

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2008
APPROVED**

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

Also Present: Jeff Ritter, Interim Administrative Officer; Patrice Garvin, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Degen called the regular meeting of the Board to Order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda for the public.

TAX COLLECTOR/TREASURER, RE: FINANCIAL UPDATE

Ms. Collins distributed an end of the year report. And reported that 97% of the receipts were collected. Ms. Collins stated that free cash indicates a decline from last year's numbers. Ms. Collins discussed estimated receipts, debt service and expansion of the sewer enterprise project. Ms. Collins gave a brief summary of the stabilization accounts. Mr. Schulman asked if uncollected receipts were going up. Ms. Collins stated that the number has changed but not the percentage in comparison to last year.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT RE: END OF THE YEAR REPORT

Ms. Jenkins stated that Free Cash was at 2% and 17% lower than last years number. Ms. Jenkins noted that the budget would be tighter for next year and not to depend on the state for aid. Ms. Jenkins reported that the Enterprise Funds were on the positive side and that there are no Capital projects. Ms. Jenkins noted the articles on Town meeting and the possible need to recover some deficits, such as Snow and Ice, with Free Cash. Mr. Dillon stated that the Town needed to follow its financial policies and to fund the stabilization fund but not zero out free cash.

PUBLIC HEARING JOINT WITH FINCOM

- [] 1. Open Hearing at 7:30 P.M.
- [] 2. Read Legal Notice
- [] 3. Query audience for support either written or in person.
- [] 4. Query audience for objection either written or in person.

Article 4- COLA for by-law employees: The Personnel Board recommend a 2% COLA for employees. There was some discussion as to the inclusion of elected and stipend officials. Ms. Jenkins stated that there had to be a separate article listing out the elected positions. Mr. Dillon did not recommend that the IT director be included in the COLA list as well as The Board of Assessors, Selectmen and Administrative Officer. Ms. Jenkins briefly reviewed the money articles for the Board.

Ms. Collins explained why she needed Town Meeting approval for the Demand Fees. Ms. Collins explained that the DOR is recommending the fee be set.

Mr. Schulman moved to plug in \$5 in Article 11 as the current figure for the Demand Fee effective at close of Town meeting. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Conservation Commission explained their articles and the need for some housekeeping items. MR. Eason explained the Boston Road Article was part of the self help grant. Ms. Jenkins was concerned that that it was not in the current plan and if other available funds were being considered. Ms. Eason stated that Conservation Funds were being utilized.

[] 5. Close Hearing 8:43 p.m.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT:

Mr. Guivere, Chairman of the Conservation Commission stated that his committee approved the appointment of David Pitkin. Mr. Pitkin was not present for the appointment, therefore it was tabled until the October 6th regular Board Meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

The Board discussed the expansion from five members to seven. There was a lot of interest in the committee and it was an important committee to get started. The Board discussed having someone from the Planning board as a member. Mr. Degen stated that three interested candidates were at the meeting to discuss why they were interested in being on the committee.

1. Jane Bouvier stated that she cares about businesses in the community and hopes it has a strong presence in the future.
2. Perter Myette stated that he wanted to encourage growth in Town.
3. James Ryan stated that there was a need in Town for more diverse businesses.

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the appointments of Jim Ryan, Jane Bouvier and Peter Myette to the Economic Development Committee for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2011. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER GOALS INPUT

Mr. Dillon stated that the Town manager Goals was being worked on by the Board and read off some of the goals. It was suggested that feedback on the goals be directed to Ms. Garvin who will edit and resend to the Board.

LIQUOR LICENSE REGULATIONS:

Mr. Schulman closed the public hearing and moved to approve the Town of Groton's Liquor License Regulations as amended. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT REVIEW AND ASSIGN ARTICLES:

Mr. Degen assigned article 1-25 to the Board.

TOWN MANAGER SCREENING PROCESS:

Mr. Degen discussed the timeline and who would pay for lunch and breakfast for the Assessment.

DISCUSSION OF CAPSTONE REQUEST & CLARIFICATION:

Mr. Degen explained the letter received from Capstone and it was decided to respond to Capstone. The ast paragraph was confusing but it would be ironed out by the Board. Mr. Cunningham suggested telling Capstone what they were told in the last Board meeting. Mr. Dillon stated that he would work on the letter to Capstone.

MINUTES:

Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the September 2, 2008 Regular Session minutes. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried one abstention Mr. Degen.

ADJOURN

Mr. Cunningham moved to adjourn into Executive Session at 9:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing of discussing collective bargaining and not to return into pen session. Ms. Eliot seconded. Roll Call-Schulman-yes; Dillon-yes; Cunningham-yes; Eliot-yes; Degen-yes. Ms. Eliot seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Administrative Assistant

Date Approved: 10-27-08