



# 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*

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Tuesday, April 12, 2011

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.*

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Members Absent: Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson and Councilor Peruzzotti

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.*

3. **Calendar and Communications**

*None.*

4. **Approval of Minutes**

**2011-0091 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting of March 22, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

*Councilors Johnson and Flax arrived at 7:02 p.m.*

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

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

**2011-0090 FYE 2011 Fourth Quarter Transfers**

**Discussed**

*Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo explained the request for transfers from Contingency for costs associated with snow plowing/ice control and a June primary for the Judge of Probate special election.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

*Councilor Peruzzotti arrived at 7:05 p.m.*

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

**2011-0087 Summer Food Service Program (2011)****Discussed**

*Joyce Sauchuk, Manager of Labor Relations/Risk Management, requested authorization to submit a grant application for this year's summer food program. She provided a brief overview of last year's program and proposed 2011 sites.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0085 Acceptance of Portions of Roads in the Crosswinds Subdivision**

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*In response to a question from Councilor Sheets, Town Manager Oefinger noted that he has received no complaints about stormwater runoff from the Crosswinds Subdivision.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0095 Authorization to Prepare Bond Ordinance for Water Pollution Control Facility Refurbishments****Discussed**

*Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, described the request to prepare a bond ordinance for November 2011 to fund renovations to existing structures at the Water Pollution Control Facility. Three of the Town's projects have been included in DEP's Clean Water Fund program for 2011-2012. Mr. Schneider described specifics of the project and financing options.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

*Councilor Sheets raised the issue of greenhouse gasses emanating from the treatment facility. She asked if consideration was given to the issue. Mr. Schneider stated he would have to ask the engineer.*

*Mr. Schneider explained a recent sewer clog and spill, unrelated to this issue or plant operations. He then reviewed the sewer district boundary and the difference between the sewer district tax and sewer use fees.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0096 Reauthorization of Water Pollution Control Facility Additions and Improvements****Discussed**

*Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, explained that funds associated with the expansion of the Water Pollution Control Facility are due to expire on June 30th. Mr. Schneider described the project and remaining work. This request is to re-appropriate \$325,000 to complete the project.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2010-0192 Interlocal Dispatching Agreement with North Stonington****Discussed**

*The Town Manager noted that the Town Council held a public hearing on this proposed agreement with North Stonington for dispatching services and no comments were received. North Stonington has held a public hearing on the agreement and approved it.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0093 Pfizer Grant - TRI Program****Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger reviewed this grant opportunity for a senior health program operated in conjunction with the Towns of East Lyme and Waterford.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2009-0039 Recommendations of the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community****Discussed**

*Mayor Streeter noted that this item was referred to the Environment Committee in Group II on March 8 and then referred back to the Committee of the Whole at the Environment Committee's meeting on March 22. Councilor Sheets noted that Group II meetings are regularly cancelled and she was concerned that this item would not be addressed in a timely manner. Councilor Sheets proposed reestablishing the task force which could then deliberate on the recommendations. She noted members of the former task force were present to answer questions.*

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that this item was placed on the agenda for clarification regarding which committee would consider the referral.*

*Councilor Flax feels that because this is a big issue, it should be considered by the full Committee of the Whole. Councilor Watson suggested a special meeting of either committee to discuss the referral. He stated he is not ready to discuss the recommendations as this is a busy time for the Council. Councilor Monteiro does not feel there are any time constraints to consider the recommendations and she agreed that if the referral remains in Committee of the Whole, a special meeting should be devoted to it. She does not want to deal with the issue until after the budget process. Councilor Peruzzotti does not feel that a permanent task force can do anything without staff support, which is not financially feasible at this time. Councilor Monteiro agreed this is a larger issue than just establishing a permanent task force. Mayor Streeter noted the former task force's frustration with the level of staff support, but staff is stretched thin. Many tasks undertaken by the former task force were very broad and future efforts need to be channeled into accomplishable goals. He expressed support for a special meeting of the Environment Committee with the former task force members. Mayor Streeter also suggested a name change to the Energy, Efficiency, and Conservation Committee. Councilor Flax stated that four recommendations were identified and that is the topic for discussion by the Council. Councilor O'Beirne stated that of the four recommendations identified by the former task force, he supports establishing a permanent task force so that they can do "homework" on a number of issues. Councilor Monteiro cannot support establishing a permanent task force unless they can work without using any Town resources. She would like to identify exactly what is needed to support the task force before it is established. Councilor O'Beirne agreed that there are questions and staff does not have the time to devote to the effort, which is why he is looking to a permanent task force.*

*A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Mayor Streeter, to establish the Energy, Efficiency, and Conservation Committee as a permanent committee with the idea of answering certain questions related to the Climate Change Task Force report.*

*Councilor Kolnaski noted that the Town already has a Conservation Commission and it could be a naming conflict. Discussion followed on the name of the committee.*

*The Town Manager observed that there was a task force that worked for the specific period of time identified by the Council. The full report of the temporary task force has not yet been reviewed collectively by the Council. The Council has noted the four recommendations, but it would be a good idea to digest the report in its entirety. Before a permanent task force is established, the*

*Council should identify what the questions and issues are because that will help identify membership. At the Committee of the Whole meeting on March 8th, the desire was to postpone this until after budget deliberations. Before setting up a committee, the Council should identify what the Committee will do. It was suggested that the Climate Change Task Force's role was too broad. That should be addressed before setting up a permanent committee. Councilor Flax agreed with the Town Manager and suggested discussing the four recommendations and additional questions about the report at a later date, either in Group II or Committee of the Whole. Councilor Peruzzotti suggested a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole after the budget with interested members of the former task force to answer some questions.*

*Councilor Johnson withdrew his motion and Mayor Streeter withdrew his second.*

*The consensus of the Council was to hold a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole with members of the former task force some time after the budget process to review the final report, recommendations, and Councilors' questions.*

**2010-0172      FYE 2012 Budget**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger reviewed upcoming budget review sessions.*

*The Town Manager then addressed a recent newspaper report that the Town could receive \$10.3 million less in state aid. He explained that the figure is probably associated with a "Plan B" budget being prepared by the governor in case union concessions do not happen. Municipalities across the board would receive 28-29% less in state aid.*

**7.      Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List**

*None.*

**8.      OTHER BUSINESS**

*Town Manager Oefinger requested a referral regarding Electric Boat's application before the DEP to dismantle the dam on their property on Poquonnock Road. The pond associated with the dam is located on Town of Groton property and DEP has asked for a letter of acknowledgement regarding the dam breach from the Town. Mayor Streeter referred the item to the Committee of the Whole.*

**9.      ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*