

MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 27, 1998

The Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Robert L. Gosselin, Sr. at the Groton Dunstable Regional Middle School at 7:35 in the evening. There was no quorum requirement. The moderator declared the warrant duly posted and entertained a motion to waive the reading of the warrant. So moved and seconded.

ARTICLE 1: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees.

The motion did not require any vote.

ARTICLE 2: Moved and seconded that the town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for Federal and State Grants for which the Town is or may be eligible and to expend the funds received thereunder.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: Moved and seconded that the Town allow the compensation for elected officials as printed in the warrant.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 4: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the Personnel By-Law Wage and Classification Schedule as shown in the handout entitled "Wage and Classification Schedule Fiscal 1999".

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 5: BUDGET

1. **General Government:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,000 from Conservation Fees Receipts Reserved for Appropriation to the Conservation Commission and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$945,083 for a total of \$949,083 for General Government as represented by Lines 1000 through 1600 in the budget; each line item to be considered a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Moved and seconded to amend Line 1241 Town Clerk Wages to read \$26,112; total General Government to read \$954,083.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Protection of Persons and Property:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,614,495 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by Lines 2000 through 2242 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to recess the Annual Town Meeting in order to open the Special Town Meeting. The motion carried by majority. Annual Town meeting was resumed upon completion of the Special Town Meeting.

3. **Schools:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$8,153,189 for Schools as represented by Lines 3000 through 3022 in the budget exclusive of Line 3020 Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Operating Expense with Override, Line Item 3000 to be considered a separate appropriation for the purposes voted, and line items 3020, 3021, and 3022 to be considered together a single, separate appropriation for the purposes voted; and that in addition to the foregoing, the Town vote to raise and appropriate, contingent upon a favorable referendum vote under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (G), an additional \$453,742 to pay the assessment of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District for the ensuing year as allocated on Line 3020 Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Operating

Expenses with Override, in the Fiscal 1999 contingent override budget. (Total contingent override school amount \$8,606,931.)

The motion carried majority.

4. **Highway and Health:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,041,478 for Highway and Health as represented by Lines 4000 through 4144 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Library and Citizens Services:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$6,398 from Dog Tax Receipts to the Library and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$443,733 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by Lines 5000 through 5161 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Debt Service:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,000 from Gift Funds (Groton School); to appropriate the sum of \$143,785 from Receipts Reserved Sewer Debt Town; and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,080,524 for a total of \$1,239,309 for Debt Service as represented by Lines 6000 through 6041 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. **Employee Benefits:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$630,938 for Employee Benefits as represented by Lines 7000 through 7041 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Water Enterprise:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$619,400 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY99 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Sewer Enterprise:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$35,000 from Sewer Debt Receipts Reserved for Appropriation for Sewer Ratepayer Debt and to appropriate the sum of \$523,950 from Sewer Rates and Fees for a total of \$558,950 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY99 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

The motion carried unanimously.

10. **Electric Light Department:** Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate the income from sales of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or from municipal power and from sale of jobbing during Fiscal 1999 for the Groton Electric Light Department; the whole to be expended by the Manager of that department under the direction and control of the Board of Electric Light Commissioners for the expenses of the ensuing fiscal year as defined in Section 57 of Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth. The total fund to be appropriated is -0-, Line Item 8040 of the Budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 6: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,200 to purchase and install mobile radios for the police department.

Moved and seconded that article 6 be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 7: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 to be added to the sum already on deposit in the Conservation Fund.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 8: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to pave a portion of the driveway at the Groton Senior Center.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 9: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to provide matching funds for a predevelopment grant for the West Groton Mill.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 10: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to purchase and install a telephone system to include ancillary equipment at the renovated Town Hall.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 11 : Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to conduct a wage and classification study for municipal employees not covered by union contracts.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone carried.

ARTICLE 12: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to appropriate \$160,000 for the purpose of updating the Assessors' Maps of the Town of Groton, this amount to include purchase of related equipment, supplies and services; and that to raise such appropriation the Town Treasurer is authorized to borrow the sum of \$160,000 under and pursuant to Chapter 44, Section 7(18) of the General Laws as amended and supplemented, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes therefor.

The motion carried by a 2/3 majority: 128 in favor, 10 opposed.

ARTICLE 13: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000 for the purpose of purchasing a low-bed trailer for the highway department.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 14 : Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of rebuilding the front-end loader for the highway department.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 15: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000 for the purpose of purchasing a waste oil burner for the highway department.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10pm and scheduled to continue at 7:30 on Monday, May 4, 1998.

**MINUTES
ADJOURNED SESSION
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 4, 1998**

The adjourned session of the Annual Town Meeting was called to order by Moderator Robert Gosselin, Sr. at 7:30 pm.

An announcement was made by Deborah Nicholson regarding the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District being singled out by SchoolMatch as the school system which provides the "best bang for the buck".

A motion to reconsider article 5 was made and seconded. Article 5 needed to be amended due to a clerical error.

The Motion to reconsider carried by a 2/3 majority.

Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend the vote taken under Article 5, FY((Budget, Section 5 entitled Library and Citizen's Services Lines 5000 through 5161 by increasing the amount voted under Line Item 5041, Library Wages from \$103, 220 to \$120,810; and increasing the total for Library and Citizens Services from \$450,131 to \$467,721.

The motion to amend passed by majority.

ARTICLE 16: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$55,000 for the purpose of engineering, hardware and software for a network server and support system to be based in the renovated town hall.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 17: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed \$35,000 for the purpose of purchasing one Alpha Server upgrade, one additional mobile data terminal, and network reconstruction for the police department.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to postpone indefinitely carried.

ARTICLE 18: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Sewer Commission to purchase on behalf of the Town up to 45,250 gallons per day of additional capacity at the Pepperell Treatment Plant, for use by the Town of Groton and Groton Sewer System.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 19: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,568, to be expended at the direction of the Sewer Commission, for the purpose of purchasing additional capacity at the Pepperell Treatment Plant and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone carried.

ARTICLE 20 : Moved and seconded that the town appropriate the sum of \$26,568, to be expended at the direction of the Sewer Commission, for the purchase of additional capacity at the Pepperell Treatment Plant, and for the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the sum of \$26,568 is hereby appropriated from the Sewer Commission Surplus for expenditure in accordance with the terms of this motion.

Moved and seconded that this article be indefinitely postponed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone carried.

ARTICLE 21: I move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 to be expended at the direction of the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of financing the repair, replacement and/or upgrade of residential septic systems, pursuant to agreements between the Board of Health and residential property owners, including the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said sum

under and pursuant to Chapter 29C, Chapter 111, Section 127B ½ of the Massachusetts General Laws, or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor, and that in connection with any borrowing under Chapter 29C of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town Treasurer and the Selectmen are hereby authorized to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (the "Trust") and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to any such borrowing and for any federal or state aid available for such purposes; and that the Board of Selectmen, Board of Public Works or other appropriate local body or official is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, in connection therewith.

A motion to was made and seconded to amend the main motion to read as above rather than as printed in the warrant.

The motion to amend carried.

A motion to move the question was made and seconded.

The motion to move the question carried by a 2/3 majority. Tellers were called.

The motion carried by a 2/3 majority: 124 in favor, 21 opposed.

ARTICLE 22: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,000 for the Reserve Fund.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 23: Moved and seconded that Article 23 be considered after Article 30.

The motion to consider Article 23 after Article 30 carried by majority.

ARTICLE 24: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to transfer from free cash the sum of \$356,071 for the purpose of affecting the tax rate for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998 and ending June 30, 1999.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 25: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with the Towns of Pepperell, Townsend, Shirley, Harvard and Lunenburg to provide for shared technical assistance support for computer system services pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4 and Section 4A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 26: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton, Section 218-9, Location of Districts and approve a new Zoning Map as printed in the warrant.

The motion carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 27: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 218, Zoning, of the Code of the Town of Groton by amending Sections 218-4 Definitions and 218-13 Schedule of Use Regulations and by adding a new Section 218-25.1 entitled "Personal Wireless Services Facility" as detailed in the Planning Board report entitled "Personal Wireless Services Facility", filed in the Office of the Town Clerk on March 25, 1998.

A motion to amend was moved and seconded. The amendment would be added to subsection J under section 3. The motion read as follows: The terms and conditions for permit application and approval described in this amendment shall not be applicable to licensed amateur radio operators who may desire to construct a tower for private, non-commercial amateur communications purposes.

The motion to amend carried by majority.

The main motion, as amended carried unanimously.

ARTICLE 28: Moved and seconded that the Town vote in accordance with Section 8 of chapter 533 of the Acts of 1991, as amended by Chapter 115 of the Acts of 1995, to approve the budget of the Country Club and Recreation Authority.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 29: Moved and seconded that the town vote to reaccept the provisions of the Groton Country Club and Recreation Authority Legislation, Chapter 533 of the Acts of 1991 as amended.

The motion carried by majority.

ARTICLE 30: Moved and seconded that the town vote to raise and appropriate \$30,000 to fund the work of a seven member committee to be appointed by the Groton Town Moderator. Said committee will be responsible to hire and oversee an independent, professional consultant to advise the citizens of both Groton and Dunstable regarding the current educational facilities and future population growth of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District; and the educational policies and programs of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee. The funds shall be administered by the Groton Town Treasurer and a written report from said committee shall be presented to the Moderator for distribution 90-120 days from the date the members are notified of their appointment.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to move the question. This prompted a question of a point of order. The chair had committed to allowing an amendment from the floor. The chair then recognized Alberta Erickson who put forth an amendment which constituted a contingent appropriation. The chair denied the motion.

The motion to move the question carried.

The motion was defeated.

ARTICLE 23: Moved and seconded that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$108,259 to be added to the amount on deposit in the Town's Stabilization Fund.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the meeting. The annual town meeting of the Town of Groton was dissolved at 10:15pm.