

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 26, 2005
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES
“APPROVED”**

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

The meeting opened at 6:55 P.M.

Chief Joseph Bosselait RE: Fire Act Grant

Chief Bosselait stated he was pleased to announce that the Groton Fire Department had been selected in the first round of grants to receive \$62,325 which will be used to upgrade the radio equipment. Chief Bosselait thanked Clarence Johnson and Susan Ragusa for their work in writing the grant which required extensive demographics. Mr. Dillon asked when purchasing would begin. Chief Bosselait stated that his goal was to get off the current frequency before winter and to expand beyond the current dead spots. The members of the Board congratulated Chief Bosselait, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Ragusa. Chief Bosselait stated that there had been nothing released on the SAFER grant at this time.

Review Special Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Dillon gave a quick review of the schedule. Mr. Dillon reiterated the memo from the Board stating there would be no article submitted for increase of staff, hours, etc.

Article 1 – Prior fiscal year bills

Article 2 – Wharton Row acceptance

Article 3 – COLA

Article 4- Highway contract

Article 5- Snow and Ice Removal – Ms. Jenkins stated she was in favor of increasing.

Article 6 – Transfer of Free Cash- Ms. Jenkins stated that the free cash had been certified and her preference would be to pub as much of the newly certified dollars in savings accounts.

Mr. Dillon noted that there was not an article for the reserve fund.

Ms. Jenkins stated that had been an oversight, but it could be funded at the Spring STM

Article 7 – CPA – Ms. Kitchen stated the CPC had not had their public hearing and made its decision.

Article 8 – Municipal Parking Lot lease – Ms. Kitchen stated it was \$1,600 annually to be utilized as a municipal parking lot.

Article 9 – Young Adult Librarian – Mr. Brian Mullens stated this was not a new position but an unfunded position. Ms. Kitchen noted that the position had been rated by the personnel board. Mr. Keoseian stated that this position fell under the guidelines set by the Board and he could not support the unfunded position. Mr. Michael Manugian stated that the position had been proposed in the spring and it had been suggested to wait and see what the free cash situation was and bring the position back to the Board in the fall. Ms. Jenkins stated that several positions had been rejected in the spring for lack of knowledge of the budget.

Mr. Dillon stated he would not support the new library position, assessor increase of hours and capital item baler. Mr. Dillon stated that we still need to fund several items; and address the DPW contract, Police Contract; Bylaw Employee changes; a need to balance the current budget; increase in snow and ice removal; capitalization and potential for reserve fund; the Casella property in some form; higher energy costs which have not been budgeted. Mr. Dillon stated that we should refrain from spending free cash for operating expenses or funding personnel. Mr. Dillon stated that the Board still considers a human resources person a priority but have put it off indefinitely Mr. Hugh McLaughlin asked that the articles be addressed separately. Mr. Dillon stated that was the intent and that his statements were an overview that applied to all three articles.

Mr. Cunningham stated each article would be Mr. Nordblom stated he was in favor of removing the article from the warrant, stating he understood there was a great need for the position, but it was not the right time. Mr. Saball stated he agreed with the consensus, stating the Library is a good resource and benefit to the community, but he could not support.

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Conservation Commission RE: Non-Criminal Disposition

Mr. Bruce Clements, Conservation Commission and Ms. Barbara Ganem, Conservation Administrator was present for this portion of the meeting.

Ms. Ganem explained there was a problem with encroachment on conservation land by abutters and in the past they had attempted to deal with people through phone calls and requests to attend meetings. Ms. Ganem stated the Conservation Commission was requesting the Board of Selectmen's support to send a letter to Town Counsel regarding non-criminal disposition.

Mr. Nordblom stated that he had accompanied Ms. Ganem on site walks and supports the request. Mr. Keoseian stated he would support the measure and suggested stronger penalties and fines. Mr. Cunningham stated that the process was not inconsistent with the Town's procedures and would support it. Mr. Saball concurred.

Public Hearing RE: Unregistered Vehicles Permit and Application Fee

[X] 1. Hearing Opened at 8:27 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to open the hearing at 8:27 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

[X] 2. Read Legal Notice
Published September 21, 2005, Groton Landmark

[X] 3. Query audience for support either written or in person.

[X] 4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

[X] 5. Hearing Closed at 8:29 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to close the hearing at 8:29 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to increase the fees of the Selectmen Regulations, Chapter 273, of the Groton Code as follows:

273-1, A., (5) Non-refundable application fee \$25.00

273-1, D. Special Permit fee \$25.00

273-1, E. More than one special permit fee \$25.00.

Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Public Hearing RE: Groton Code By-Law – Chapter 27, Inspector of Wires

[X] 1. Hearing Opened at 8:30 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to open the hearing at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

[X] 2. Read Legal Notice
Published September 21, 2005, Groton Landmark

[X] 3. Query audience for support either written or in person.

[X] 4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

[X] 5. Hearing Closed at 8:31 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to close the hearing at 8:31 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to amend Chapter 27, Inspector of Wires, by removing the words "and raises and appropriates the sum of seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.) for said purpose." Seconded by Mr. Nordblom.

Unanimous vote.

Public Hearing RE: Groton Code By-Law – Chapter 157, Junk Collectors

- [X] 1. Hearing Opened at 8:35 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to open the hearing at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

- [X] 2. Read Legal Notice
Published September 21, 2005, Groton Landmark

- [X] 3. Query audience for support either written or in person.

- [X] 4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

- [X] 5. Hearing Closed at 8:38 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to close the hearing. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to remove Chapter 157, Junk Collectors, in its entirety. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Public Hearing RE: Groton Code By-Law – Chapter 168, Peddler and Solicitors

- [X] 1. Hearing Opened at 8:31 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to open the hearing at 8:31 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

- [X] 2. Read Legal Notice
Published September 21, 2005, Groton Landmark

- [X] 3. Query audience for support either written or in person.

- [X] 4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

- [X] 5. Hearing Closed at 8:34 P.M.

Mr. Saball moved to close the hearing at 8:34 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Mr. Saball moved to remove Chapter 168, Peddler and Solicitors, in its entirety. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Chief of Police Robert Mulhern RE: Police Officer Appointment Corey Waite

Chief Robert Mulhern, Lt. John Rooney and Mr. Corey Waite were present for this portion of the meeting.

Chief Mulhern reviewed Mr. Waite's qualifications stating he would be a welcome addition to the Department.

Mr. Keoseian moved to appoint Corey Waite to the position of Patrol Officer at Step 3, effective September 27, 2005, with a one-year probationary period contingent upon receipt of written examination results. Seconded by Mr. Saball. Unanimous vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Road Acceptance Policy Amendment (04-01)

Ms. Maria Casey was present for this portion of the meeting. Ms. Kitchen stated that the Board had instituted the policy and amended the fee to \$500, we have had two and both bills have gone over \$1000. Ms. Casey stated that there has been more processing work and once the budget is overspent she bills them. Mr. Saball asked if \$1000 was enough. Mr. Nordblom recommended \$1200.

Mr. Saball moved to amend the Road Acceptance Policy (04-01) adopted January 12, 2004 and amended February 9, 2004,

increasing the cash bond amount from \$500 to \$1,200. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Greenway Appointment – Jean Wright

Mr. Saball moved to appoint Jean Wright to the Greenway Committee for the one year term to expire June 30, 2006. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

One-Day Liquor License – First Parish Church

Mr. Saball moved to approve a One-Day Liquor License for Karen Johnson on behalf of the First Parish Church on Sunday, October 2, 2005 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., contingent upon receipt of insurance liability. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. Unanimous vote.

Minutes

Mr. Saball moved to approve the Regular Session Minutes of August 9, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Saball).

Mr. Saball moved to approve and not release the Executive Session Minutes of August 9, 2005. Seconded by Mr. Nordblom. 4 in favor, 1 abstention (Saball).

SELECTMEN LIAISON UPDATE

Mr. Nordblom stated he had attended a meeting with the School Committee.

Mr. Nordblom moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. in accordance with MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining or litigation position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; and will not reconvene back into Open Session. Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Roll Call Vote – Dillon – yes; Saball – yes; Nordblom – yes; Cunningham – yes; Keoseian – yes.

Approved: _____
Robert W. Nordblom, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Newell
Office Assistant

Date Approved: November 1, 2005