



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 Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

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 Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

3. Calendar and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

2015-0093 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 March 24, 2015 and March 31, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

The motion carried unanimously

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2014-0236 FYE 2015 Fire District PILOT

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

- Center Groton Fire District

Kathy Ivey, Derek Fauntleroy, and Ed Quinlan of the Center Groton Fire District were present. Chief Fauntleroy stated that there have been no changes from last year. The district demolished the old firehouse on Candlewood Road to make room for possible future expansion. Center Groton Fire Department has 35 active members that provided 8500 volunteer hours of service last year. Chief Fauntleroy stated that 80% of Center Groton's calls are medical in nature, but last year there were 178 calls of which 78 were medical.

Councilor Peruzzotti arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf and Councilor de la Cruz

Chief Fauntleroy reviewed certifications of the department's members and the equipment that the

department has. Center Groton belongs to the regional equipment program started by Chief Ken Richards. As volunteers, Center Groton responds with one person and waits for additional personnel to arrive. The fire event in the district last year was backfilled with Poquonnock Bridge paid personnel. The current mill rate is 3.5 and the district provides only fire and EMS services.

Mayor Schmidt thanked the representatives for attending. Mr. Quinlan provided a copy of the fire district's budget.

2015-0090 Introduction of Ordinance for Refurbishment of WPCF Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station
Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that three referrals on the agenda relate to a project previously reviewed with the Town Council (refurbishment of the Water Pollution Control Facility effluent pump station and rehabilitation of the Fishtown Road pump station). The Town Council subsequently directed staff to have a bond ordinance prepared. If the Council would like to proceed with the project, the Town Council must introduce the ordinance, schedule a public hearing and refer the project to the Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24.

The Town Manager noted that no additional bond referendums are anticipated for November. The School Facilities Initiative Task Force is looking at a May referendum date.

The suggested public hearing date for this bond ordinance is May 19th and it would be a joint public hearing with the Water Pollution Control Authority. A fiscal impact analysis will be available at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0091 Scheduling of Public Hearing on Ordinance for Refurbishment of WPCF Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0092 Referral of Refurbishment of WPCF Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0096 Appointment of Adrianna Lublin to Noank School Public Gardens Task Force

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0050 Legislative Policy Initiative to Increase Revenues

Discussed

The Town Council received a memo from Jon Reiner with a copy of the signed consulting services agreement with VHB. Mr. Reiner's memo suggests ideas for use of the extra funding, but a more detailed memo will be prepared for the Council's consideration in the future. The consultant will be starting work shortly. Councilor Flax questioned the identification of and matrices for three priority properties mentioned in the agreement. The Town Manager stated that information will be gathered for all properties so that the top three can be identified, but he will clarify the intent with the consultant.

2014-0257 FYE 2016 Budget Discussion

Discussed

Councilor Frink noted that during the budget discussion with the Board of Education, four items were identified that would benefit from follow-up:

- Obtaining 100% state funding for special education
- Federal funding for IDEA
- The number of civilian children in Navy housing for which the Town collects no taxes
- Eliminating state mandates for education that are ineffective and costly

Town Manager Oefinger noted that a significant amount of research has already been conducted on the third item. Taxing is not an elective because state law requires the Town to collect federal impact aid. The Town Manager described the most recent efforts by Congressman Courtney on this issue and suggested that the Council may want to meet with him in the future. There is a set pool of federal impact aid money and if Groton gets more, others will get less so any legislation that would benefit Groton faces an uphill battle.

The consensus of the Council was to send a letter to Mike Graner, Superintendent of schools, asking to begin quarterly meetings in June.

Councilor Flax noted past communication problems with the RTM when they are reviewing the budget. He suggested that a summary sheet of the changes made by the Town Council and the rationales be provided to the RTM and that Councilors attend the RTM budget meetings if possible.

Councilor de la Cruz arrived at 6:37 p.m.

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

Discussion followed on the timing of presenting the information to the RTM. Town Manager Oefinger suggested that the information be provided at the RTM's annual budget meeting under Public Communications. He noted that the Town has introduced narrative to the budget notes in an attempt to capture the Council's thought process.

The consensus of the Council was to prepare a summary for submission to the RTM.

2015-0076 Charter Oak Community Giving Grant - Senior Center

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0082 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0089 Mystic Rotary Club Grant

A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0094 Charter Oak Community Giving Grant - Library

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

It was noted that this \$20,000 grant includes naming rights for the computer lab for the Charter

Oak Credit Union. Discussion followed on placing a time limit on the naming rights (five to 10 years) if so desired by the Council. Councilor Frink asked about legal considerations with naming rights if there are problems with the organization in the future. The consensus was to impose a 10 year limit on naming rights.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0007 Property Acquisition/Sale (2015 Standing Referral)

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted this issue concerns an individual who has approached the Town about purchasing their property that is located next to a Town facility.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to enter executive session at 6:55 p.m. to discuss 2015-0007 Property Acquisition/Sale and to invite Town Manager Mark Oefinger to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:09 p.m.

2015-0005 Pending Litigation (2015 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to enter executive session at 7:10 p.m. to discuss 2015-0005 Pending Litigation and to invite Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Project Manager Rick Norris and Town Attorney Eric Callahan to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:50 p.m.

2012-0050 Potential Disposition of William Seely School Property

Not Discussed

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

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.