



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 Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Somers

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2014-0109 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 25, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

The motion carried unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2014-0098 Status of Mumford Cove Roads

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the purpose of having this item on the agenda is to brief the Town Council on legal research that has been conducted as a result of a letter to the Town from Mumford Cove concerning the construction of the Lily Lane trail. The Mumford Cove Executive Committee has rescinded its previous approval of an easement to allow construction of the trail. Another letter from Mumford Cove expressed concern with Phase III of the path, which is planned, but not funded, and the use of private roads in Mumford Cove. Executive session is recommended because there could be litigation.

Councilor Somers arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson

A motion was made by Mayor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Watson, to enter executive session at 6:07 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a potential claim or litigation associated with #2014-0098 Status of Mumford Cove Roads, and to invite the Town Manager and Town Attorney Mike Carey to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 6:48 p.m.

2013-0125 City of Groton FYE 2014 Highway Budget - Request for Mediation

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that the members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger, and Town Attorney Matt Auger enter into executive session at 6:49 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B) for the purpose of discussing strategy concerning the upcoming budget negotiations with the City of Groton and receiving an update on the recently concluded Committee hearing related to the FYE 2013 City Highway Budget.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 8:13 p.m.

Councilor Somers left the meeting.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Somers

2013-0154 Consolidation of Police Dispatch

Discussed

Councilors received a packet of information regarding integration with the City Police Department Dispatch. Joe Sastre, Emergency Management Director, provided an overview of what would have to happen if the decision were made to integrate dispatch operations with the City Police Department. The Town currently dispatches City fire, but not police.

Mr. Sastre stated that the Town can dispatch the City police and the model is used in dispatch centers across the country. Mr. Sastre presented maps showing radio coverage, transmitting to a portable radio, and noted that there are areas that do not meet standards, but they still work. The Town's existing system does not reach all the way into the City, but it could be reprogrammed with a transmitter on the Brandegee Avenue water tank to cover the City.

Councilor Somers returned to the meeting.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson

Discussed

Mr. Sastre presented four options ranging in price from \$19,000 to \$400,000 (order of magnitude figures only). Mr. Sastre reviewed the details of each option. Consolidation could be accomplished with cooperation and direction, and a detailed study to produce accurate cost estimates, which would take a couple of months.

Mr. Sastre stated the Town would look for grants to offset costs. He discussed the reticence of police chiefs/departments to give up their dispatch operations due to loss of control."Groton is the only municipally-operated, regional, full service dispatch center in the state. Councilor Moravsik would like to talk to police departments that have given up their dispatch operations to see what their experience has been. Councilor Watson noted that the discussion is not about consolidating with another town, but within the same town.

Councilor Cerf asked if there is an ability to incrementally improve the system and Mr. Sastre stated yes.

Councilor Flax feels that consolidating dispatch will increase safety overall by allowing

communication between the Town and City. He questioned how much cooperation from the City is necessary to implement the program and Mr. Sastre stated the City must agree to consolidation. Councilor Flax expressed support for putting the technology in place to build on the desire to have one dispatch.

Councilor Moravsik cited a letter from Mayor Galbraith dated June 11, 2013 indicating she was interested in seeing how money can be saved.

Councilor Somers expressed concern with safety and support for moving forward with a system that could be integrated. If the Town makes the investment and the City chooses not to get on board, the question is why. The Town must spend money to save money in the long run. Mr. Sastre stated that even more important than the savings is safety.

Mayor Schmidt noted that the record keeping system (CAD) was a major concern. Mr. Sastre explained that the City would have the same access to the records system that the Town police officers do.

Councilor Flax noted that the communication system has been updated so that all fire departments can communicate and there has been no push back.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that these are order of magnitude estimates. The Town will need help from an outside consultant to evaluate what the City has in terms of equipment and needs. Mr. Sastre suggested the evaluation could be done without a consultant, but it would require conversations with the City and site visits.

Councilor Watson noted that the City has employees that they do not want to lose their jobs. He asked if there are any openings in the Town dispatch center. Mr. Sastre stated that there is not a large employee turnover in dispatch, but City employees would be considered if there were an opening.

Councilor Frink stated that there would be associated policy and procedure changes, and Mr. Sastre agreed that technology is not the only component in consolidation.

In response to a question, Mr. Sastre explained the purpose of the antennae equipment on Noank School.

A motion was made by Councilor Somers, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to create a new FYE 2015 CIP project and to put in \$60,000 this year with the remaining funds spread out over the next three years to accomplish Option 4.

Discussion followed on meeting with the City before actually budgeting the funds. Councilor Flax cited a letter from the City indicating they want to talk. Town Manager Oefinger questioned what the \$60,000 is for within the \$400,000 project. Mr. Sastre suggested that \$200,000 may be required initially. Councilor de la Cruz asked about the need for an RFP and Mr. Sastre noted that the Town's contractor is on the state bid list.

The Town Manager stated he would provide additional information on the project at an upcoming budget meeting.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

2014-0110

Acceptance of Open Space Formerly Associated with the Hilltop Associates Subdivision

Not Discussed

2014-0108

Disposal of Spicer Dock

Not Discussed

2014-0107 **Mystic Garden Club Grant - Jabez Smith House**

Not Discussed

2014-0106 **Pfizer Community Grant - Library Summer Reading Program**

Not Discussed

2014-0068 **Televise Special Meetings of the Town Council Committee of the Whole**

Not Discussed

2014-0114 **Adoption of 2014 Town Council Finance Committee Regular Meeting Schedule**

Not Discussed

2014-0112 **Request for Proposals to Review Zoning Regulations and Plan of Conservation and Development**

Not Discussed

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

Recommended for Deletion:

2014-0042 **Non-Union Personnel Matter**

Not Discussed

2014-0086 **Water Quality Testing**

Not Discussed

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

The motion passed 8 votes in favor, 1 opposed (Peruzzotti).