



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

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

*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, April 26, 2011

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

---

#### SPECIAL MEETING

---

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.*

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

*None.*

4. **Approval of Minutes**

**2011-0107 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 meetings of October 19, 2010, April 5, 2011, and April 12, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

**2011-0081 FYE 2012 Proposed Budget Deliberations**

**Discussed**

*Councilors had no additional comments or questions on the FYE 2012 Proposed Budget.*

**2011-0098 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2012**

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

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 7 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

**2011-0099 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2012)**

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

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 7 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

**2011-0100 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2012)**

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

*Councilor Sheets disclosed that she is a resident of Mumford Cove.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

*Councilor Flax arrived at 7:11 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

**2011-0101 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2012)**

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0110 Proposed Revisions to Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan and Policies**

**Discussed**

*Doug Ackerman, Director of Administrative Services, noted that no increases for part time employees were included in the FYE 2012 Proposed Budget. Previously, automatic annual increases were included in the plan, but this proposal would allow the Town Manager to make that decision from year to year. The plan includes several technical changes including the number of hours allowed for part time employees, minimum wage adjustments, language concerning telecommunicators, and shift premiums at the library.*

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0108 General Fund Balance Amount**

**Discussed and Recommended no action taken**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that this issue was raised during a budget review session. Any changes to the level of Fund Balance are usually made before the final mill rate is set. In 2009, the Town Council approved a change to Town's Debt Policy and Management/Fiscal Practices that increased the minimum fund balance to 7.5%. The Town Manager noted an e-mail from the Town's Financial Advisor outlining issues to consider if the minimum Fund Balance were to be lowered. The Town Manager strongly recommends against lowering the Fund Balance. As a community, Groton is very fortunate to have the bond rating that it does. Any conscious effort to cut the Fund Balance would be premature and ill-advised given the unknowns associated with the budget at this time.*

*Councilor O'Beirne explained that he had raised this issue since the Town is appropriating dollars to achieve a 7.5% Fund Balance. Discussion followed on establishing a "range" of say 7% to 10%. Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo noted that the bond rating agencies would be concerned with any decrease below 7.5%.*

*The Town Manager explained that the contribution to Fund Balance is a "moving target" that could change before the final mill rate is established. He also noted that the Council considered a range in 2009 and settled on "at least 7.5%."*

*The consensus of the Council was to not change the policy at this time.*

**2011-0106 Removal of Dam on Electric Boat Property, Poquonnock Road**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that this dam, located on Electric Boat property, served an old*

mill that has been removed. The dam weir has been open for some time and the pond on Town-owned land has been drained, except when the weir has become blocked with debris. Electric Boat would like to permanently breach the dam. The company had wanted to remove the dam while they were dismantling their Annex building, but they provided no information to the Town at that time. Recently, a representative of Electric Boat requested a letter of acknowledgment from the Town of Electric Boat's Department of Environmental Protection application to breach the dam. Water will be directed into a pipe system in Poquonnock Road and eventually make its way to Birch Plain Creek.

The Council concurred with the dam breach and authorized the Town Manager to sign a letter of acknowledgment to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection.

**A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 8 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson  
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Sheets

**2011-0109 Lease of Photovoltaic Solar Electric System**

**Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger noted that DCS Energy recently forwarded a group of contracts for installation of photovoltaic solar systems on various buildings in Town. Eligible Town buildings are Town Hall Annex, the Police Department, the Library, and the Highway Garage; the Animal Shelter was incorrectly identified by DCS.

This is a no-cost five-year lease. The Town may incur incidental costs associated with the installation.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.