



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, June 8, 2010

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2010-0134 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 May 25, 2010 and June 1, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2010-0005 Pending Litigation (2010 Standing Referral)

Discussed

See 6/8/10 motion to enter executive session under 2010-0084 High School Water Infiltration Issue.

2010-0084 High School Water Infiltration Issues

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Johnson, that the members of the Committee of the Whole, along with Town manager Mark oefinger, Director of Public Works Gary Schneider, and Attorney Eric Callahan go into executive session at 7:04 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation concerning (1) water infiltration issues at the high school and (2) damage to the Water Pollution Control Facility as a result of screen failures.

The motion carried unanimously

The executive session concluded at 7:49 p.m.

2010-0135 River Road Repairs

Discussed

result of the March storm. The road has been dead-ended at the northern end of the road. Repairs will be difficult and require significant permitting. Director of Public Works Gary Schneider described the damage. The Town has provided some pedestrian access, but it is unknown what is remaining structurally to support vehicular traffic. Mr. Schneider explained that the Town does not have the expertise to do this type of bridge reconstruction. Staff has met with an engineering firm, Purcell Associates, that could be engaged to conduct a study to determine if the road can be opened to alternating one-way traffic. Purcell Associates could also be involved in permitting issues involved in removing asphalt and possibly gravel from wetlands. The proposal is to hold neighborhood meetings and enter into agreements with property owners as necessary to effect repairs. Because River Road is a scenic road, a public hearing will be required to make any repairs. This is considered a major project by FEMA that is reimbursable at 75%. Mr. Schneider is requesting a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$75,000 for engineering work. If the funding is not approved, the project would go into the regular Capital Improvement Funding cycle delaying the work until summer of 2011. This is estimated to be a six to nine month project after permitting. Another supplemental appropriation will be necessary for construction which is estimated to be around \$500,000. This request must also be approved by the RTM.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0132 Groton Long Point Police Budget - Request for Supplemental Appropriation

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger received a communication from Bob Congdon, president of the Groton Long Point Association, requesting a supplemental appropriation for the Groton Long Point police budget. However, the request was sent before Groton Long Point adopted its annual budget and decided to fund the requested amount themselves. The Town Manager recommends that the Town start the Town-wide Police Assessment before considering the supplemental request. The Police Chiefs need to be involved, but also representatives of the Town, City and Groton Long Point. The Town Manager feels it would be worthwhile to bring in an outside consultant. Funds were encumbered for this study a number of years ago. The Town Manager suggested that the various parties discuss what should be addressed by the study. Discussion followed on the supplemental appropriation.

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

It was clarified that the supplemental appropriation was not for the Town-wide police study, but to "reimburse" Groton Long Point's budget. Councilor O'Beirne expressed support for the supplemental appropriation.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 5 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Peruzzotti

Opposed: 2 - Councilor Flax and Councilor Watson

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to use existing funds to conduct a study of the conditions of the Town, City and Groton Long Point Police Departments.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0133 Appointments to Noank School Reuse Task Force

Discussed

Mayor Streeter read the names of the persons interested in serving on the Noank School Reuse Task Force. Councilor O'Beirne feels Noank School's immediate neighborhood is over-represented. He asked that there be an open solicitation for volunteers. The other Councilors concurred.

2010-0131 Acceptance of Heartwell Drive

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

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0242 Town-Wide Property Maintenance Code

Referred

Councilor O'Beirne suggested that the Public Works Committee review the existing code for the Fort Hill neighborhood and make recommendations for a Town-wide code. The Mayor referred the issue to the Public Works Committee.

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study

Discussed

Mayor Streeter reported on a meeting with City representatives regarding Thames Street. A Thames Street Review Committee was established with the following members: Mayor Streeter and Councilor Monteiro from the Town Council; Deputy Mayor Galbraith and Councilor Hedrick from the City Council; Hali Keeler and Robin Hoffman from the Thames Street Rehabilitation Committee; and Representatives Svencer, Beckwith, Steinfeld, and McCarthy from the RTM.. The purpose of the Review Committee is to discuss phasing and a possible May referendum. The initial meeting is scheduled for June 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Avery-Copp House. The Committee will walk the entire length of Thames Street.

A motion was made by Mayor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to appoint a Thames Street Review Committee with the members as noted by Mayor Streeter.

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0282 School Improvement Project - Phase II

Discussed

The Master Planning Study Phase II was distributed to the Council in May. In March, the Board of Education engaged another consultant who developed additional information that is being presented to the School Design Committee on Thursday, June 10th. On Monday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole for a formal presentation of the report by the School Design Committee as well as the additional information from the Board of Education's consultant.

2010-0119 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

Discussed

Mayor Streeter noted a number of miscellaneous and ad hoc committee appointments that he has made. This motion will formalize the appointment process.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0026 Terms and Conditions of Town Clerk Employment

Discussed

Councilor O'Beirne and Councilor Flax met with Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher prior to the meeting. A previously prepared draft terms and conditions document was reviewed with the Town Clerk, but the two sides are at an impasse. The Town Clerk does not want formal terms and conditions. She feels that she is not an employee of the Town, however she wants the benefits of a Town employee. Councilor O'Beirne will be drafting a request for an opinion from the Town Attorney.

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List**2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget**

Recommended for Deletion

2009-0314 Freedom of Information Act Presentation

Recommended for Deletion

2010-0106 October 2011 Revaluation

Recommended for Deletion

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager provided an update on the South Road underpass. The area is scheduled for repaving and the Town is working with Amtrak to get permission to install lights underneath the tracks. The Town has pre-positioned cones and signs and DOT has added the pumps to their regular maintenance schedule. The Town is still working with the state on better signage.

It was noted that the FEMA claims center is operating at the Senior Center. Information is available on GMTV. Approximately 30 people per day are filing claims.

Mayor Streeter and Councilors Watson, Johnson, Kolnaski, and O'Beirne indicated they would participate in the 4th of July parade.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.