

Minutes and Votes of Meeting

TOWN OF GROTON



2010 SPRING TOWN MEETING

Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Beginning Monday, April 26, 2010 @ 7:00 PM

*THE BUDGET HANDOUT FOR ARTICLE 5 IS AVAILABLE
ELSEWHERE IN THIS ANNUAL REPORT*

**SPRING TOWN MEETING
WARRANT, MOTIONS, MINUTES and VOTES
APRIL 26, 2010**

Town Moderator:

Robert L. Gosselin, Sr

Town Clerk:

Michael F. Bouchard

Deputy Town Moderator

Jason Kauppi

Finance Committee:

Jay M. Prager, Chairman
Joseph Crowley, Vice-Chairman
Georganna B. Cochran
Peter J. DiFranco
Michael F. Flynn
Richard Hughson
Thomas L. Sangiolo

Board of Selectmen:

Peter S. Cunningham, Chairman
George F. Dillon, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Anna Eliot, Clerk
Joshua A. Degen, Member
Stuart M. Schulman, Member

Town Manager:

Mark W. Haddad

Proceedings:

The Spring Annual Town Meeting was **called to order** at 7:02 PM.

Peter Cunningham led the Pledge of Allegiance. Frank Belitsky was recognized. Frank traditionally led the Pledge, but was unable to do so at this time.

Motion: Moved and Seconded to waive the reading of the warrant

Vote: Unanimous

Announcements:

- A Special Town Meeting will be called to order at approximately 8:00 PM
- Candidates Night will be held May 11 at 7:30 PM at the Groton Senior Center

Tribute:

The Groton Marching Band and Chowder Society performed a tribute march and song to Peter Guernsey. Peter recently passed away. He was the founder of the band, and a long time active member. Michael Manugian related a summary of Peter's accomplishments with the band and for the Town.

Deputy Moderator:

The Town Moderator asked for ratification of his appointment of Jason Kauppi as Deputy Moderator. Town Meeting unanimously ratified. Mr. Kauppi was sworn by the Town Clerk.

Warrant, Minutes and Votes:

Middlesex, ss.
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

To any Constable in the Town of Groton

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby required to notify and warn said inhabitants of the Town of Groton qualified to vote on Town affairs to assemble in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium in said Town on Monday, the twenty-sixth day of April, 2010 at Seven O'clock in the evening, to consider all business other than the election of Town Officers and on the eighteenth of May, 2010 at an adjourned session thereof to give their ballots for:

Vote for One	Board of Assessors	3 Years
Vote for One	Board of Health	3 Years
Vote for Two	Board of Selectmen	3 Years
Vote for One	Commissioner of Trust Funds	3 Years
Vote for Two	Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Electric Light Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Park Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Planning Board	3 Years
Vote for One	Sewer Commission	3 Years
Vote for Two	Trustees of the Groton Public Library	3 Years
Vote for One	Water Commission	3 Years
Vote for One	Groton Housing Authority	5 Years

QUESTION 1: Shall the Town of Groton be allowed to assess an additional \$931,336 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town's share of the cost of operating the Groton Dunstable Regional Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July first two thousand ten?

MOTION

Paula Martin

I move to limit debate on any article to two minutes per individual excluding the original proponent or opponent.

Quantum: 2/3 majority

Vote: Chair declared 2/3 majority. Seven voters did contest the ruling. A vote count was ordered: 305 in favor of limiting debate ; 48 opposed. **Motion Carried.**

Vote Counters sworn:

Robert Johnson

Christopher Colton

Andrew Collins

Stephen Boczenowski

Jonathan Morgan

Linda DeCiccio

ARTICLE 1: HEAR REPORTS

To see if the Town will vote to hear and act on the report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *No position*

Summary: *To hear reports of Town Boards, Committees and Commissions.*

MOTION: **Mover: Joshua Degen**
I move that the Town vote to hear and act on the report of the Board of Selectmen and other Town Officers and Committees. **Seconded**

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Scheduled to Give Reports: Lost Lake Sewer Committee
West Groton Sewer Committee
Board of Library Trustees

Reports

- The West Groton Sewer Committee and the Lost Lake Sewer Committee presented a combined report. A copy of this report is attached as Appendix A.
- The trustees of the Groton Public Library presented a report highlighting their survey on the direction of the public library. The survey is available at the Library's website : www.gpl.org.

Vote on Main Motion – Article 1: Unanimous

ARTICLE 2: APPLY FOR GRANTS

To see if the Town will 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, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *To allow the Board of Selectmen to apply for grants that may become available during the year.*

MOTION: **Mover: Joshua Degen**
I move 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.

Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Main Motion – Article 2: Unanimous

ARTICLE 3: ELECTED OFFICIALS' COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Selectman (four)	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 60,000
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$ 910	Town Moderator	\$ 65
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$ 910	Assessor (two)	\$ 760

for the ensuing year, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended (4 In Favor, 1 Abstain)
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *To provide compensation for elected officials as proposed by the Town Manager.*

MOTION:

Mover: George Dillon

I move that the Town vote to allow the following compensation for the following elected officials:

Selectman (four)	\$ 760	Town Clerk	\$ 60,000
Board of Selectmen, Chairman	\$ 910	Town Moderator	\$ 65
Board of Assessors, Chairman	\$ 910	Assessor (two)	\$ 760

for the ensuing year.

Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Minutes:

- This reflects no change in compensation for elected officials
- The Highway Surveyor and Tree Warden are removed from this list as these positions are now incorporated into the Department of Public Works.

Vote on Main Motion – Article 3: Unanimous

ARTICLE 4: WAGE AND CLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE

To see if the Town will vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2011 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of this Warrant, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 Against)*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article proposes no wage and salary classification adjustment for FY 2011 for employees covered by the Personnel Bylaw or who have individual contracts.*

MOTION: **Mover: George Dillon**
I move that the Town vote to amend and adopt for Fiscal Year 2011 the Town of Groton Wage and Classification schedule as shown in Appendix B of the Warrant for the 2010 Spring Town Meeting.

Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Vote on Main Motion – Article 4: Unanimous

ARTICLE 5: FISCAL YEAR 2011 ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds a sum or sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next fiscal year (2011), and act upon the budget of the Finance Committee, or to take any other action relative thereto.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MANAGER**

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *Budget – In accordance with Section 6 of the Town Charter, the Finance Committee conducts its annual budget process by receiving the Town Manager’s proposed balanced budget on or before December 31st; meeting with department heads and boards; holding public budget hearings in preparation for issuing its recommendations to Town Meeting; and presenting its budget recommendations at spring Town Meeting. The budget handout for this Article is contained in Appendix A of this Warrant. Please also see Finance Committee and Town Manager’s Report which includes the Finance Committee’s and Board of Selectmen’s recommendations.*

MOTION: **Mover: George Dillon**

I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate and transfer from available funds such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the next Fiscal Year (2011) and act on the budget of the Finance Committee.

Seconded

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Clerk Notes:

- Article 5 addresses the budget. Each category of the budget is proposed with a separate motion, included below.
- The Finance Committee Report on the Budget is incorporated in these minutes as Appendix B
- The Town Budget available elsewhere in the Annual Report of the Town.

MOTION 1: GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Mover: Joseph Crowley

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,537,967 for General Government as represented by lines 1000 through 1182 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 1: Majority

MOTION 2: LAND USE DEPARTMENTS

Mover: Richard Hughson

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$345,241 for Land Use Departments as represented by lines 1200 through 1281 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 2: Unanimous

MOTION 3: PROTECTION OF PERSONS & PROPERTY

Mover: Jan Cochran

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Emergency Medical Services Receipts Reserved the sum of \$110,000 to Fire & Emergency Medical Services and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,555,822 for a total of \$2,665,822 for Protection of Persons and Property as represented by lines 1300 through 1372 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 3: Unanimous

MOTION 4: SCHOOLS

Mover: Jay Prager

a.) Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$536,044 for the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical High School as represented by line 1400 in the Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 4-a: Majority

b1.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District

MOTION b1: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,273,611 for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District as represented by Lines 1410 through 1413 in the budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 4-b1: Majority

b2.) Groton Dunstable Regional School District – Requiring a Prop. 2½ Override

MOTION b2: I move that, in addition to the amount appropriated under Lines 1410 through 1413 of the budget for the Groton Dunstable Regional School District, the Town vote to appropriate an additional \$995,781 as follows: (1) raise and appropriate \$931,336, contingent upon a Proposition 2½ override under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 21C, Clause (g); and (2) raise and appropriate \$64,445, all to pay the assessment of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District for the ensuing year, provided, however, that no portion of said \$64,445 shall be expended unless and until the Town shall have approved the appropriation of said \$931,336 under item (1) pursuant to a Proposition 2½ override

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

During the discussion summarized below, a Motion to Move the question was made from the floor:

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION (Question 4-b2)

Quantum: 2/3 majority

Vote on Motion to move the question: Unanimous

Vote on Motion 4-b2: Majority

Clerk Note – Special Town Meeting:

- During presentations for this Motion, at 8:10 PM, the Moderator recessed the Annual Meeting and called the Special Town Meeting to order.
- A quorum of 454 was present.
- The Special Town Meeting was recessed at 8:10 PM and the Annual Meeting was resumed.

Minutes of Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Budget discussion (Motions B1 and B2):

- A presentation on the school budget by the Groton-Dunstable School Committee is attached to these minutes as Appendix C.
- A presentation on the school budget by the Finance Committee is attached to these minutes as Appendix D.
- Summary of comments from the Public:
 - Informational
 - This town meeting article has two sub-motions. One is for a “non-override” budget, and the other is contingent upon the passage of a proposition 2 ½ override question at the town election on May 18. Both these articles appropriate monies for a budget. The “override” budget would not be funded unless the ballot question passes.
 - (Dr. Genovese) Early retirement programs have been considered, but not viewed to produce real savings when considering payment of benefits and the hiring of replacement personnel
 - State aid cuts for this year and over the past several have had a major impact on the school budget. State aid is not expected to increase in the next few years.
 - The State aid formulas are designed to require “richer” communities to shoulder a higher share of school expenses.
 - Schools are a people business. Labor cost is a main component of school expense.
 - Pro-“Override” budget comments
 - Union has financially contributed to the schools. There have been contract concessions, including agreement to pay of higher health insurance premiums under GIC.
 - “How can you cut \$900K form the proposed budget and expect that there would be no impact on the quality of education?” The curriculum is currently in decline.
 - Property values are related to the quality of the schools
 - Groton-Dunstable average spending per student is less than the state average. The schools have done a good job with quality of education and have been reserved in spending.
 - Con-“Override” budget comments
 - (Finance Committee) Cost growth is not sustainable with town revenues.

- The economic environment is bad, people have lost jobs and/or have had no pay increases for several years. The override budget is unaffordable.
- Increases being requested are extraordinary.

MOTION 5: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mover: Jan Cochran

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,867,052 for Department of Public Works as represented by lines 1500 through 1561 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 5: Unanimous

MOTION 6: LIBRARY AND CITIZEN'S SERVICES

Mover: Richard Hughson

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$881,230 for Library and Citizen's Services as represented by lines 1600 through 1692 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 6: Majority

MOTION 7: DEBT SERVICE

Mover: Joseph Crowley

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,146,770 for Debt Service as represented by lines 2000 through 2007 in the Budget; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 7: Unanimous

MOTION 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Mover: Joseph Crowley

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,705,801 for Employee Benefits as represented by lines 3000 through 3012; each line item to be considered as a separate appropriation for the purposes voted.

Minutes:

- Q: Why was GIC not implemented with Motion 8?
- A: (Valerie Jenkins) The Town belongs to a different insurance group, which has benefited the Town with rates on par or better than GIC. The Town has had health insurance rate increases of 6-9% in the previous two years, and 10% this year.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 8: Unanimous

MOTION 9: WATER ENTERPRISE

Mover: Michael Flynn

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to appropriate from Water Rates and Fees the sum of \$1,026,770 to the Water Enterprise Fund for FY 2011 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 9: Unanimous

MOTION 10: SEWER ENTERPRISE

Mover: Michael Flynn

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to transfer from Sewer Enterprise Excess and Deficiency the sum of \$40,000 and to appropriate from Sewer Rates and Fees the sum of \$736,124 for a total of \$776,124 to the Sewer Enterprise Fund for FY2011 to defray all operating expenses, interest charges, and principal payments on bonds outstanding as they accrue and any reimbursement to the Town.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 10: Unanimous

Motion 11: ELECTRIC LIGHT

Mover: Jan Cochran

MOTION: I move that that the Town vote to appropriate the income from the sale of electricity to private consumers or for electricity supplied to municipal buildings or from municipal power and from the sale of jobbing during Fiscal 2011 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-.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion 11: Unanimous

Clerk Note – Special Town Meeting:

- The Annual Town Meeting was recessed at this point at 9:45 PM (April 26).
- The Moderator called the Special Town Meeting to order
 - The Chair declared a quorum was present
- The Special Town Meeting Minutes follow the Annual Town Meeting Minutes in this report

Annual Town Meeting Minutes (Continued)

- The Annual Town Meeting was reopened at 10:15 PM (April 26)

ARTICLE 6: FISCAL YEAR 2011 CAPITAL BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money for the purpose of funding the FY 2011 Capital Budget as follows:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Proposed Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Tanker 1 Cab and Chassis Replacement	\$165,000	Fire and EMS
Intermediate Truck	\$ 55,000	Highway Department
IT Infrastructure/Computer Purchase	\$ 30,000	Town Facilities
Police Cruisers	\$ 57,100	Police Department
Police Chief's Vehicle Replacement	<u>\$ 38,000</u>	Police Department
Total	\$345,100	

or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MANAGER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: Section 6-6 of the Groton Charter requires the Town Manager to submit a Capital Improvement Plan to the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee that lists all capital improvements proposed to be undertaken during the next five years. A copy of the proposed

plan is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk. The above listed items are proposed for Fiscal Year 2011. The following is a summary of each request:

- *Tanker 1 Cab and Chassis Replacement - This is a 1973 Mack truck that is used as a tanker to haul large amounts of water to fire scenes. It is critical that this vehicle is reliable and safe for firefighters responding to emergencies and training. The current vehicle has a manual transmission. There are very few drivers on the department that can drive this vehicle. The fire service has prohibited manual shift trucks since the late 1980's due to safety reasons. All fire apparatus must now be automatic transmissions.*
- *Intermediate Truck - This is a scheduled replacement for the Intermediate Truck. It will have reached the end of its useful life in 2011 and it will still have trade in value if replaced following this proposed replacement schedule.*
- *IT Purchase - This is a new capital budget request, but not a new overall request. In the past, computer purchases and upgrades were funded in the IT Operating Budget. This year, it is proposed that we add this item to the Capital Budget. IT funding will be used each year to upgrade and replace various computers that have reached their useful life and other computer related equipment that requires an upgrade.*
- *Police Cruisers - This request is for the purchase of two police sedans and related equipment for replacement of cruisers that are no longer cost effective to maintain. This would allow the Department to have six marked cruisers. This allows for less mileage per year, better maintenance scheduling, assignment of cars to officers and for a programmed replacement schedule that ensures that line cars are rotated out at reasonable mileage and wear, and then un-marked cars are rotated in the same fashion.*
- *Police Chief's Vehicle - The current vehicle is a 2003 Ford Explorer with approximately 80,000 miles. It is used by the Police Chief and as a back-up vehicle for the command staff during inclement weather. The current vehicle has become a drain on the Police Department's vehicle maintenance budget as it has broken down several times over the past six months. It is in need of replacement. This funding will be used to purchase another four-wheel drive vehicle that will be put to a similar use, primarily as the Police Chief's vehicle. This item can be considered a scheduled replacement.*

MOTION:

Mover: George Dillon

I move that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$345,100 for the following capital items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Department</u>
Tanker 1 Cab and Chassis Replacement	\$165,000	Fire and EMS
Intermediate Truck	\$ 55,000	Highway Department
IT Infrastructure/Computer Purchase	\$ 30,000	Town Facilities
Police Cruisers	\$ 57,100	Police Department
Police Chief's Vehicle Replacement	<u>\$ 38,000</u>	Police Department
Total	\$345,100	

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – Article 6: 2/3's Majority

ARTICLE 7: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, § 53E½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for administration, oversight and review activities under Chapter 198, with the maximum amount to be expended in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2011, or to take any other action relative thereto.

STORMWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund for technical review and processing of applications submitted under Chapter 198, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development.*

MOTION:

Mover: Stuart Schulman

I move that the Town vote to renew the revolving account under Chapter 44, §53E½ of the General Laws for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received under Chapter 198 of the Code of the Town of Groton, Stormwater Management - Low Impact Development, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee for administration, oversight and review activities under Chapter 198, with the maximum amount to be expended in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2011.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – Article 7: Majority

ARTICLE 8: CONSERVATION COMMISSION REVOLVING FUND

To see if the Town will vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, § 53E½ for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received for agricultural or silvicultural activities conducted on Town-owned conservation land under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, said receipts and fees to be credited to said

account and expended by the Conservation Commission for oversight and management of conservation lands owned by the Town, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2011, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article reauthorizes the use of the revolving fund (established in 2007) for the management of conservation land in Groton. Reauthorization allows for reduced fees for management of conservation lands in Groton.*

MOTION:

Mover: Stuart Schulman

I move that the Town vote to renew the revolving account under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, §53E½ for the purpose of utilizing receipts and fees received for agricultural or silvicultural activities conducted on Town-owned conservation land under the care and custody of the Conservation Commission, said receipts and fees to be credited to said account and expended by the Conservation Commission for oversight and management of conservation lands owned by the Town, with the maximum amount in said account not to exceed \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2011.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – Article 8: Unanimous

ARTICLE 9: ACCEPT LAW INCREASING REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, to allow an additional property tax exemption for Fiscal year 2011 for those persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed \$1,000, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*

Finance Committee: *Recommended Unanimously*

Summary: *This article is geared to elderly persons, blind persons and veterans with service connected disabilities. It would increase the exemption under state statute up to 100% of the exemption.*

MOTION:

Mover: Stuart Schulman

I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of Section 4, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1986, as amended by Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1988, to allow an additional property tax exemption

for Fiscal year 2011 for those persons who qualify for property tax exemptions under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, Section 5, not to exceed \$1,000.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – Article 9: Unanimous

April 26 10:30 PM - MOTION to adjourn until 7:00 PM on May 3 at the Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium

Seconded

Vote to adjourn: Majority

First adjourned session of the 2010 Spring Annual Town Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM on May 3, 2010

ARTICLE 10: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE FUNDING ACCOUNTS

To see if the Town will vote to make the following appropriations from the Community Preservation Fund:

Allocation of Community Preservation Funds to the following sub accounts:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 26,000
Open Space Reserve:	\$ 52,000
Historic Resource Reserve:	\$ 52,000
Community Housing Reserve:	\$ 52,000
Unallocated Reserve:	\$338,000

or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *This is an accounting procedure that is necessary to ensure the Community Preservation Committee will have access to the funds raised during FY11. None of these funds will be spent without additional approval at Town Meeting.*

MOTION:

Mover: Peter Cunningham

I move that the Fiscal Year 2011 revenues to the Community Preservation Fund be divided into the following sub accounts to be administered by the Community Preservation Committee as follows:

CPC Operating Expenses:	\$ 26,000
-------------------------	-----------

Open Space Reserve: \$ 52,000
Historic Resource Reserve: \$ 52,000
Community Housing Reserve: \$ 52,000
Unallocated Reserve: \$338,000

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – Article 10: Unanimous

ARTICLE 11: COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and approve the recommendations of the Community Preservation Committee for Fiscal Year 2011, and vote to implement such recommendations by appropriating a sum or sums of money from the Community Preservation Fund established pursuant to Chapter 44B of the General Laws, and by authorizing the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, to acquire, by purchase, gift or eminent domain such real property interests in the name of the Town, or enforceable by the Town, including real property interests in the form of permanent affordable housing restrictions and historical preservation restrictions that will meet the requirements of Chapter 184 of the General Laws, as may be necessary or proper to carry out the foregoing, or to take any other action relative thereto.

CPC Proposal A: Allocation to the Conservation Land Fund: \$30,000

Summary: *The Conservation Fund has been used by the Conservation Commission to purchase Conservation Restrictions, Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, and to purchase conservation land outright within the Town of Groton. Placing CPA funds into the Conservation Land Fund makes them instantly available to the Conservation Commission for acquiring open space that may be available for purchase for only a short period of time. The workload on the Community Preservation Committee will be reduced by having the Conservation Commission be responsible for the acquisition of open space for the Town. The process of negotiating and purchasing open space can be time consuming and span many years. Relying on the expertise of the Conservation Commission in the area of open space acquisition will allow the Committee to focus more of its attention on the new activities of historic preservation, recreation, and community housing.*

Board of Selectmen: Not Recommended (4 Against, 1 In Favor)

Finance Committee: Not Recommended Unanimously

MOTION 1: Allocation to the Conservation Land Fund Mover: Peter Cunningham

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$30,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2011-01 "Conservation Land Fund".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Community Preservation Committee voted 6 to 1 in favor of this article
- Finances:
 - CPC is asking for 50% reimbursement of FY10 expenditures
 - CPC has \$700 K in reserves and a 90K grant pending. No objective reason that the CPC needs this additional money.
 - The money for this article would come from “unallocated reserves”. The Surrenden Farm bond is paid from the “open space” account, with the balance from the “unallocated reserve” account.
 - Organizations supporting this article:
 - Greenway Committee
 - Conservation Trust

Vote on Article 11 - Motion 1: Defeated, based upon a Teller Count

47 In Favor 55 Opposed

CPC Proposal B: Unkety Brook Well Site (New Well): \$75,000

Summary: *The Groton Water Department has been actively engaged in the investigation of new ground water resources since 1995. After a thorough investigation of possible well sites, the Unkety Brook Well Site has been identified as one of two potential sites for increasing the Town’s water resources. This site has the potential to pump approximately 280 gallons per minute without degradation of the existing resources. It is also in close proximity to the Groton Dunstable Regional High School and will be able to serve the High School as well as 57 existing homes on Chicopee Row. These funds will be used to either purchase the property outright or as a Conservation Restriction on private property. Purchasing this land in fee or acquiring the appropriate conservation restriction assures the Town of Groton that it can meet its growth potential in future years.*

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended Unanimously*
Finance Committee: *Not Recommended Unanimously*

MOTION 2: Unkety Brook Well Site (New Well) Mover: Peter Cunningham

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2011-03 “Unkety Brook Phase II”, and further to authorize the Board of Selectmen, with the approval of the Community Preservation Committee, and on behalf of the Groton Water Department, to acquire by gift or purchase fee interests in and a deed restriction interest over certain land now or formerly owned by Robert and Jennifer Delaney located on Chicopee Row and shown being a portion of the property shown on Assessors’ Map 231, Parcel 85.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3’s Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Community Preservation Committee: Voted 6 to 1 in support of the article
- Water preservation:
 - Water is a finite resource. Securing this land, by ownership or otherwise, is a good chance to preserve a water resource, and would be sound planning to do so.
 - Out of many studied, Unkety Brook is the premier water site. Securing this site benefits all in the town. Preserve it while it is available.
- Land ownership
 - The Town would own the land on behalf of the Water Department. If the land were ever to be sold, the town would receive the sale money.
- Funding Mechanism
 - Enterprise funds are set up to protect the taxpayer and ratepayer. This purchase should be funded by the ratepayers.
 - Securing this site protects a water resource for all residents in the future. It is appropriate to purchase the land with CPC funds (sourced by the taxpayer).

Motion to Move the Question

Seconded

Quantum: 2/3 Majority

Vote on the Motion to Move the Question: 2/3 Majority

Vote on Article 11 - Motion 2: Chair declared 2/3 Majority. 7 Voters did not contest the ruling.

CPC Proposal C: Community Wide Agricultural Context Inventory: \$25,000

Summary: *This project is a continuation of the Groton Historical Commission's program of documenting the historic and archeological resources of Groton. This project also allows for the use of the results in the Town's Master Plan and includes planning recommendations for management of the agricultural resources of Groton. Interpretation of these resources will be considered a tool for management. The main objective of an agricultural historic context inventory for Groton will be to describe the history of agricultural activities in Groton from farming by pre-contact peoples through 20th Century farming.*

Board of Selectmen: Not Recommended (4 Against, 1 At Town Meeting)

Finance Committee: Not Recommended Unanimously

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MOTION 3: Agricultural Context Inventory

Mover: Peter Cunningham

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$35,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Historic Resource

Reserve to fund Community Preservation Application 2011-04 "Groton Communitywide Agricultural Historic Context Development Inventory and Management Planning Project."

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Community Preservation Committee voted 6 to 1 in favor of this article.
- This study will provide quality information to town planners so that more informed decisions can be made.
- CPA funds have been used before to fund worthy projects outside of town projects.

Vote on Article 11 - Motion 3: Chair declared Majority Vote. 7 Voters did not contest the ruling.

Jason Kauppi assumed the Moderator's role at this time.

ARTICLE 12: DEBT SERVICE FOR SURRENDEN FARMS

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5 for debt service for Fiscal Year 2011 for the Surrenden Farm Land Acquisition, as authorized under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting, or to take any other action relative thereto.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended by Majority Vote (4 In Favor, 1 Opposed)

Summary: *This article appropriates the debt payments for the Surrenden Farms Land Purchase. Funding for this article will come from Community Preservation Funds. The anticipated debt service for FY 2011 is \$494,013.*

MOTION:

Mover: Joshua Degen

I move that the Town vote, pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44B, Section 5, to appropriate the sum of \$75,000 from the Community Preservation Fund Open Space Reserve and to appropriate the sum of \$419,013 from the Community Preservation Fund Unallocated Reserve for a total of \$494,013 for debt service for Fiscal Year 2011 for the Surrenden Farm Land Acquisition, as authorized under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Article 12 Main Motion: Majority

ARTICLE 13: BYLAW AMENDMENTS AFFECTING TOWN OPERATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton as follows:

a) in Chapter 154 “Illicit Discharges to Municipal Separate Storm Drain System” by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all Sections and replacing those words with the words “Director of Public Works”;

b) in Chapter 180 “Roads and Ways” by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all Sections and replacing those words with the words “Director of Public Works”;

c) in Chapter 198 “Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development” by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all Sections and replacing those words with the words “Director of Public Works”;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *The 2009 Fall Town Meeting voted to authorize a petition for a special act to amend Article 5 of the Charter of the Town of Groton (Chapter 81 of the Acts of 2008) by providing for a Department of Public Works (new Section 5-4). The new DPW eliminated the elected Highway Surveyor position and replaced it with an appointed Director of Public Works, who would perform the duties previously performed by the Highway Surveyor. There are several Town Bylaws that make reference to the Highway Surveyor. The purpose of this article is to amend those Bylaws to reflect the newly created Director of Public Works position.*

Mover: Joshua Degen

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton as follows:

a) in Chapter 154 “Illicit Discharges to Municipal Separate Storm Drain System” by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all Sections and replacing those words with the words “Director of Public Works”;

b) in Chapter 180 “Roads and Ways” by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all Sections and replacing those words with the words “Director of Public Works”;

c) in Chapter 198 “Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development” by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all Sections and replacing those words with the words “Director of Public Works”.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Article 13 Main Motion: Unanimous

ARTICLE 14: AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 218 ZONING – TOWN OPERATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all sections and inserting in their place the words “Director of Public Works”, or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: No Position

Summary: *As noted above, the 2009 Fall Town Meeting voted to authorize a petition for a special act to amend Article 5 of the Charter of the Town of Groton by providing for a Department of Public Works (new Section 5-4). The new DPW eliminated the elected Highway Surveyor position and replaced it with an appointed Director of Public Works, who would perform the duties previously performed by the Highway Surveyor. This is another Town Bylaw that makes reference to the Highway Surveyor. The purpose of this article is to amend the Zoning Bylaws to reflect the newly created Director of Public Works position.*

MOTION:

Mover: Anna Eliot

I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, by deleting the words “Highway Surveyor” from all sections in which they appear and inserting in their place the words “Director of Public Works”.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3’s Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Planning Board Report – Unanimous support of this article

Vote on Article 14 Main Motion: Unanimous

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 218 ZONING – FLOOD PLAIN MAPS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, by deleting Section 218-29 Floodplain District regulations in its entirety and by inserting in its place the following new section:

Section 218-29 Floodplain District regulations

A. The Floodplain District is herein established as an overlay district. The District includes all special flood hazard areas within the Town of Groton designated as Zone A and, AE, on the Middlesex County Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program. The map panels of the Middlesex County FIRM that are wholly or partially within the Town of Groton are panel numbers 25017C0068E, 25017C0069E, 25017C0087E, 25017C0088E, 25017C0089E, 25017C0091E, 25017C0093E, 25017C0094E, 25017C0113E, 25017C0182E, 25017C0184E, 25017C0201E, 25017C0202E, 25017C0203E, 25017C0204E, 25017C0206E, 25017C0207E, 25017C0208E, 25017C0209E, 25017C0226E and 25017C0228E dated June 4, 2010. The exact boundaries of the District may be defined by the 100-year base flood elevations shown on the FIRM and further defined by the Middlesex County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report dated June 4, 2010. The FIRM and FIS report are incorporated herein by reference and are on file with the Town Clerk, Planning Board and Building Commissioner. These maps, as well as the accompanying Flood Insurance Study, are incorporated herein by reference.

B. Development regulations. The following requirements apply in the Floodplain District:

(1) Within Zone A, where the base flood elevation is not provided on the FIRM, the applicant shall obtain any existing base flood elevation data, and it shall be reviewed by the Building Commissioner for its reasonable utilization toward meeting the elevation or floodproofing requirements, as appropriate, of the State Building Code, for alterations and improvements to existing structures.

(2) No building or structure shall be erected in the one-hundred-year floodplain designated as Zones A and Zone A and AE on the Flood Insurance Rate Map

or to take any other action relative thereto.

PLANNING BOARD

Board of Selectmen: *Recommended (3 In Favor, 2 At Town Meeting)*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The proposed amendment will reflect the updating of the floodplain maps as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to FEMA, no significant changes have been made to the flood hazard data for the Town of Groton.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 218 Zoning, by deleting Section 218-29 Floodplain District regulations in its entirety and by

inserting in its place a new Section 218-29 Floodplain District regulations as set forth in the Warrant.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Planning Board Report – Planning Board in support. The adoption of these Floodplain District regulations is required by FEMA. The Town would be ineligible for FEMA support if not done.

Vote on Article 15 Main Motion: Unanimous

Robert Gosselin re-assumed the Moderator's position at this time.

ARTICLE 16: RESCIND REMAINING BORROWING AUTHORITY – SURRENDEN FARMS

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the remaining borrowing authority of \$635,000 voted under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting for the acquisition or purchase of fee interests in and a conservation restriction interest over certain land in Groton known as Surrenden Farms, or to take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN TREASURER

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *The April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting authorized the borrowing of \$5,650,000 for the Surrenden Farm purchase. Short term notes were issued for that amount. When the short term notes came due, the Community Preservation Committee paid down the short term notes with \$510,000 in CPA Tax Receipts and \$125,000 in grant funds. This resulted in a long term bond of \$5,015,000 because the remaining \$635,000 was paid down rather than bonded. The Department of Revenue views that balance as excess borrowing capacity. This vote would rescind the excess capacity.*

MOTION:

Mover: Anna Eliot

I move that the Town vote to rescind the remaining borrowing authority of \$635,000 voted under Article 1 of the April 24, 2006 Special Town Meeting for the acquisition or purchase of fee interests in and a conservation restriction interest over certain land in Groton known as Surrenden Farms.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Article 16 Main Motion: Unanimous

ARTICLE 17: ACCEPT MGL, CHAPTER 90, SECTION 20A½

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 90 §20A½, "Parking Violations; Tags; Appearance; Failure to Appear; Adjudication by Mail", or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously
Finance Committee: Recommended Unanimously

Summary: *In 1986, the Town of Groton accepted M.G.L. Chapter 90, Section 20A, which sets forth parking violation procedures and established the position of Parking Clerk. The Town follows these procedures in all matters pertaining to parking violations in Town. The Legislature authorized an alternative for enforcement of parking regulations with the adoption of M.G.L., Chapter 90, Section 20A½ which requires adoption of a local schedule of fines and sets different limits for fines. The acceptance of this provision of the General laws will allow the Town more flexibility when adopting and enforcing parking regulations.*

Mover: Stuart Schulman

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L., Chapter 90 §20A½, "Parking Violations; Tags; Appearance; Failure to Appear; Adjudication by Mail".

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Article 17 Main Motion: Unanimous

ARTICLE 18: AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 198 - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 198 Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development, by adding the following new subsection 12 and by renumbering subsequent subsections:

198-12. COMPLIANCE AND EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION

No land-disturbing activity shall take place, unless exempted by the terms of this Chapter, without compliance with a Stormwater Management Permit issued by the Committee, with the plans approved by that permit, and with any rules and regulations promulgated by the

Committee. In addition, any land-disturbing activity shall comply with all federal, state and local statutes, regulations, and bylaws and shall be subject to and comply with any other necessary permits, licenses, or other approvals.

In the event that the Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector determines, after an inspection, that an emergency situation exists with respect to soil erosion or sedimentation control under this Chapter and that the procedures set forth in §§ 198-4 and 198-7 cannot be complied with without substantially endangering the public health, safety, welfare or the environment, the Earth Removal Stormwater Inspector shall take whatever action may be appropriate consistent with the purposes of this Chapter. Such action may include authorization of such land disturbing activity as the Inspector deems prudent to stabilize disturbed or eroding land or other action which the Inspector deems necessary to protect the public health, safety, welfare or the environment. If such emergency action is taken, the Committee shall review said emergency action at its next meeting and may take whatever action it deems necessary under this Chapter, including issuing an order that a Stormwater Management Permit application be filed or an enforcement order or violation notice be issued under § 198-13 of this Chapter.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The proposed amendment adds an emergency provision to control erosion and prevent stormwater damage to public ways and abutting properties when such an emergency occurs. The proposed remedies would be subject to the review and approval of the Earth Removal Stormwater Advisory Committee.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 198 Stormwater Management – Low Impact Development, by adding a new subsection 12 as set forth in the Warrant and by renumbering subsequent subsections.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- John Giger (Earth Removal Storm Water Advisory Committee): This article provides an ability for the ERSW Inspector to take necessary actions to protect public safety and prevent erosion. The ERSWAC is unanimously in support.

Vote on Article 18 Main Motion: Unanimous

ARTICLE 19: **AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 134 EARTH REMOVAL**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 134 - Earth Removal, by deleting the following subsection in its entirety and by renumbering subsequent subsections:

§ 134-11. SPECIAL PERMITS.

Special permits may be issued by the Selectmen without a public hearing covering removals of a maximum of 50 cubic yards of earth material in any twelve-month period or removal of earth material necessary in conjunction with the reclamation of a silted pond or waterway, as authorized by the Conservation Commission, subject to any further conditions or limitations the Selectmen may impose.

or to take any other action relative thereto.

EARTH REMOVAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Finance Committee: *No Position*

Summary: *The proposed amendment removes a section of the by-law governing small quantities of earth removal. The regulations adopted under the by-law include an expedited process for earth removal associated with construction.*

Mover: Anna Eliot

MOTION: I move that the Town vote to amend the Code of the Town of Groton, Chapter 134 - Earth Removal, by deleting Section 134-11 in its entirety and by renumbering subsequent subsections.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- John Giger (ERSWAC): Section 134-11 may be in conflict with the remainder of Section 134. Section 134-11 topics are covered elsewhere. It's removal adds clarity to Chapter 134.

Vote on Article 19 Main Motion: Unanimous

Motion to dissolve the 2010 Spring Town Meeting

- **Seconded**
- **Vote to dissolve: Unanimous**
- **Meeting dissolved at 8:34 PM on May 3, 2010**

Warrant, Summary, and Recommendations

TOWN OF GROTON



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

**Groton-Dunstable Middle School Auditorium
344 Main Street, Groton, Massachusetts 01450**

Beginning Monday, April 26, 2010 @ 8:00 PM

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 26, 2010**

The SPECIAL TOWN MEETING was called to order at 9:45 PM on April 26, 2010

ARTICLE 1: CURRENT YEAR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer certain sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting
Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Summary: *To transfer money within the FY 2010 Budget should the need arise. A handout explaining any necessary transfer will be available at Town Meeting.*

MOTION:

Mover: George Dillon

I move that the Town vote to transfer the following sums of money within the Fiscal Year 2010 Town Operating Budget:

Transfer funds from:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount To Be Transferred</u>
9020 – Health Insurance	\$70,000
2021 – Fire Department Wages	\$ 250
2220 – Police & Fire Communications Wages	<u>\$11,000</u>
Total	\$81,250

Transfer funds to:

<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Amount Transferred To</u>
2001 – Police Department Wages	\$40,000
1160 – Town Counsel Expenses	\$40,000
2020 – Fire Department Salaries	\$ 250
1180 – Personnel Board Expenses	<u>\$ 1,000</u>

Total

\$81,250

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – STM Article 1: Unanimous

ARTICLE 2: TRANSFER WITHIN WATER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2010 Water Department Budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Summary: *This article allows the Water Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the FY 2010 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

MOTION:

Mover: Stuart Schulman

I move that the Town vote to authorize the Groton Water Department to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2010 Water Department Budget.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – STM Article 2: Unanimous

ARTICLE 3: TRANSFER WITHIN SEWER ENTERPRISE FUND

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2010 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *This article allows the Sewer Department to transfer money from its surplus account to cover any deficit in the FY 2010 budget. More information will be provided at Town Meeting to explain any transfer requested under this article.*

MOTION: **Mover: Stuart Schulman**
I move that the Town vote to transfer a sum or sums of money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2010 Sewer Enterprise Department budget, or to take any other action relative thereto

Seconded

MOTION: **Mover: Stuart Schulman**
I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion to indefinitely postpone STM - Article 3: Unanimous

ARTICLE 4: PRIOR YEAR BILLS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum or sums of money for the payment of unpaid bills from prior fiscal years, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *Town Meeting approval is required to pay bills from a prior fiscal year. A list of unpaid bills will be provided at Town Meeting.*

MOTION: **Mover: George Dillon**
I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$423 from Excess and Deficiency (Free Cash) to pay the following unpaid bills from prior fiscal years:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
The Groton Herald	\$ 36
The Groton Herald	<u>\$387</u>
Total	\$423

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 9/10's Majority

Seconded

Vote on Main Motion – STM Article 4: Unanimous

ARTICLE 5: COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REVALUATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money to obtain the services of the Town's assessing vendor for the purpose of updating the Commercial and Industrial property values, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Board of Selectmen: Recommended Unanimously

Finance Committee: Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting

Summary: *This article requests an appropriation of the necessary funding to update the Commercial and Industrial property in Town for the FY 2011 revaluation as required by Massachusetts State Law. This includes new commercial and industrial land and building values, cost base rates, income analysis, market rents, capitalization factors and preliminary Department of Revenue certification. The Town's assessing vendor (currently Vision Appraisal) will provide all services in conformance with all Department of Revenue requirements.*

MOTION:

Mover: Stuart Schulman

I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$16,000 from Line Item 9000 – County Retirement of the Fiscal Year 2010 Town Operating Budget to obtain the services of the Town's assessing vendor for the purpose of updating the Commercial and Industrial property values.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Why is this revaluation taking place?
 - Required by the MA Department of Revenue
- Why can't we do it ourselves?
 - Commercial valuations are complex. The Town hires this expertise.
- How are we paying for this?
 - The savings realized by pre-paying the county retirement plan will be used to fund this article.

Vote on Main Motion – STM Article 5: Majority

ARTICLE 6: UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS AT DPW FACILITY

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow a sum or sums of money to repair and/or replace the underground fuel storage tanks located at the DPW Facility on Cow Brook Pond Road, including all costs associated therewith and related thereto, or to take any other action relative thereto.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *Due to the unanticipated failure of the underground fuel tanks at the DPW Garage on Cow Pond Brook Road, the Town needs to replace the current tanks with two new tanks. The current tanks were installed in 1989 and consist of two 8,000 gallon tanks, one for regular fuel and one for diesel. Departments with vehicles, including the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, utilize the fuel from these tanks for their vehicles. A more detailed breakdown of the costs will be provided at Town Meeting.*

MOTION: **Mover: Peter Cunningham**
I move that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000 from the Stabilization Fund to repair and/or replace the underground fuel storage tanks located at the DPW Facility on Cow Brook Pond Road, including all costs associated therewith and related thereto.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: 2/3's Majority

Seconded

Minutes:

- Is it to the Town's financial benefit to have these tanks?
 - A professional analysis indicates that it significantly benefits the Town financially to be able to purchase gasoline and diesel in bulk. Additionally, the gas would be available 7x24 to town public safety vehicles, even when no commercial power is available.

Vote on Main Motion – STM Article 6: Unanimous

ARTICLE 7: LAND ACQUISITION – STATION AVENUE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate a sum or sums of money to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, lease, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise the following two parcels of land located on Station Avenue for the purpose of relocation of the existing Office and Garage facility of the Groton Electric Light Department in their entirety, said parcels being described as follows:

Parcel 1 - A certain parcel of land located on Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, containing .12 acres, more or less, record title standing in the name of James G. Downes, Jr. and Shirley May Downes, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South District

Registry of Deeds in Book 12712, Page 664, said parcel being shown on Groton Assessors' Map 113, as Parcel 51;

Parcel 2 – A certain parcel of land located on Station Avenue, Groton, Massachusetts, containing .17 acres, more or less, record title standing in the name of Shirley May Downes, as described in a deed recorded with the Middlesex South Registry of Deeds in Book 12541, Page 406, said parcel being shown on Groton Assessors' Map 113, as Parcel 52;

or to take any other action relative thereto.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSIONERS

Board of Selectmen: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*
Finance Committee: *Recommendation Deferred Until Town Meeting*

Summary: *The Groton Electric Light Department has investigated several scenarios for the relocation of their current office facilities located on Station Avenue. After much deliberation, it appears that rebuilding on Station Avenue is their best option. In order to construct the best facility with minimal impact on the Station Avenue neighborhood, it appears that acquiring land adjacent to the current facilities would be in the Department's best interest. The purpose of this article is to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire these two parcels on behalf of the Electric Light Department. The funds for these purchases will come from the revenues of the Electric Light Department.*

MOTION: **Mover: Joshua Degen**
I move Article 7 as printed in the warrant.

Seconded

MOTION: **Mover: Joshua Degen**
I move that this Article be indefinitely postponed.

Quantum of Town Meeting Vote: Majority

Seconded

Vote on Motion to indefinitely postpone STM Article 7: Unanimous

Motion to dissolve the Special Town Meeting at 10:15 PM on April 26, 2010

- **Seconded**
- **Vote on Motion to dissolve: Majority**

APPENDIX A

Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

The Town of Groton's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) is moving along very well with multiple tasks being completed simultaneously by the Town's consultant, Woodard and Curran. The CWMP is nearly 35% completed as of this date for both the Lost Lake area and the West Groton Square area.

One of the many items that Woodard & Curran was tasked with was a "Needs Analysis" for the Lost Lake Area and the West Groton Square Area using the Board of Health's records for areas where on-site septic disposal is a problem. In the Lost Lake Needs Area, approximately 280 parcels were identified and in the West Groton Needs Area, approximately 126 parcels were identified. A "Needs Area" is defined by a failing system or a system needing a Board of Health variance.

Once the "Needs Area" is clearly defined, wastewater flows or wastewater "loading" needs to be determined so that a collection system can begin to be sized appropriately as well as treatment alternatives and a disposal area. In the Lost Lake Area, 5 sites are being reviewed and studied by the Committee and by Woodard and Curran, as well as one off-site location. Water consumption reports, when available, determine the flows and the size of the disposal area required. In West Groton, two sites are being carefully reviewed and studied as well. Both committees have experienced some common issues related to the disposal sites which happen to be their proximity to Public Drinking Water Resources (or the Zone 2 of a drinking water resource).

In the Lost Lake Study Area, seven (7) sites have been reviewed by Woodard & Curran. Three of the sites have been eliminated due to their proximity to the Whitney Pond Wells. In addition, two other parcels are currently under the control of private conservation groups that may pose other environmental concerns as well as political hurdles. In West Groton, two sites have been identified, with one site being eliminated due to its proximity to West Groton's drinking water supply and in the Zone 2. Neither Committee has voted a recommendation on any sites to date pending further data and information from the Town's consultant.

The Lost Lake Study Committee is nearing its completion of the Income Survey and hopes to hear from the USDA – RD shortly on funding opportunities. It was determined early on that West Groton did not qualify for Federal funding opportunities.

APPENDIX B

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2010 SPRING TOWN MEETING

**Georgana B. Cochran; Joseph Crowley; Peter J. DiFranco; Michael F. Flynn;
Richard Hughson ; Jay M. Prager – Chair; Thomas L. Sangiolo**

Introduction:

The good news is that, despite continuing economic challenges, we are able to present a balanced FY2011 budget with only a small increase in the average tax bill. This year, the Finance Committee modified its budget review process. In past years, prior to the hiring of our Town Manager, the Finance Committee would delve into the minutiae of the budget and recommend specific cuts or additions in specific line items. This year we adopted a different approach: as we performed our department reviews we developed a list of budget items that we felt deserved attention; we then presented this list to the Town Manager and the Selectmen, but, with a few exceptions, we did not request or insist that each listed item be individually addressed. Rather, we asked that the expense budget be reduced by the total amount of our recommended reductions, leaving the details of where the reductions would be made to the discretion of the Town Manager and the Selectmen. For example, the Finance Committee felt that, given prevailing economic conditions, there should be no increase in town employee headcount in FY2011, whereas the Town Manager and others felt it important that the Town hire two police officers. The Finance Committee's position was that if hiring personnel was deemed a priority in FY2011, then funding for those hires should be found elsewhere in the budget. By this prioritization process, and through a series of cooperative open meetings involving Selectmen, the Town Manager, the Finance Department staff (Town Accountant, Treasurer/Collector, Town Assessor), Department Managers and the Finance Committee, a final balanced FY2011 budget was agreed upon. We are pleased to say that our recommended expense budget reductions, amounting to over \$125,000, were achieved with no decrease in municipal services and that the FY2011 municipal budget, exclusive of the schools, increased by only a fraction of one percent. The Finance Committee plans to meet regularly with department heads during FY2011 so that we can approach the FY2012 budget season with a better understanding of departmental needs and avoid the last-minute fact finding and disagreements that frequently occur in the final months leading up to Spring Town Meeting.

In past years, the Finance Committee has taken what it believes to be a responsible and cautious approach to budgeting and spending. As a result, Groton's financial condition is better than many other cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The economic picture, however, remains murky and there is risk with respect to revenues going forward. The Town saw a reduction in expected state funding during FY2009 and FY2010 and state government has projected reductions in FY2011 and FY2012. We have also seen other sources of revenue decline during FY2010, including reductions in investment income and automobile excise taxes. With this in mind, the Finance Committee believes that the town should continue to budget, act and spend responsibly and cautiously going forward.

The FY2011 Budget:

This year, we are being asked to consider and approve two town budgets. The first

budget stays within the Proposition 2½ levy limit and provides the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District with a funding increase from Groton of \$464,000, which is about 77% of the Town's projected new revenues in FY2011. The second, contingency, budget provides the \$1,459,000 increase in funding requested by the GDRSD and requires an override of almost \$1,000,000. The non-override budget will increase the average Groton tax bill by about \$64; the override budget will increase the average tax bill by another \$256 for a total increase of about \$320 (an "average tax bill" is the tax on a \$400,000 house). As in past years, more than half of Groton's total operating budget goes to fund the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District's operating expenses. In 2007, the Finance Committee warned taxpayer's that, despite falling enrollment, the cost of the schools were growing faster than the Town could afford and that if structural changes were not implemented to bring outsized budget increases back into line with realistic town revenue growth projections the result might be catastrophic. We repeated this warning in our report at last year's Spring Town Meeting and also noted that the GDRSD had, at that time, projected an FY2011 increase (resulting, for example, from known contractual obligations and benefits cost increases) of approximately \$800,000. That number, which should have been accurately determinable, has turned out to be significantly understated: the GDRSD shows the FY2011 increase in salaries alone to be over \$816,000 and the increase in benefits and related costs to be \$415,000, for a total of \$1,231,000. The total increase in the combined FY2011 assessment to Groton and Dunstable totals \$1,855,000, about \$1,305,000 more than the total of \$549,000 that Groton and Dunstable had included as increased GDRSD funding their FY2011 non-override budgets. In essence, the total additional amount that the schools are asking for – about \$1,305,000 – is only slightly larger than the amount – \$1,231,000 – that is needed to fund this year's wage and benefits increases. It is interesting to compare these increases to community averages. The average wage increase in the United States in the period from February 2009 to February 2010 amounted to 1% (Bureau of Labor Statistics). The total wage increases in the FY2011 GDRSD budget, adjusted for headcount, amounts to 4.0%. Teachers, who receive 95% of the total FY2011 GDRSD wage increases (\$773,643), will receive an average increase of 4.9% and will earn an average salary of \$68,935. These increases, which occur year after year, are a major cause of the spiraling costs of public schools. Both the Groton Finance Committee and the Town Manager have predicted that unless there are significant changes in the way the schools operate and compensate, we can expect to see a continuing series of override requests in the future. We have asked the GDRSD for forward-looking budget projections every year, but last year was the first time that we received one. Sadly, the estimate was off the mark. Given the impact of school funding on the Town's budget, we again voice our opinion that Groton taxpayers need to have an accurate, forwardlooking, set of school budget projections every year. We understand that this is not just a local problem. Many, if not most, cities and towns in the United States are struggling with similar problems. Nor can the problem be entirely solved locally. Among other initiatives, our elected representatives at all levels need to rethink and reform the federal and state mandates, laws and regulations that serve to drive school costs up without providing a concomitant increase in the quality of education. Unfortunately, we can't wait for that to happen – we have no choice but to act locally, and preferably in concert with other towns and regions, to try to bring this difficult situation under control. We also note, as we did last year, that while the revenue estimates in the FY2011 budget are relatively conservative, there is risk that actual FY2011 revenues may fall short of those projections. The state aid picture remains murky and it is not yet clear how general economic conditions will continue to affect members of our community. We warned last year that reduced

state aid, reduced automobile excise tax revenue and/or reductions in property tax and other collections could, among other things, throw the budget out of balance (a 1% decline in town property tax collections translates into a nearly \$250,000 decrease in town revenues). During 2010 we saw a reduction in excise tax revenue and State Aid. If general economic conditions continue to deteriorate, or if conditions stabilize but do not improve, the revenue assumptions used in the FY2011 budget may not materialize.

2010 Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

The following are the Finance Committee's comments regarding selected articles in the 2010 Spring Town Meeting Warrant:

Article 4: Wage and Classification Schedule

This article provides no increase (0% COLA) for "bylaw" (non-union) employees. The Finance Committee approved this unanimously as a matter of community equity: with local unemployment high, Groton Social Security recipients receiving no increases and the average U. S. wage increase only in the 1% range, we did not think a COLA raise was warranted. Because of longevity and other payments, many affected bylaw employees will still receive wage increases, amounting, on average, to about 1.5%. The Finance Committee also proposed providing a pool of funds that the Town Manager could use to provide selective, performance-based, increases or bonuses to bylaw employees. Unfortunately, Town bylaws prevent this from being implemented. We think it imperative that Town bylaws be modified so that bylaw employees may be compensated based upon performance, productivity and effectiveness, and in accordance with community wage standards.

Article 11: Community Preservation Funding Recommendations

With respect to specific CPC Proposals in Article 11:

Proposal A: Allocation to the Conservation Land Fund \$30,000

The Finance Committee voted unanimously in opposition to this expenditure for the same reason that it opposed a similar, larger, expenditure last year. The Conservation Commission currently has over \$700,000 in its reserves, as well as a pending grant award of more than \$90,000, resulting in a total Fund deposit that is comparable in magnitude to the Town's general stabilization fund and that exceeds the amount in the Town's capital stabilization fund. There is no objective reason for further increasing the already substantial amount of funds in the Conservation Land Fund.

Proposal B: Unkety Brook Well Site \$75,000

The Finance Committee is unanimously opposed to this expenditure. The Finance Committee believes that enterprise funds should be self-supporting and that their rate structures should enable funding of reserves for projected infrastructure improvements. The proximity of the well to any particular property, such as the High School, is not relevant, because the school will pay for the water it receives, just as any other ratepayer would.

Proposal C: Community Wide Agricultural Context Inventory \$25,000

The Finance Committee is unanimously opposed to this expenditure. Information regarding the history of agricultural activities in Groton is locally available and we can see no reason to pay so

large a sum for collecting it. This is another example of a project that ought to be done locally at no, or minimal, cost to the taxpayer.

Additional Comments:

Employee Compensation and Benefits:

Municipal wage and benefits increases, and unfunded defined-benefit pension liabilities, are significant issue facing communities today. Municipal employees, both union and non-union, typically receive a pre-negotiated increase each year along with “step”, “longevity”, “lane change” and other increases that rarely relate to the quality of the employee’s performance. Too often, these increases are negotiated based upon what employees in another town, or another union within town, are receiving – a surefire way to ensure a never-ending upward spiral in compensation, irrespective of community economic conditions and the actual market cost of hiring qualified individuals. Most, if not all, of our town union contracts are coming up for renewal. We think the Town Manager and the Selectmen should propose contracts that better reflect community equity and wage standards; that provide contingencies that make forward-looking wage increases subject to economic realities; and that offer “pay-for-performance” to incentivize and reward performance, productivity and effectiveness. Starting next year, taxpayers in the Commonwealth will be required by law to make up the shortfall in the state’s retirement pension funds. The funding will necessarily come from Town operating budgets, requiring cities and towns to raise taxes, find offsetting budget reductions or reduce services. Paradoxically, this additional tax load, which will be used to guarantee that government employees receive their full retirement benefits, comes at time when many taxpayers are still trying to figure out how to make up for losses in their own personal IRA and 401(k) retirement savings. We don’t deny public employees a fair and equitable retirement system. Pension reform, however, is another overdue priority that sorely needs attention.

CPC Funding Process:

The following comment was included in last year’s Finance Committee report. We think it is worth repeating: “While the Finance Committee agrees that the current application process is a valid and important way to identify CP projects, it questions whether the Town is best served by having it as the sole process. The Finance Committee suggests that the Town organize a proactive process, to complement the application process already in place, for identifying potential CP projects that might be of benefit to the Town, for defining CP spending priorities and for ensuring that funds are maintained within each CP reserve fund so that they are available when needed for planned priority projects.” There are many projects that the Town might accomplish using CPC funds, such as renovation of town-owned historic properties, if only there were a process in place to identify those projects and plan and coordinate funding of reserves within appropriate CP accounts.

Respectfully Submitted by the
Groton Finance Committee,
Georgana B. Cochran
Joseph Crowley – Vice Chair
Peter J. DiFranco
Michael F. Flynn
Richard Hughson

Jay M. Prager - Chair
Thomas L Sangiolo
April 20, 2010

APPENDIX C

Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Groton Town Meeting

April 26, 2010

Groton Dunstable Regional School Committee Members

Jim Frey, Chair – Dunstable Erik Dichter – Dunstable

Jon Sjoberg, Vice-chair – Groton Paul Funch – Groton

Alison Manugian, Secretary – Groton Pete Carson – Groton

Alberta Erickson – Groton

Slide 2

GDRSD Achievements

- Ranked Academically in Top 10 Percent
- Million Pennies Project
- Pages for Peace
- Destination Imagination
- Award winning Musical Groups
- Self-supporting, winning Athletic Programs

Slide 3

At a cost/student of \$11,379

– a bargain compared to \$13,055 state average!

GDRSD Budget Request

- Total Budget: \$ 36,421,260
- 1.3% increase over last year
- Groton Debt Assessment: \$ 1,657,605
- 6.6% reduction from last year
- Groton Operating Assessment: \$ 15,611,786
- 10.3% increase over last year

Slide 4

GDRSD Chapter 70 Funding

(Clerk note: Chart could not be converted to Microsoft Word)

Slide 5

Fundamental Shift: State Expects our Towns To Carry more of the Burden

GDRSD Cost Saving Measures

- Taking off line of Prescott - \$320,000
- Closure of Tarbell
- Unions' switch to GIC (Health Care) -\$300,000
- Redesign of transportation contract - \$148,000 (13%)
- Energy efficiency upgrades at Swallow Union
- 4 day summer work week
- Centralized custodial supplies & bulk ordering
- More in-district Special Education programs

Increasing reliance on revolving funds to pay for school lunch program and athletics

Slide 6

GDRSD Service Reductions-

- 43 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Reductions from FY08-FY10
- 24.7 classroom teachers
- 9.2 paraprofessionals
- 3.2 administrative positions (pay freeze for administrators FY10)
- 2.23 team chairs and curriculum leaders
- 1.7 guidance positions
- 2.0 maintenance/custodial positions
- Many stipend positions have been reduced or eliminated
- Since FY2008 Total Reductions of over \$2.5 Million

Slide 7

The Funding Problem: FY11

State Funding Reductions (from FY10)

Chapter 70 – Educational Funding (-6%) – \$655,938

Chapter 71 – Reg. Transportation (-40%) – \$328,086

Circuit Breaker (-36%) – \$200,000

-\$1,184,024

Federal Grant Funding “Cliff”

ARRA/IDEA (-40%) - \$200,000

Total Revenue Lost (FY10 to FY11) -\$1,384,024

Slide 8

Override: Services to be Saved

- 30 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Reductions FY11:
- 13.33 classroom teachers
- 6.0 paraprofessionals
- 2.0 administrative positions
- 5.65 team chairs and curriculum leaders
- 1.0 social worker
- 2.0 maintenance/custodial positions
- Many stipend positions have been reduced or eliminated

Slide 9

What Does This Mean to Groton?

Groton Town Assessment Groton Town Budget

Operating \$15,611,786 Operating \$14,616,005

Debt \$1,657,605 Debt \$1,657,605

Total \$17,269,391 Total \$16,273,610

Town of Groton Shortfall \$995,781

Amount to reach Levy Limit \$64,445

Total Groton Override = \$931,336

Slide 10

What Is the Tax Impact?

- Average property value is approximately \$400,000
- Override tax increase is \$60 per \$100,000 of property value
- Average annual tax increase to reach levy limit \$ 16
- Average annual tax increase due to override \$ 240
- Total average annual override tax increase \$256

- *Average property owner impact is
70 cents a day or \$21.50 per month*

Slide 11

Summary

- Difficult Times For State, Local & Personal Finances
- Systemic Cost Shift to Towns
- Can't just cut our way out of this
- District and SC Working Hard to Lower Costs and
Achieve Sustainability
- Need Your Support

Slide 12

Questions and Comments