

**For Immediate Release
March 25, 2009**

Acton Finance Committee Corrects Cost-Saving Assertions

ACTON — March 25, 2009 — The Acton Finance Committee moved swiftly and unanimously to correct misstatements that are circulating in campaign ads, public presentations, and newspaper accounts that it has already endorsed a list of cost-saving measures that could save the town millions of dollars in the upcoming fiscal year.

Committee members emphasized that they have not endorsed a vetted list of suggestions at this time, and those who assert that such a list will save the town millions of dollars in the fiscal year that begins in July 2009 are jumping ahead of the process.

The Acton Finance Committee conducted several cost reduction idea gathering and brainstorming sessions over the last few months. None of these ideas has been fully and appropriately analyzed with business case value analysis. Over the next six months, the Fincom will conduct detailed analysis of these ideas and will look forward to bringing them to the town in the future. The timing of the process allows for full participation by staff and elected boards who are preparing for Town Meeting at this time of year and will allow careful deliberations of which suggestions provide the most value and benefit to the citizens. Any which can be immediately adopted at that time will be brought forward after the vetting process and if appropriate put into place at that time. However, to state that these “reduction suggestions” can impact this year's budget misrepresents the facts. As such, the Fincom cautions Acton citizens not to rely on this statement as they consider this year's town budget plans.

Chairman Steve Noone clarified, “From citizen input we have collected a list of suggestions. We are currently vetting this list with the school and town managers, and will reach out to involve other boards and interested parties.” Mr. Noone said that once the ideas are vetted

to determine whether they are currently being done and whether they are legal to implement, the Finance Committee will prioritize those that can be done quickly and those suggestions that have a larger dollar impact. Once quantified, the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee can determine whether these should be implemented. Mr. Noone also cautioned that the suggestions with the biggest dollar savings often involve compensation and benefits; current state regulations and collective bargaining agreements would prevent the Finance Committee from unilaterally or immediately implementing many of the suggestions.

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