

**Report of the Interim Administrative Officer
February 2008**

The Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen held two (2) day long budget meetings on Saturday, February 2nd and Saturday, February 9th. Both Boards heard Fiscal Year 2009 budget presentations from department heads. It is understood, that the Town will not be able to sustain its current spending patterns, as a result, I anticipate reductions in personnel and the level of services currently being provided.

Town meeting will consider the Fiscal Year 2009 budget when it commences on Monday, April 28th. The deadline for submitting warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting was Thursday, February 28th at noon. Approximately, thirty (30) articles were received. Beyond routine articles, some articles of interest include various changes to the town's bylaws which were submitted by the Planning Board. Also, there are two articles that would establish a Lost Lake Sewer Committee and a West Groton Sewer Committee.

As a follow-up to the October 22, 2007 Special Town Meeting the Board of Selectmen executed a twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) consulting contract with H&H Associates. The consultants will identify and prioritize town owned parcels of land that may be suitable for building affordable housing; issuing a request for proposals for developers to respond to; and explore the feasibility of establishing a community development corporation. This project is being funded through the Community Preservation Committee and is a significant step forward in the Town taking control and setting a realistic implementation plan for the Town's affordable housing agenda.

The Board appointed Nancy Todd and Wayne Addy to the Great Ponds Advisory Committee; Conni Sartini to be an election worker and to serve on the Williams Barn Committee. Also, the Selectmen voted to appoint Norma Garvin to serve on the Archives Committee, and Francis Goldbach to serve on the Council on Aging

The Board congratulated Martha Campbell, Executive Director of the Senior Center for achieving national certification. Groton is now among the top ten Senior Centers in the Commonwealth. Martha is also working to introduce a new local transportation option.

Respectfully,

J. Jeffrey Ritter
Interim Administrative Officer

