

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MARCH 21, 2005  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES  
“APPROVED”**

**Present:** George F. Dillon, Jr., Chair; Peter S. Cunningham, Vice Chair; John L. Saball, Clerk; Virginia C. Wood, Member; Robert W. Nordblom, Member; Administrative Officer Jean E. Kitchen and Kathleen Newell, Office Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M.

**Groton Dunstable Regional School District School Committee RE: Budget**

Ms. Patti Murray and Mr. Chuck McKinney were present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Murray distributed a handout (enclosed herein) and briefly reviewed the contents for the Board.

**Ted Roselund RE: Historical Society Auction**

Mr. Ted Roselund and Ms. Anna Elliot were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Roselund invited the Board to attend the Silent Auction to be held on April 8, 2005 at The Barn at Gibbet Hill from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Mr. Roselund also invited the Board members to be celebrity auctioneers should they like to donate an item for auction. Mr. Roselund stated that the Groton Garden Club had volunteered to beautify the gardens of the Boutwell House.

**Carey Diehl, Bay Communications LLC RE: Update**

Mr. Carey Diehl was present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Kitchen stated that within lease agreement there was an option to terminate the agreement if construction had not started by a certain date and that time had lapsed. Mr. Diehl stated he had spoken with Nextel that morning and had been promised receipt of the performance. Mr. Dillon asked what the height of the tower would be. Mr. Diehl stated that tower would be 190 feet tall and Nextel would be locating at 150 feet. Mr. Nordblom asked when construction was due to start. Mr. Diehl stated that if the bond were received on Monday, he would file for the building permit on Tuesday. Mr. Nordblom requested a copy of the agreement before it was sent to the applicant.

*Mr. Nordblom moved to amend the terms of the Lease Agreement between Bay Communications LLC and the Town of Groton, executed May 17, 2004; pursuant to section 12, Termination, by deleting: “within three months after obtaining such permits” and inserting “by June 30, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.” Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.*

**Library Trustee and Owen Shuman RE: Shelver Vacancy**

Ms. Owen Shuman was present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Shuman stated that there had been a resignation of the shelver and she would like to fill the existing position.

*Mr. Cunningham moved to authorize the Library to hire a replacement for the current vacant position of Shelver at Grade 1, Step 1. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.*

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**ATM – Article 3 – Elected Officials Salary**

\*\*Ms. Wood recused herself from the discussion at 7:45 p.m.

Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney, Town Clerk Onorina Maloney and Assessor Edward Kopec were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Dillon reviewed the comparable salaries of surrounding towns and stated that the Highway Surveyor’s salary was the lowest of seven communities. Mr. Cunningham stated that although the Highway Surveyor is an elected position it is a professional position which is underpaid and he would recommend the increase. Mr. Dillon stated that it would be difficult to justify an increase when the Town was facing financial problems, but he would also recommend the increase. Mr. Nordblom stated he was not in favor at this time and would like to wait until the numbers were in. Mr. Saball concurred with Mr. Nordblom. Mr. Cunningham expressed concern that the issue could be deferred beyond Town Meeting and fall Town Meeting. Mr. Cunningham stated that there was a matter of setting priorities within the budget, particularly for professional positions within the Town. Ms. Kitchen stated the increase was not considered last year because it was a difficult financial year. Mr. Dillon stated the amount could be reduced at Town Meeting if necessary. Mr. Delaney stated that he had viewed a list of communities, some with less total mileage than Groton and also had secretarial support, and the elected officials were not

equitable with personnel by-law employees.

*Mr. Cunningham moved that the salary of \$61,570 be placed on the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the Highway Surveyor. Seconded by Mr. Saball. 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Wood).*

*\*\*Ms. Wood returned to the meeting at 8:15 p.m.*

Mr. Dillon reviewed the Town Clerk's salary. Mr. Cunningham stated that it was the same dynamic of the Highway Surveyor's position with an increase in the position due to the growth of the community. Ms. Wood referenced a survey asking what the actual value of health insurance was. Ms. Jenkins stated the Town's portion of a family plan would be \$11,000. Ms. Kitchen stated that the Town Clerk did not take a family plan. Ms. Wood stated she was looking at the position not the employee. Mr. Nordblom stated that he would like to wait to see where the budget was going, and make it a priority in the fall. Ms. Wood agreed with Mr. Nordblom and requested that the health insurance value be figured into the salary. Mr. Dillon suggested tabling the discussion until next week.

#### **ATM - Article 11- Architectural Landscape Design Services**

Ms. Kitchen stated that a local architect had been asked to design the parking lot and there was another study for the banks and the Macgregor property. Ms. Kitchen asked the Board Members if they wanted this on the warrant. Ms. Kitchen stated that there were funds in the Building Maintenance Supervisor's budget for the Town Hall parking lot. Mr. Dillon stated he would like to hold off on the article.

*Mr. Nordblom moved to remove the Architectural Landscape Design Services article from the April 25, 2005 Annual Town Meeting warrant. Seconded by Mr. Dillon. Unanimous vote.*

#### **Review Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles**

Article 1 – Library

Article 2- Prior Fiscal year's bills – Mr. Dillon asked what type of vote was required. Ms. Jenkins stated a 9/10ths vote

Article 3 – Well Site – Water Commissioner Chris Kelley and Water Commissioner Tom Orcutt reviewed the well site. Mr. Cunningham stated he recognized the need for a new well site. Mr. Cunningham asked what the demands were for irrigation and if there were any way through zoning to regulate it. Mr. Orcutt stated that the Commission had looked at that option; and if the State would not give the Town another source they may require no irrigation or sprinkler systems.

Article 4 – Skyfields Drive - Mr. Orcutt stated that the preliminary design was for a domestic booster pump station as the current level is unsafe according to the State. Ms. Wood asked if there was a cost analysis, what other options are available and what the lifespan of a booster pump was. Mr. Orcutt stated he did not have a cost analysis; there are no other options; and the life span of a booster pump would be at least ten years.

Article 5 – Revolving Account - Ms. Jenkins stated that there were two deficits and the State requires voting free cash to clear the deficits. The first deficit is from the Recreation revolving deficit and a reimbursable grant which had fallen through the cracks.

Article 6 – Ms. Kitchen stated the incorrect figure was put in the warrant last year and the Transfer Station position is currently a step position when it should be a stipend because it is a seasonal status.

Article 7 – Sewer Extension – Sewer Commissioners Jim Gmeiner and Harlan Fitch were present for this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Gmeiner stated that the first phase was mostly residential and a savings could be realized from doing it as one project; also there may be a possibility of withdrawing the article.

Article 8 – Mr. Gmeiner stated the Town Counsel had recommended that a separate article was needed, which would separate the two parcels on Skyfields Drive.

Article 9 – Mr. Gmeiner stated he did not know what the figure was and a large bill is usually received from Pepperell in the spring.

#### **Other Business:**

##### **Animal Inspector Nomination – John Greenhalgh**

*Mr. Cunningham moved to nominate John Greenhalgh as Inspector of Animals, term to expire April 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.*

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Kitchen stated that Highway Surveyor Tom Delaney had been contacted by S E A Consultants regarding a plan for the redesign of Route 40 and there was \$6800-6900 in the budget. This is the last step so the redesign can take place.

Ms. Kitchen stated that there had been some interest in the Brownloaf property.

#### **SELECTMEN LIAISON UPDATE**

Mr. Dillon stated that he had attended Nashoba Valley Technical Regional School hearing at which the FY06 budget was approved.

*Mr. Nordblom moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Unanimous vote.*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
John L. Saball, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully *submitted*,  
Kathleen Newell  
Office Assistant

Enclosure (1): Groton Dunstable Regional School District FY2006 Budget Request (March 21, 2005)

Date Approved: May 16, 2005