



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

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## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

*Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson*

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

#### SPECIAL MEETING

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets  
Members Absent: Councilor Watson

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, and Labor Relations/Risk Manager Joyce Sauchuk.*

#### 3. NEW BUSINESS

##### 2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget

##### Discussed

*Town Manager Oefinger gave an overview of the FYE 2011 budget. He explained that most of the department heads have submitted their requests and he expects to meet with them at least one more time. He went on to explain that this is a tough budget year with an increase of approximately \$1.6 million for non-departmental expenditures. This includes increases to the retirement fund, health care and contractual salary obligations. Mr. Oefinger stated that on average, a level service budget accounts for a 3% increase. Combined with contractual obligations, the increase is nearly 9%. Services will need to be evaluated.*

*Finance Director Pandolfo explained in detail the economic conditions related to the Town's Grand List. He then familiarized the Council with his department's particular needs. Mr. Pandolfo concluded his presentation describing various scenarios as to how to meet a 0% increase or a 5% decrease to his overall budget.*

*Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman presented a detailed overview of all the departments under his supervision including Information Technology, Emergency Communications, Labor Relations /Risk Management, and Occupational Safety and Health. He assured the Council that reductions beyond what he has presented would be difficult and that at this time he hasn't fully completed projections for a 0% increase budget or the decrease of 5%.*

*Joyce Sauchuk, Manager of Labor Relations/Risk Management, briefed the Council as to the fact that she is currently negotiating with some bargaining units and that any changes as a result of this process will be forthcoming.*

*Councilor Watson arrived at 6:55 p.m.*

*Discussion continued with Mr. Ackerman addressing various questions regarding the Town's Emergency Communications Department.*

*The Town Manager explained that additional meetings with department heads will be scheduled for the next few Tuesdays. This will give the Council the opportunity to receive information early in the budget process.*

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*