

Moderator Robert S. Gosselin called the Special Town Meeting to order at 7:55. There were 567 voters in attendance. The quorum requirement was 125. The Moderator recessed the STM and reconvened the Annual Town Meeting. The STM reconvened at 10:10pm.

The chair entertained a motion to waive the reading of the warrant. Seconded. **The motion carried unanimously.**

ARTICLE 1: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the following sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2003 budget as printed in the handout distributed at Town Meeting. See attached

Transfer From:			To:		
Line #:	Description	Amount	Line #:	Description	Explanation
4062	Solid Waste Tipping Fees	\$15,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	Health Insurance underestimated last year. Factors
1343	Planning Brd Engineering	\$10,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	include larger insured base and 14.5% increase
1400	Insurance/Bonding	\$10,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	effective June 1, 2003.
1401	Ins. Deductible Reserve	\$5,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	
2081	Bldg Insp Wages	\$5,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	
1125	Bond Costs	\$4,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	
6040	ShortTerm Interest	\$3,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	
1041	Admin Officer Wages	\$1,000	7040	Health & Life Insurance	
1141	Tax Collector Wages	\$8,000	7041	Medicare/Social Security	Matching Medicare assessment underestimated. Factors include increased base wages, additional hours for snow and ice removal.
1121	Treas Wages	\$400	7041	Medicare/Social Security	
1121	Treasurer's Wages	\$1,520	7001	State Retirement	Unforeseen assessment for former employees covered under old retirement system
1200	Personnel Board Wages	\$3,000	1360	ZBA Expenses	Multiple 40B applications; also Line Item should have been increased last year based on history of increased hours needed.
1080	Town Accountant Salary	\$4,000	1082	Town Acct Expenses	Salary line overfunded due to new accountant at lower rate./ Transfer allows encumbrance of expense funds

					for assistance during year end closing process.
1023	Selectmen Eng/Consult	\$7,000	1180	Town Counsel Legal Expense	Unforeseen contractual and personnel issues
1041	Admin Officer Wages	\$3,000	1180	Town Counsel Legal Expense	
6040	Short Term Interest	\$2,600	1123	Tax Title	Filing Costs in Excess of Estimates.
2001	Police Wages	\$25,000	Art 13 ATM 2001	GIS Expenses	Art 5, STM, 5/6/2002, which originally funded this increase, was not processed, due to oversight
2001	Police Wages	\$10,000	2002	Police Expenses	To fund needed computer upgrades

Motion was made and seconded to amend article 1 by transferring from line item 2001 Police Wages \$25,000 to GIS Expenses Article 13 ATM 2001 and transfer from line item 2001 Police Wages \$10,000 to line item 2002 Police Expenses.

The motion to amend carried unanimously.

Article 1, as amended, carried by majority.**

ARTICLE 2: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer \$20,000 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2003 Sewer Enterprise Department budget.

The Finance Committee voted to support.

Article 2 carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow a sum of money to fund a long-term Growth Impact Study on town infrastructure.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to postpone carried by majority.

ARTICLE 4: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Fiscal Year 2003 Wage and Classification Schedule by adding the Treasurer/Tax Collector position to grade 14.

Article 4 carried by majority.

ARTICLE 5: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from FY03 Highway department expenses \$213.33 to pay unpaid Fiscal Year 2002 bills for the Highway Department.

Article 5 carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 6: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$3000 from the \$30,000 appropriated under Article 44 of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of April 29, 2002, Williams Barn Restoration project, to the Conservation Fund.

The Finance Committee voted to support.

Article 6 carried by majority.

ARTICLE 7: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen and the Library Trustees to acquire, on behalf of the Town, a portion of the land located at 103-105

Main Street and shown on Assessors' Map 113, Lot 19 in connection with pedestrian pathway and site improvements for the Groton Public Library and to take all action necessary for such acquisition and vote to transfer from library minor capital the sum of \$1 for the costs associated therewith.

The Finance Committee voted to support.

Article 7 carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, § 198-16 Extension as printed in the warrant, as follows:

by striking out the following sentence:

“A full or limited land-disturbance permit shall be valid for one year from the date the permit is issued.”

And inserting in its place:

“A full or limited land-disturbance permit shall be valid for two years from the date the permit is issued.”

Article 8 carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, section 218-25.1, Personal Wireless Services Facility, subsection 218-25.1 H, Development Regulations, as printed in the warrant, (as follows:)

by striking out existing item (3) which reads as follows:

“(3) Silver paint or galvanized finish shall be used on the portion of the outside of a personal wireless services tower that rises above the tree line in order to blend into the landscape.”

And inserting in its place:

“(3) In order to blend into the landscape and minimize the visual impact of a personal wireless services tower that rises above the tree-line, the tower shall be finished in a manner acceptable to the Planning Board.”

Article 9 carried by a 2/3 vote as declared by the chair.

ARTICLE 10: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 9 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Capital Planning Committee, Section 2, Duties, as printed in the warrant. As follows:

by adding the following paragraphs:

- C. The Capital Planning Committee will prepare a capital budget for consideration at the Annual Town Meeting. Capital projects, excluding land purchases, will only be considered at the Annual Town Meeting. The capital budget will include capital projects with a total cost of not more than \$500,000. Any capital project exceeding the \$500,000 capital budget limit will require a separate article.

For capital projects consisting of improvements, rehabilitation, additions to, or new construction of, municipal buildings and that require architectural or engineering design, said cost of such design shall first be approved at the Annual Town Meeting. A good faith estimate of the total project costs, including all so-called soft and hard costs, will be given. Once the project costs are known, final approval of the project, including construction funding will be required at the next Annual Town Meeting.

- D. The Capital Planning Committee will oversee capital projects and meet periodically with the project manager or project representatives of the Town and/or the contract. The Capital Planning Committee will give project reports and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Collette made a motion to amend, which was seconded, to add the word “preliminary” prior to the word design in item C paragraph 2.

Motion was made to move the question. The question was moved.

The amendment carried by majority.

The question was moved by a 2/3 majority.

Article 10 as amended, failed.

The chair entertained a motion to dissolve the Special Town Meeting. Moved and seconded.

The Special Town Meeting was dissolved at 10:55 pm.