



TOWN OF GROTON

173 Main Street
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-1237
Tel: (978) 448-1111
Fax: (978) 448-1115

Board of Selectmen

John G. Petropoulos, *Chairman*
Anna Eliot, *Vice-Chairman*
Stuart M. Schulman, *Clerk*
Peter S. Cunningham, *Member*
Joshua A. Degen, *Member*

Town Manager
Mark W. Haddad

To: *Board of Selectmen*

From: *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

Subject: *Weekly Report*

Date: *September 29, 2015*

1. Please note that we will be meeting on Tuesday this week beginning at 5:30 p.m. with an Executive Session in the Town Manager's Office. The regularly scheduled meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Scheduled on Tuesday's Agenda is one item. As discussed at your last meeting, I have scheduled time on the Agenda for the Board to choose Town Counsel for the ensuing year.
2. At the last meeting of the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Working Group, they voted unanimously to "suspend all activity until such time as FERC notifies Groton that Groton is being considered for the path of the pipeline." Since this is your Committee, the Board needs to determine if this is acceptable. Kevin Kelly, Chair of the Committee will be in attendance at Tuesday's meeting. In addition, the Board had asked for information relative to what it means to be an intervener in the process. Enclosed with this report is a summary of "How to Intervene on a Pipeline with FERC." Dennis Ecklof will also be in attendance at the meeting to discuss this in more detail with the Board.
3. One of our two highway mechanics recently resigned to take another position. To fill this position and in compliance with the Union Agreement, we posted the job and sought internal candidates. One member of the Highway Department applied and Tom Delaney is recommending that I appoint Warren Shattuck to this position. Warren has been with the Department for three years and has filled in as the mechanic on certain occasions. I have made this appointment and would ask the Board to ratify this appointment at Tuesday's meeting.
4. Dave Elliot, who owns property at 36 Court Street has applied for a Certificate of Exemption to remove 3000 cubic yards of petroleum impacted soils from this location. The Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee has determined that this qualifies for an exemption because the excess materials resulted from a Chapter 21E site clean-up. They are recommending approval with conditions. Enclosed with this report is a memorandum from the Committee explaining their decision. I would ask the Board to consider approving this Exemption at Tuesday's meeting.

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5. Enclosed with this report is the latest draft of the Warrant for the 2015 Fall Town Meeting. I have updated the draft to reflect positions taken at your last meeting. Also enclosed with this report are the proposed Article Assignments, as well as the financial impact of the various articles. The Board still needs to take positions on the following Articles:

Article 1 – Unpaid Bills:

At this time, we have not received any new information from National Grid. It appears the Selectmen should defer action on this article until Town Meeting.

Article 2 – Budget:

The Board needs to take individual votes on the four requests as follows:

- A. The first request is for \$8,000 to Selectmen expenses for the Regional School Agreement Study and the Prescott School Cost Update.
- B. The second request is for \$40,000 to complete the Police Station renovations (\$25,000) and Security Improvements (\$15,000).
- C. The third request is for \$20,000 for the Fire Department to conduct a recruit training course.
- D. The fourth request is for \$8,500 (FY 2016 Municipal Building Budget) for the hiring of an additional building maintenance employee that will work for the DPW, Country Club and Light Department. At the last meeting, the Board requested the impact of making this a year round full time position. The following is the actual cost breakdown:

Full Time Position (est. \$20.00/hour for 40 Hours):	\$41,760 annually
Reimbursement from Light Department:	Less \$15,600
Reimbursement from Country Club Operating Budget:	Less \$10,400
Cost to DPW:	\$15,760
Health Insurance (Family Plan)	\$16,000
Retirement:	\$ 4,176
Uniform Allowance:	<u>\$ 350</u>
Total Annual Cost:	\$36,286

Please note that all funding for these requests (\$76,500) in FY 2016 would come from Free Cash.

Article 5 – Offset the Tax Rate:

I am recommending that the Town transfer \$200,000 from Free Cash to offset the Tax Rate. This translates to a reduction in the tax rate of \$0.13 and a savings of \$52 on the average tax bill.

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5. **Continued:**

Article 10 – Mosquito Control:

Two Selectmen remain undecided. The Board had requested that we find out the number of West Nile Virus and EEE in both the State and the region served by the Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project. Enclosed with this report is that information. Selectman Petropoulos had asked for some additional information. We are in the process of gathering that information and hope to have it for you at Tuesday's meeting.

Articles 11 through 14 – Zoning Amendments

The Planning Board will be conducting their public hearing on these articles on October 8th. The Board can take up these Articles at your meeting before the Town Meeting on October 19th.

6. I am still trying to schedule the Annual Goal Setting Work Session for the Board. I would like to propose Saturday, October 10th at 9:00 a.m. We can discuss this further at Tuesday's meeting.

MWH/rjb

Enclosures