



## TOWN OF GROTON

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## Board of Selectmen

Joshua A. Degen, *Chairman*  
Barry A. Pease, *Vice-Chairman*  
Alison S. Manugian, *Clerk*  
John G. Petropoulos, *Member*  
Rebecca H. Pine, *Member*

**Town Manager**  
Mark W. Haddad

**To:** *Board of Selectmen*

**From:** *Mark W. Haddad – Town Manager*

**Subject:** *Weekly Report*

**Date:** *September 25, 2017*

1. Please note that Monday's meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. in joint session with the Finance Committee. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide guidance to the Town Manager on the development of the Fiscal Year 2019 Proposed Operating Budget. The Finance Team and I will be meeting with the Chairmen of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to put together materials for the meeting. We will have a full report for both Boards at Monday's meeting. As discussed at last week's meeting, I have added an Executive Session to the Agenda in the event we need to enter Executive Session to discuss the impact of the guidance on collective bargaining. I will discuss this with Town Counsel to make sure there is no issue with entering Executive Session. We can discuss this further at the meeting. The regular meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. Scheduled on Monday's Agenda is just one item. The Board of Selectmen will be conducting a public hearing to consider accepting the layout of Chamberlins Mill Lane. Enclosed in the packet is the relative material concerning this issue, including the recommendation from the Planning Board.
2. At last week's meeting, the Board took action on several of the proposed Town Meeting articles. I have updated the Warrant to reflect these changes, including adding the proposed Town Manager's Report to the 2017 Fall Town Meeting. Specifically, I have adjusted the Warrant as follows:
  - Article 3: Amend Operating Budget - Removed the request from the Sustainability Commission for funding.
  - Article 7: Senior Center Design – Updated the wording to include the word "expansion" after the word "renovation".
  - Article 8: GDRSD Capital Stabilization Fund – The Board needs to consider the amount you want to add to this fund. I am recommending \$600,000.
  - Article 10: Cyclical Inspections – As discussed last week, I have amended the wording of this Article and advertised an RFP to get pricing to do the inspections all at once, or over the course of five years. It is estimated that the total cost for completing all of the inspections in one year would be around \$110,000. We have set the bid due date for October 12<sup>th</sup>, so we will have the final number in plenty of time for Town Meeting.

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**2. Continued:**

Article: **Polling Location in Places of Worship** – This Article has been removed from the Warrant as voted by the Board.

Article 16: **Amend CPC Bylaw** – I have further clarified this Article to include the entire Paragraph B. We will also provide the old wording of Paragraph B in the Town Meeting handout so that residents are aware of the change.

We have also added the disclaimer wording to both Citizen Petition Articles as voted by the Board last week. The only other issue the Board needs to discuss is the order of the Articles. We can discuss this further at Monday's meeting.

3. The Board delayed making a decision on whether or not to recommend the use of Free Cash to offset the Fiscal Year 2018 Tax Rate to the 2017 Fall Town Meeting. Enclosed with this report is the latest spreadsheet of the proposed sources of revenue for the various Warrant Articles. Should every article pass (with the current recommended amounts), there will be a balance of \$532,401 in Free Cash at the end of the meeting. Please also note that the plan we proposed last year and adopted by the Selectmen and Finance Committee to pay down debt service would require an appropriation of \$272,000 from Free Cash at the 2018 Spring Town Meeting. This will provide a savings to the Tax Payers. I hope to have an updated spreadsheet for the Board at Monday's meeting outlining this expenditure. I look forward to discussing this in more detail with the Board at Monday's meeting.
4. Enclosed with this Report is the latest draft of the Warrant. I would ask the Board to continue the Public Hearing and consider taking positions on the various Articles at Monday's meeting.
5. As discussed by the Board at last week's meeting, I have drafted a proposed policy on including articles submitted by the Regional School District Committees automatically on Town Meeting Warrants. It is enclosed with this report for your review. I would ask the Board to consider adopting this at Monday's meeting.

MWH/rjb

enclosures