



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 Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR 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 Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Antipas and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

Councilor Watson noted that he has been communicating with Jerry Lokken from Parks and Recreation about the 4th of July parade. Some Councilors indicated they would be participating in the parade and they requested a vehicle.

4. **Approval of Minutes - None**

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2013-0178 Strategy and/or Negotiations with Respect to a Pending Claim Concerning the Appointment of Special Counsel

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Morton, that the Town Council, along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Attorney Eileen Dugan go into executive session at 6:10 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes 1-200 (6) (B) to discuss strategy and/or negotiations related to a pending claim concerning the appointment of special counsel.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 6:30 p.m.

2013-0075 Property Acquisition/Sale (2013 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Somers, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to enter executive session at 6:31 p.m. to discuss #2013-0075 Property Acquisition/Sale and to invite Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Greg Mackin to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 7:24 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Mayor Somers, seconded by Councilor Flax, that the Town Council, along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Attorney Matthew Auger go into executive session at 7:25 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes 1-200 (6) (B) to discuss strategy and/or negotiations related to a pending claim concerning the City of Groton highway budget appropriation for FY 2013-2014.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 8:00 p.m.

2010-0215 Community Access Television Application to DPUC

A motion was made by Mayor Somers, seconded by Councilor Watson, that the Town Council, along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Municipal Video Specialist Shawn Greeley and Town Attorney Michael Carey go into executive session at 8:01 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes 1-200 (6) (B) to discuss strategy and/or negotiations with respect to the applications to PURA by SEC-TV and the Town of Groton to be designated the local cable service area public access provider, including a discussion of the terms of a possible resolution of the matters.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 8:12 p.m.

2013-0068 Blight Ordinance

Discussed

Town Attorney Mike Carey distributed a memorandum and revised version of the draft blight ordinance. Mr. Carey noted that he had previously reviewed the ordinance with Planning and Development staff and found it to be generally acceptable. Since that time, the state passed legislation dealing with blight and the Town Attorney has recommended some modifications to the ordinance. Mr. Carey is also recommending that the ordinance include statutory language so there is no question about compliance requirements and appeal options. Planning and Development staff worked hard to glean from residents their concerns about blight and how to deal with it and the substantive provisions in the ordinance are a result of that effort and staff's experience administering the Neighborhood Revitalization Zone. The state legislation also creates a 15-member state-wide task force to create a model ordinance for municipalities. Mr. Carey recommends that the Town proceed with this ordinance and make changes if necessary once the model is available.

By consensus, the Committee of the Whole confirmed a desire to move forward with the ordinance.

2013-0172 Fiscal Impact of Flanders Road Utilities Expansion and Police Station Improvements Projects

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

Sal Pandolfo, Director of Finance, explained that the Town's Debt Policy requires the Town Council to consider fiscal impacts of the Police Station Improvements and Flanders Road Utilities Expansion projects proposed for referendum in November. Mr. Pandolfo reviewed the information provided to Councilors in the agenda packet, and distributed a revised Chart A2. Interest rates in future years are estimated. Chart C provides a comparison of the current debt limit to the statutory debt limit and town Council policy. The total of current outstanding debt, upcoming projects pending bond issue, and proposed projects totals \$82,518,467. The statutory debt limit for the Town of Groton is \$637,478,548 which means that the Town will be at 12.9% of the state limit. The debt limit per Town Council policy is \$318,739,271 which means the Town will be at 25.9% of the policy limit. Debt service must be less than 10% of general fund expenditures or \$11,995,396. The estimated debt service in FYE 2019 (the highest year) is \$6,334,040 or 5.3% of general fund expenditures. The Town Manager stated that Groton is still below the median for debt when compared to all Connecticut municipalities.

2013-0165 Introduction of Ordinance on Police Station Improvements

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

The motion carried unanimously

- 2013-0166 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Ordinance for Police Station Improvements**
- A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously
- 2013-0167 Referral of Police Station Improvements to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24**
- A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Johnson, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously
- 2013-0168 Introduction of Ordinance on Flanders Road Water and Sewer Expansion**
- A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously
- 2013-0169 Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Ordinance for Flanders Road Water and Sewer Expansion**
- A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously
- 2013-0170 Referral of Flanders Road Water and Sewer Expansion Project to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24**
- A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously
- 2013-0171 Referral of Flanders Road Water and Sewer Expansion Project to Water Pollution Control Authority Under CGS Section 22a-479**
- A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously
- 7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List**
- None.*
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS**
- It was determined that there would not be a quorum for the July 2nd Town Council meeting and the meeting was cancelled.*
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**
- A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.*
- The motion carried unanimously.*