



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

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

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Natalie B. Billing, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Joyce F. Bergeson, Laurie Kim Briggs, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Warren T. Cooper, Nancy S. Driscoll, Syma Ebbin, June Evered, Peter Fairbank, Melissa M. Finlayson, Irene B. Garagliano, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Wendy L. Hellekson, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, James Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Richard Metayer, Betsy Moukawsher, Scott Newsome, Deborah Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Betty A. Prochaska, Don Pratt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Joan Steinford, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, and Cheryl Tilney

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting - April 9, 2008
2. Annual Budget Meeting

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 Granatosky

2008-0069 Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING: (1) THE CREATION OF AN (OPEB) TRUST TO HOLD, INVEST AND ADMINISTER FUNDS FOR POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTH BENEFITS AND (2) THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT AND ANCILLARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION THEREOF

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Under authority of Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-450 and to meet the requirements of the Government Accounting Standards Board, the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are hereby authorized and directed to establish a trust (the "VantageCare RHS Employer Investment Program Town of Groton Integral Part Trust") to hold and invest the assets of the Town's postemployment health benefit system as part of the "VantageCare RHS Employer Investment Program" and to enter into an "Administrative Services Agreement" with the International City Management Association Retirement Corporation ("ICMA-RC") for the administration thereof and any other agreements and/or documents ancillary thereto. The execution of any documents hereunder is subject to the approval by the Town Attorney of their form and legality. The Town Manager, the Director of Finance and the Director of Administrative Services are hereby empowered to serve as a committee to act as Trustee of said Trust, and the Town Manager may appoint up to two other town employees to serve as Trustees as part of said committee. This Ordinance shall become effective 44 days after publication of notice of passage.

Legislative History

3/17/2008 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of the W

3/25/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo and Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman were present to address the Council. Mr. Pandolfo asked the Council to set a date for a public hearing on this ordinance. The Government Accounting Standards Bureau (GASB) sets policy for the public sector with respect to accounting principals. Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) - health insurance benefits for retirees - have historically been financed on a pay as you go basis, but GASB has required implementation of a policy that handles OPEB the same way that pensions are handled. The Town has been putting money aside since 2005 and the funds must now be transferred to a trust.

3/25/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Motion

to recommend resolutions introducing the ordinance, setting a public hearing date of April 15th, and authorizing the Director of Finance to obtain a cost estimate for altering the benefit system

4/15/2008 Town Council Heard at Public Hearing

Still being in recess, Mayor Watson opened the Public Hearing on the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Ordinance at 7:49 p.m.

There being no comments, Mayor Watson closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

4/22/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo noted a qualified cost estimate was provided by the actuary showing what the benefit would be to establishing the trust fund. Mayor Watson noted that no one spoke at the public hearing on April 15th. Councilor Sheets noted that ICMA is already servicing the Town's deferred compensation plan and is taking this on at no additional charge.

4/22/2008 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

4/29/2008 Representative Town Meeting Referred RTM Finance Committee

5/6/2008 Town Council Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken

5/6/2008 Town Council Adopted and Referred Representative Town Meeting

2008-0098 FYE 2008 Fourth Quarter Transfers

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2008 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for supplemental appropriations to Adopted Budgets and transfers from the Contingency function during the year and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter also provides for the transfer of funds from one departmental function

to another departmental function during the last three months of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, transfers and a supplemental appropriation are necessary and represent unforeseen or unexpected expenditures at the time the FYE 2008 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$88,416 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Voter Registration (#1003) @ \$5,000;
for additional expenses associated with phones and electronic voting machines as required by Help America Vote Act (HAVA), for elections not budgeted and to cover additional election costs (ballots, programming memory cards and storage cabinets).

Legal Services (#1006) @ \$25,000;
for costs associated with personnel/labor relations issues.

Human Services (#1051) @ \$38,000;
for costs associated with evictions.

Contributions to Other Funds (#1007) @ \$20,416;
to eliminate the operating deficit that materialized in the Golf Course Fund in FYE 2003.

Legislative History

4/14/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
4/22/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
<i>Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo explained the request for fourth quarter transfers from Contingency, which would result in a Contingency balance of \$261,584.</i>			
4/22/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
4/29/2008	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Finance Committee
5/6/2008	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken	
5/6/2008	Town Council	Adopted and Referred	Representative Town Meeting

2008-0095 CIP Project Reauthorization - High School Auditorium

RESOLUTION REAUTHORIZING A CAPITAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE HAGERTY AUDITORIUM AT FITCH HIGH SCHOOL

WHEREAS, funds were appropriated in the Capital Improvement Program of FYE 2004 for new air conditioning at the Hagerty Auditorium of Fitch High School, and

WHEREAS, CIP appropriations are valid for five years including the year of appropriation, and

WHEREAS, there are funds remaining from the FYE 2004 CIP that will expire at June 30, 2008, unless re-appropriated, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM may re-appropriate unexpended CIP funds, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the remaining balance of \$74,590 for FYE 2004 CIP project #5D (Air Conditioning - FHS Hagerty Auditorium) be re-appropriated and referred to the RTM for approval via RTM Rule 6.5.3.

Legislative History

4/10/2008	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
4/22/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
<i>Town Manager Oefinger explained that there were two CIP projects for the high school auditorium that were approved prior to approval of the Phase I school project. One project was previously extended; this is a request for extension of the second project. Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, noted that there is no state reimbursement associated with this project, but there was a rebate from CL&P for energy efficiency. Discussion followed on the availability of time-of-day metering.</i>			
4/22/2008	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
4/29/2008	Representative Town Meeting	Referred	RTM Finance Committee
5/6/2008	Town Council	Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken	
5/6/2008	Town Council	Adopted and Referred	Representative Town Meeting

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

2007-0140 Town Property at Buddington/Old Buddington Roads

RESOLUTION TO OFFER TOWN PROPERTY ON NORTH ROAD, BUDDINGTON ROAD AND OLD BUDDINGTON ROAD TO CITY OF GROTON UTILITIES

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton owns two parcels of land, amounting to approximately 1.8 acres, on North Road, Buddington Road and Old Buddington Road that were acquired by tax foreclosure, and

WHEREAS, based on the report of the Town's Property Review Team, then Town Manager Ronald LeBlanc and the Office of Planning and Development Services recommended in 1995 that these properties be offered to Groton Utilities for purchase, before being offered for public sale, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council considered the sale of these properties to Groton Utilities in 1995 for a total price of \$19,208.82, but the sale was not consummated, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton up to this date has not had plans for using the subject land for any Town purposes, and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has represented that their ownership of the land would enhance the security and safety of their reservoirs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton offer the parcels of land on North Road, and Buddington Road/Old Buddington Road, designated with PIN Numbers 169807790529E and 169910366848E to Groton Utilities for the total sum of \$25,000, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon receiving notification of the buyer's legal acceptance of the offer, Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may execute an appropriate deed and all other documents and certifications necessary for the conveyance of the subject property.

Refer to RTM

Legislative History

5/21/2007	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of the W
8/14/2007	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Mayor Watson provided a brief history on this issue and the parcel which was obtained by the Town through tax foreclosure and noted that he made this referral. The City of Groton would like to purchase the property for back taxes. Councilor O'Beirne noted some older history when the property was fenced off by Groton Utilities and there were discussions about making the parcel a park. Councilor O'Beirne asked for more

research on the history of the property and discussions with the City of Groton.

Town Manager Oefinger noted he spent hours researching this issue and found that there is a single property on Buddington Road, which was last discussed in 2002 in association with a potential walking path along Route 117. There is \$11,526.03 in back taxes owed. Councilor O'Beirne asked for the appraised or assessed value of the land.

**8/28/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Discussed**

Councilor O'Beirne asked why the Council needs to take action on this at this time. He feels this is the Town's last "bargaining chip" to obtain recreational access to the reservoir property. Councilor Scott suggested putting this item on the agenda for a joint meeting with the City of Groton.

**9/18/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Recommended for a
Resolution**

See 9/18/07 Committee of the Whole discussion under 2007-0010 Joint Meeting with City Council (2007 Standing Referral)

**10/2/2007 Town Council Removed from Consent
Calendar Deletion List**

10/2/2007 Town Council Re-referred Town Council Committee of the W

The Town Manager reviewed his discussions with the Town Attorney pertaining to the Town's ownership of foreclosed property, and whether this matter needed to be referred to the Planning Commission and to the RTM.

Responding to Councilor Sheets, the Town Manager confirmed that there was an assessed value of the two parcels involved in this resolution which was provided to the Council at an earlier date.

Upon the suggestion of the Town Manager, the Mayor received consensus from the Council to re-refer this item to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion and pending further information from the Town Attorney.

**10/9/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Discussed**

This item was re-referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Town Manager has not yet received a suggestion from the Town Attorney on how to proceed. Town Manager Oefinger briefly reviewed possible options and further discussion was tabled to the next meeting.

Councilors Kolnaski and Schmidt arrived at 6:50 p.m.

**11/13/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger has not received the Town Attorney's opinion on this item yet. The Town Attorney is looking into adopting a procedure for selling a piece of property that has been transferred to the Town through tax foreclosure which would also include Town Council review as soon as property is foreclosed. Mayor Watson asked that this item be placed on the November 20th special meeting agenda.

Town Manager Oefinger provided a brief background on this issue for new Councilors.

**11/27/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Discussed**

Mayor Watson provided a brief background on this item.

**11/27/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Motion**

to rescind the previous action recommending this item for a resolution

**11/27/2007 Town Council Committee of
the Whole Motion**

to refer the potential transfer of property to Groton Utilities to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24

12/4/2007 Town Council Referred Planning Commission

12/11/2007 Planning Commission Referred Town Council Committee of the W

4/9/2008 RTM Community Development & Services Committee Postponed to a Certain Time RTM Community Development & Time

4/9/2008 Representative Town Meeting Postponed to a Certain Time RTM Community Development & Time

A motion to approve this item had been made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Baril prior to the motion to postpone.

In response to Rep. Power, the Moderator clarified that the motion is to postpone action on the item, and that a simple majority vote is needed to postpone. She explained that if the vote to postpone fails then the main motion would be voted on.

3. EDUCATION

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

4. RECREATION

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

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

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

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 Evered

2008-0125 RTM Members' Conduct and Decorum during Debate

RTM MEMBERS' CONDUCT AND DECORUM DURING DEBATE

Legislative History

4/29/2008 Representative Town Meeting Referred RTM Rules & Procedures Commi
Moderator Billing addressed the members, reminding them to keep discussion respectful and focused on the issues. She stated that she was contacted by a number of members concerning the tenor of a member's comments at the May 8, 2008 budget session. There was concern that a line of common courtesy was crossed and that disparaging comments were directed at individuals. She reminded all members that comments should be confined to the merit of the pending questions and that comments of a critical nature should never become personal or name individuals. She noted that each member has the right to express his or her opinion on an issue, but that all members, elected officials and Town staff have the right to be treated with respect. The Moderator suggested that it diminishes regard for the RTM when the rules of courtesy are not observed. To prevent problems in the future, Moderator Billing made a referral asking the Rules and Procedures Committee to develop language for the RTM rules about decorum and debate.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

J. ADJOURNMENT