



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Monday, April 23, 2012

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Somers called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Watson

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2012-0077 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 February 28, 2012, March 6, 2012, March 13, 2012, March 27, 2012, and April 9, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

The motion carried unanimously

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

2012-0117 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2013

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0118 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2013)

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

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that she cannot support the increase in the mill rate. Councilor Antipas commented on the budget process and suggested that the Council should start as soon as this budget is done determining what the Town wants. The Town Manager reviewed highlights of the budget and the Council's actions. Councilor Streeter noted his reason for supporting additional road maintenance funds. He expressed support for televising budget deliberations in the future. Mayor Somers reviewed the process and noted that she does not like the increase, but unless things change in the Town of Groton, these are the types of budgets that can be expected. She noted that she would like the Council to hold a retreat with department heads.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Peruzzotti

2012-0119 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2013)

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0120 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2013)

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0111 FYE 2012 Fourth Quarter Transfers

Discussed

Sal Pandolfo, Director of Finance, described the request for a fourth quarter transfer from Contingency to Registrar of Voters for costs associated with the primary on April 24th.

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

Councilor Watson stated that he will be working at the polls for the primary and he abstained from voting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Watson

2012-0121 Godfrey Street - Request for Easement

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained the request for a formal easement for a parcel located on a 'paper street' off Godfrey Street in Mystic. A house was built on the lot a number of years ago. Typically, only a utility easement is requested. Previously, the Town approved a utility easement and granted an access easement to another lot on the same paper street. A memo on the issue from Town Attorney Mike Carey was distributed to the Council. The house on the subject lot is being sold and the title company is asking for a formal easement, similar to what was done for the other lot. This item must be referred to the Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24.

Mr. Barry Saluk, the property owner, was present to answer any questions for the Council and he noted that time is of the essence.

2012-0124 Referral of Godfrey Street Easement to Planning Commission Under CGS Sec. 8-24

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0069 Police Station Renovations

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted this item is on the agenda to pick a date and time for a tour of the Police Station. A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole was scheduled for May 1st at 6:00 p.m. Councilors will meet in front of the police station.

2011-0218 Fitch High School Baseball Field - Update

Discussed

Mayor Somers explained that she invited Mr. Kelleher to speak to the Town Council directly in

executive session and he would be arriving shortly. The Town Council recessed at 6:45 p.m., pending Mr. Kelleher's arrival.

The meeting reconvened at 7:18 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, to enter executive session at 7:18 p.m. for the purpose of discussing 2011-0218 Fitch High School Baseball Field - Update, and to invite Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Attorneys Eileen Duggan and Erica Callahan, Kevin Kelleher, Dennis Long, and upon their arrival, Paul Kadri and Kirsten Hoyt, to attend the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

Mr. Kadri and Ms. Hoyt arrived at 8:40 p.m. and joined the executive session. Council Watson left the executive session at 9:05 p.m.

The executive session ended at 9:29 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Councilor Watson

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.