program right now. He said that he thought about an adult explorer program too. He said that the auxiliary program would kick off next month adding this would allow them to utilize applicants as volunteers within the department. He said that they would go through all the training needed to become a fire fighter in a reduced role. He said it would great if the message could come from the Board that they were in need of call fire fighters in many different roles. Mr. Cunningham pointed out that one challenge was the increased training requirements. Chief McCurdy said that that was true adding that the auxiliary could focus on one aspect. Mr. Pease asked what the time commitment was for participating. Chief McCurdy said that there was no minimum time commitment for the explorer program. Mr. Pease asked what the compensation was. Chief McCurdy said that they were non-paid volunteers but that the department had to equip them. Mr. Degen said that he thought these were great programs but thought they needed to talk about full-time personnel. Chief McCurdy said that they currently had 37 call members but would like to have 50. He said that there were developments built on the outskirts of town that were not there 10-15 years ago. He said that as part of his budget presentation he had asked for a onetime bonus, not tied to the base option to be considered to incentive call members to take shifts to keep them active. The Chief talked about a bill that was in the House right now allowing call members to take advantage of a tax credit up to \$2,500 on their property tax for being a member. interested. Mr. Petropoulos asked what the cost would be if the call department didn't work. Mr. Haddad said around \$500K.

7. Mr. Pease moved to adopt the investigation policy as updated by the Town Manager. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Mr. Haddad said that he had finished the budget adding he would be coming in within the 2.4% directive. He said that he had a meeting with the School Department today so they knew where the Town stood. Mr. Haddad said he would be presenting the budget to the Board and Finance Committee on January 3rd. He said that the Audit Review Committee met last week and decided to interview one candidate on January 6th at 7:30am.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen wished everyone a happy, healthy holiday season and new year.

Mr. Petropoulos said that a number of Selectmen met with GELD about their surplus property. He said that they were inclined to not accept the single proposal they received and were thinking about tearing down a portion of the building and use remaining to house a generator for peak hours adding that the noise level would be minimal. He said that GELD also got survey results back done over all municipal light departments which they scored first out of 3 categories and second in 2 others.

Mr. Petropoulos adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm.

Approved: _____
Barry Pease, Clerk

_____ *respectfully submitted,*
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 01/09/17