



# 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 28, 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 Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Watson  
Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

*None.*

4. **Approval of Minutes**

**2015-0109 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 meetings of April 14, 2015 and April 21, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-0086 Hyde Pond Dam Removal**

**Discussed**

*Deb Jones, Environmental Planner, explained that the Town was approached by the Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) about removing the Hyde Pond Dam. She described the location of the dam, which is co-owned by the Town of Groton and a private property owner on the Stonington side. Ms. Jones noted that a fish ladder was previously installed in this location, but had limited success. Removal of the dam will open about four miles of fishable waters. CFE is asking the Town to sign a Memorandum of Agreement to allow them to enter Town property to remove the dam. CFE will stabilize both sides of the dam and create a channel. The Town-owned property is open space acquired as part of subdivision approval. The dam was originally installed in the early 1800s as part of a mill on the Stonington side.*

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0095 FYE 2015 Fourth Quarter Transfers**

**Discussed**

*Cindy Landry, Director of Finance, noted there are five accounts that require transfers with the bulk of the transfer for Public Works snow removal. The transfers will be taken from the balance in Contingency (\$288,630) and the Unassigned Fund Balance (\$286,936). Discussion followed on the increase in Legal Services.*

*Ms. Landry noted that the Town is expecting approximately \$100,000 from FEMA for storm costs, but it is not anticipated to be received before the end of the fiscal year.*

*Discussion followed on the responsibility of Human Services for costs associated with evictions.*

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0111 Fiscal Impact of Refurbishment of WPCF Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station**

**Discussed and Recommended no action taken**

*Town Manager noted that the Town Council's Debt Policy and Management/Fiscal Practices require that a fiscal impact statement be prepared for the proposed bond ordinance (Water Pollution Control Effluent Pump Station and Fishtown Road Pump Station).*

*Cindy Landry, Director of Finance, reviewed her referral memo which includes information on the payments for the \$8,230,000 sewer district bonds at 3.75% rate for 20 years; existing and proposed debt service payments and the impact on the mill rate; and a comparison of current debt limit to statutory and Town Council policy limits. The information as presented does not include projects that may be authorized in the future.*

**2015-0033 Budgeting and Funding for Subdivision-Specific Services**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger noted that this referral was placed on the agenda in error. The referral was made after a letter was received from the City and Groton Long Point proposing that the residents of the City, Groton Long Point, and the Town pay for services that are primarily or solely for the benefit of the residents within that area. Discussion followed on whether or not the proposal is even possible and if it should be reviewed with the Town Attorney. Councilor Cerf asked for background information on secession. Town Manager Oefinger addressed the secession issue and stated that he does not believe the state wants to add another town. The issue goes to the heart of 'community' and the general consensus was that there must be a better way to work through issues. Councilor Moravsik feels that the Town owes the City and Groton Long Point an answer to the letter. Councilors asked that the referral be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda.*

**2014-0202 City Highway Budget Committee - Update**

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that the Town Council enter into Executive Session at 6:42 p.m. with Town Manager Mark Oefinger pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6) to discuss strategies and/or negotiations about likely pending claims by the City against the Town concerning the pending City highway budget funding request. The City of Groton has indicated a willingness to proceed to arbitration as it did two years ago. Attorney Auger has provided the Town Council with an attorney client protected memorandum and attorney work product on this subject and the contents of such memorandum will be discussed with the Town Council.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**Discussed**

*The executive session ended at 7:55 p.m.*

**2012-0050 Potential Disposition of William Seely School Property**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger provided a brief update on the disposition of William Seely School.*

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

*None.*

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.*