

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES JANUARY 11, 2010
APPROVED**

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

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Patrice Garvin, Executive Assistant

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

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS

1. Mr. Haddad reported that the Legal budget was being monitored and directed the Board to a breakdown of charges to date. A copy of that breakdown is attached to these minutes. Mr. Haddad is concerned that the current year's appropriation will not be sufficient based on the number of issues before Town Counsel.

2. Mr. Haddad reported that the MRPC completed its study of the Rte. 119/Townsend Road Intersection and a copy of the report will be delivered to Mass Highway. Mr. Haddad informed the Board that the study done by the MRPC concluded that the intersection met only 1 and a half warrants out of eight total warrants that need to be met for the installation of a traffic signal at that intersection. Mr. Haddad stated that a more thorough review of what MRPC's findings was needed. Mr. Haddad noted that the Planning Board's traffic engineer was reviewing a copy of the report. Mr. Haddad thanked the MRPC for their work.

3. Mr. Haddad reviewed the budget schedule with the Board and FinCom. Mr. Haddad noted a special joint meeting with FinCom to be held on Saturday, February 27th.

OPEN SPRING TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Mr. Degen moved to open the Spring Town Meeting Warrant Tuesday, January 12th and to close the warrant on Thursday, February 25th. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Haddad requested that the Special Town Meeting Warrant also be opened. Mr. Degen did not want to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant and suggested it be opened at a later meeting. Mr. Haddad noted that ten signatures were required on a citizen petition for the Spring Town Meeting and one hundred signatures were required on a citizen petition for a Special Town Meeting. The Board decided that the Special Town Meeting Warrant would be opened at a future Board meeting.

UPDATE ON PRESCOTT/TARBELL SCHOOLS

Mr. Haddad commented on a recent meeting with Selectman Degen; Selectman Eliot; Carrie Fischer, Housing Coordinator; Dick Heaton, Housing Consultant; Superintendent Genovese; John Solberg, School Committee; Berta Erickson, School Committee; and Steven Burns, School Department Buildings and Grounds. The meeting was held to discuss the space needs of the schools administrative offices as well as the extension of the overlay district to the Prescott School. The school administration is currently housed in the Prescott School. Mr. Haddad noted that the school committee members stated that the school administration required 10-15 thousand square feet in space.

The use of the Tarbell School was also discussed and the concern with the playground. Abutters and others in the neighborhood have stated that the Tarbell playground is very important, as is retaining the exterior appearance of the Tarbell School. Mr. Degen noted sewer concerns with the Tarbell School. Mr. Degen noted that with a Prescott RFP a through street could tie into Main Street and the Station Avenue area and that the overlay district needed to be

put in place. Mr. Degen hoped that the Prescott School RFP would be completed in time for the Spring Town Meeting. Mr. Cunningham asked where the Planning Board was in their process to extend the overlay district to include the Prescott School. Mr. Haddad reported that the Planning Board has started the process. Mr. Dillon noted the Tarbell School was vetted and public input was given. Mr. Dillon thought that there needed to be more public input in regards to the Prescott School and its possible use. Ms. Eliot noted that a public walkthrough and hearing for Prescott was being scheduled. Ms. Fischer, Housing Coordinator, stated that Groton needed to decide what it wanted in regards to the buildings being discussed. Ms. Fischer discussed the percentage communities needed to meet for Affordable Housing. Mr. Haddad stated that since public input had been done on Tarbell, he and Ms. Fischer would draft a RFP for Tarbell School. Mr. Haddad stated that a public hearing and walkthrough of the Prescott School would be scheduled prior to drafting the RFP.

REVIEW FY11 BUDGET

Mr. Haddad reviewed the possible entry in the GIC and its economic impact. Kathleen LeBlanc, Human Resources Director wrote a report on the GIC program and its potential savings for the Town. Mr. Haddad reviewed the major points with the Board and asked them to review the memo. The report estimated additional saving with the GIC but the GIC requires that employees working 18.75 hours a week are eligible for the plan. Mr. Haddad explained that this requirement would make three additional Groton employees eligible under the GIC plan. Mr. Haddad noted that the plan would need to be negotiated with the unions. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to take the GIC plan under advisement. The Board thanked Mark for the report and asked if there was any information on the towns currently in the GIC. Mr. Degen suggested contacting those towns and asking them relative questions.

Mr. Haddad also explained how the quarterly tax bills are formulated due to recent confusion. Mr. Haddad discussed briefly some consolidations that have occurred with the FY11 budget, such as the telephones. Mr. Haddad explained the reasons for the phone consolidations and by having one phone line item in the budget will be less cumbersome. Phone bills will still be monitored but the calculating of the phone bill will be done more efficiently. Mr. Haddad presented the budget schedule moving forward.

LIAISON REPORTS

Ms. Eliot commented on the Economic Development Committee meetings. Mr. Degen commented on the Superintendent search.

MINUTES

Ms. Eliot moved to approve the October 5, 2009 meeting minutes. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved: _____
Anna Eliot, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted,
Patrice Garvin
Executive Assistant to the Town Manager

Date Approved: 3-1-10