

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES – JANUARY 4, 2010
APPROVED**

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

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant; Valerie Jenkins, Town Accountant; Christine Collins, Treasurer/Collector; Rena Swezey, Principal Assessor; Jay Prager, Finance Committee Chairman; Michael Flynn, Finance Committee Member; Richard Hughson, Finance Committee Member; Jan Cochran, Finance Committee Member; Peter DiFranco, Finance Committee Member; Joseph Crowley, Finance Committee Member.

Mr. Cunningham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the Agenda for the public.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board ratify his appointment of Robert Friedrich as the Town’s Plumbing and Gas Inspector.

Ms. Eliot moved to ratify the appointment by the Town Manager of Robert Friedrich as the Plumbing and Gas Inspector. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Mr. Haddad requested that the Board appoint Michael Rasmussen of 711 Chicopee Row to the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Degen moved to appoint Michael Rasmussen to the Economic Development Committee, with the appointment to expire on June 30, 2010. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. *Mr. Degen moved to approve a One-Day Beer and Wine License to Edythe Salzman, on behalf of the First Parish Church, One Powderhouse Road, Groton, for their Nicaragua Fiesta Fundraiser, on Saturday, February 6, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

4. Mr. Haddad gave a brief preview of the upcoming budget meetings with the Finance Committee.

GROTON READS 2010

Library Director Owen Schuman introduced Emily Navetta, Chairwoman of the Groton Reads 2010 Program. Ms. Navetta provided each member of the Board and the Town Manager with a copy of the 2010 Groton Reads Book, *The Old American*. Ms. Navetta reviewed the planned events for Groton Reads 2010 and encouraged everyone to read the book and participate in the events.

BRUCE WYATT CLEMENTS TRAIL

Bruce Easom, representing the Trails Committee stated that they are unanimously recommending that the Board of Selectmen name the Trail, outlined on the map attached to these minutes, as *Bruce Wyatt Clements Trail*, in honor of Mr. Clements' many years of dedicated service to the Town of Groton. The actual dedication of the Trail will be on Earth Day 2010.

COMMON VICTUALLER LICENSE RENEWAL

Ms. Eliot moved to approve a Common Victualler License for Seven Hills Extended Care at Groton, located at 22 Hillside Avenue, Groton, MA. License to expire on December 31, 2010. Mr. Dillon seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to the next Agenda Item, at 7:30 p.m., Jay Prager, Chairman of the Groton Finance Committee, called the Finance Committee Meeting to order. The Finance Committee will meet in joint session with the Board of Selectmen for the Town Manager's Budget Presentation.

TOWN MANAGER'S PROPOSED FY 2011 TOWN OPERATING BUDGET PRESENTATION

In accordance with Article 6 of the Groton Charter, Mr. Haddad presented the Town Manager's proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Town Operating Budget. As required by the Charter and State Law, the proposed budget is balanced. As was the case last year, Mr. Haddad stated that the budget philosophy was to maintain services in FY 2011 and called the budget a "Maintenance Budget." Mr. Haddad reviewed all proposed estimated revenues for FY 2011, including an anticipated 10% reduction in State Aid. He also outlined the major proposed expenditures contained in the proposed budget. He stated he has budgeted a 2.5% increase for both the Groton Dunstable Regional School and the Nashoba Technical Regional High School and cautioned the Board and Finance Committee that this is an estimate only for budgetary purposes. Both School Departments have just now begun their FY 2011 Budget Process and these numbers will probably need to be revised.

Mr. Haddad thanked all Department Heads and his Finance Team for their efforts in assisting in the preparation of the proposed budget. He stated that it was a real team effort. In conclusion, Mr. Haddad stated that the proposed FY 2011 Budget is an increase of 1.74% over FY 2010. Should the budget be approved as presented, the proposed tax rate would be \$16.04 and a home valued at \$400,000 would see an increase in their tax bill of approximately \$104.

The Finance Committee moved their meeting to the adjacent meeting room at the conclusion of the budget presentation.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Approved: 2-22-10

Anna Eliot, Clerk

Respectfully submitted
Mark W. Haddad
Town Manager