



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager 860-441-6630

Meeting Agenda

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Damon Q. Helme, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Jennifer Smuts, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Thomas W. Vivirito, and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

- A. ROLL CALL
- B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG
- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2009
- D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

This is the portion of the RTM agenda where the RTM welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to ten minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be limited to matters pertinent to Groton. The Moderator, or members through the Moderator, shall ask questions only in order to clarify the speaker's presentation. Responses may be given by the Moderator and/or by the Town Manager. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

- E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS
- F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:
 - 1. Financial report
 - 2. Monthly briefing
- G. LIAISON REPORTS
- H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. FINANCE

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Bartinik

2009-0273 Information Technology Recovery Plan - Supplemental Appropriation

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT

WHEREAS, \$91,000 was appropriated in a FYE 2005 Capital Improvement Project for the purchase of servers and attendant software installation as a key component of the Town's Information Technology Disaster Recovery Project, and

WHEREAS, this purchase was not completed by June 30, 2009, and

WHEREAS, \$73,966.84 of funds previously appropriated for this project expired on June 30, 2009 and reverted to the Capital Reserve fund balance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$74,000 is re-appropriated from the Capital Reserve fund balance for the Information Technology Disaster Recovery Project as an FYE 2010 Capital Reserve Project, for the purchase of servers and software as part of the Town's overall Information Technology Disaster Recovery plan.

Refer to RTM.

Legislative History

10/23/2009	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
10/27/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
<i>Doug Ackerman, Director of Administrative Services, described a previous CIP project for an Information Technology Disaster Recovery Plan. The final plan has only recently been adopted and the project funding has lapsed. Mr. Ackerman is requesting reappropriation of \$74,000 from the CIP fund to reactivate this project. Funds will be used to purchase two high capacity servers.</i>			
10/27/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
<i>Councilor O'Beirne asked why the project wasn't completed in five years. Mr. Ackerman explained that he wanted to see the overall plan before committing to specific servers. Councilor Sheets asked whether this plan addresses Fitch High School and Mr. Ackerman noted that the Board of Education should have its own disaster recovery plan.</i>			
11/4/2009	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken	
11/4/2009	Town Council	Adopted and Referred	Representative Town Meeting
11/18/2009	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Finance Committee

2009-0276

Supplemental Appropriation to the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION TO THE OTHER POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, in June 2004 the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement #45 entitled "Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits other than Pensions", and

WHEREAS, the Town has an OPEB Liability that it has been funding since fiscal year 2005, and

WHEREAS, in FYE 2008 it developed a five year plan to fund the "net budget impact" of the annual required contribution, and

WHEREAS, in FYE 2010 due to the uncertainty of the State revenues, it did not increase its OPEB contribution but anticipated increasing the last two years of the five year plan to make up for that omission, and

WHEREAS, now that the shortfall in FYE 2010 State revenues is known and can be absorbed by the FYE 2009 available fund balance applied, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$240,500 is appropriated from the General Fund's unreserved, undesignated fund balance for the FYE 2010 OPEB contribution to account #10713- OPEB Liability.

Refer to RTM.

Legislative History

10/27/2009	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
11/4/2009	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken	
11/4/2009	Town Council	Adopted and Referred	Representative Town Meeting
<i>The Town Manager stated that there has been an Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Fund for years, but the contribution to OPEB was not increased last year as had been outlined in a five-year plan. After reviewing the amount of revenue returned from last years' Town and Board of Education budgets and the amount of Federal Impact Aid, it was prudent to make up this contribution to avoid a larger gap in the future. Mr. Oefinger noted that all three bonding agencies take OPEB into account when determining their ratings.</i>			
11/18/2009	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Finance Committee

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt

3. EDUCATION

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Swindell

4. RECREATION

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Warn

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Parfitt

6. PUBLIC WORKS

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

7. RULES & PROCEDURES

- a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Scott

2010-0001 Rules for Twenty-Seventh RTM**RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the rules of the Twenty-Seventh Representative Town Meeting as recommended by the Temporary Rules and Procedures Committee are hereby adopted.

I. OTHER BUSINESS**2009-0190 Preliminary RTM Budget Discussion****PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION FOR RTM'S FY2011 BUDGET PROCESS**Legislative History

11/18/2009 Representative Town Meeting Discussed

Rep. Sebastian reviewed a spreadsheet that he prepared and provided to all members in their monthly packets. The memo addresses the grand levy over the last ten years. He noted that he based his spreadsheet on figures provided by the Finance Director. He feels that the RTM is responsible for the Grand Levy because the RTM approves the Town spending each year. He commented that the RTM is the last defense for holding the line against budget and tax increases. He stated that he has received comments from residents who are concerned about the increase in taxes each year, especially individuals on fixed incomes. He suggested that the RTM needs to discuss now what next year's budget bottom line should be at the end of the 2010 budget deliberations.

Rep. Massett stated that every year there are requests for no tax increase. She clarified that past and current Town Managers have asked the RTM to suggest what services should be reduced or eliminated. She feels the RTM needs to think about making those type of suggestions to the Manager.

Rep. Smuts agreed with Rep. Sebastian. She noted that in addition to debt service, there are other items that the RTM has no control over, such as contracts and salaries. She feels the RTM needs to have a list of items or services which are within its control to help identify the items that the public is willing to have reduced or eliminated. She cited as possible examples a reduction in the library hours, or in police response time. She feels there are many things in the budget that citizens enjoy but that it is the job of the RTM to make the difficult decisions that result in reduced or eliminated services .

Rep. Ebbin stated that she read in the newspaper about the recent BOE teacher contract negotiations that included no wage increase for 2010. She commented that since the RTM has no involvement with contract negotiations for Town employees, the Council should follow this direction with Town employee contracts. She feels it is important to be equitable with teachers and Town employees. She does not want the teachers to be the only ones penalized by the current economic situation.

Rep. Cooper agreed with Rep. Sebastian and stated for the record that he does not want an increase in the budget this year.

The Town Manager responded to Rep. Sebastian's remarks concerning the grand levy, debt service and inflation levels. He stated that many factors have influenced the budget over the last ten years. He mentioned that the phase-in of the last revaluation adversely affected many residents and benefited others, and that the decrease in revenues from outside sources has increased dependency on local property tax. These issues have a far greater influence on the increase in taxes than the growth of the budget. He feels it is essential to identify the services that are important for the Town, since traditional revenue sources are no longer keeping pace or are being eliminated. He noted that in the past he has presented a reduced or level budget, and that the Council or RTM has added money back for services they did not want eliminated.

Rep. Peruzzotti commented that she was impressed with the reorganization and reduction to the library's budget last year. She feels that all Department Heads should be encouraged to make similar changes this year.

In response to Rep. Sebastian, the Town Manager distributed a spreadsheet comparing changes in the Consumer Price Index to changes in the adopted budget minus debt service over the past ten years. He responded to Rep. Peruzzotti that the library situation was a unique opportunity to reorganize and make changes to operations. He noted that every vacant position is scrutinized and the affected department is reviewed to see if changes, reorganization, or elimination of the position is possible. He confirmed that no job is automatically filled. He stated that he does not foresee a large number of retirements this budget year, nor does he anticipate an opportunity for reorganization similar to that at the library. He mentioned that Rep. Sebastian is suggesting a 0% tax levy budget for 2010 which would significantly affect the Town and most likely cause layoffs which most members do not support.

12/16/2009 Representative Town Meeting Discussed

Rep. Sebastian observed that the RTM approves expenditures and has no input on the income to the Town. He feels that it would not be unreasonable if the RTM had consensus to recommend a zero tax increase. He stated that many residents will not receive Social Security increases and that Medicare costs are increasing. He suggested that the Town Manager and Superintendent provide the lowest estimate possible for State and Federal Revenue and propose a budget that does not raise taxes.

J. ADJOURNMENT