



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant Town Manager Doug Ackerman, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

3. **Calendar and Communications**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2014-0217 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 July 8, 2014 and July 22, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

The motion carried unanimously

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

2014-0224 Exercising the Option to Extend Audit Contract for an Additional Two Years

Discussed

Sal Pandolfo gave a detailed explanation of the merits for this extension. He will be retiring as the end of September and believes that retaining the current auditing firm will ease the transition for the new Finance Director.

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

The motion carried unanimously

Councilor de la Cruz arrived at 6:15 p.m.

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

2014-0216 Title VI Policy

Discussed

Assistant Town Manager Doug Ackerman explained that the Town as beneficiary of a federal 5310 grant must develop a plan to assure that individuals are not discriminated against under the Title VI policy. The Groton Senior Center received a \$40,000 grant toward replacement of a 2009 van.

This policy assures that individuals utilizing transportation are not discriminated against by race, age or disability.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0227 Deputy Town Clerk Job Description

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

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher explained that due to the retirement of the Supervisor position she has reorganized the department. The position of Deputy Clerk is a promotion within the department that will take the place of the Supervisor. The job description is an update from 1985. In response to Council Flax, the physical demands portion will be revised to reflect the position.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0232 Assistant Town Manager Salary Range

Discussed

Assistant Town Manager Doug Ackerman explained that when this position was created, no salary range was established. He agrees that the Town Council should consider a competitive pay range comparable with the expectations of this position. The Town Manager explained in response to Councilor Moravsik, that this position has no requirement to live in the Town of Groton.

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

Councilor Flax supports increasing the range of salary by lowering the starting point.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0211 Line Clearance Trimming and Removals, Sandy Hollow Road

Discussed

Councilors expressed their desire to have an influence on the method and design of the trimming. They conveyed their dissatisfaction with recent trimming projects in Town.

The Town Manager explained that the Town Council needs to set a public hearing for any improvements on designated Scenic Roads by Ordinance 13.5 of Article V.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, to schedule a public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0223 Rubino Driveway Apron, River Road

Discussed

The Town Manager explained that the Town Council needs to set a public hearing for any improvements on designated Scenic Roads by Ordinance 13.5 of Article V. The purpose of the public hearing is for the Town Council to hear comments and concerns regarding Mr. and Mrs. Rubinos's request to install a bituminous concrete apron off River Road on to their adjacent property. This project is proposed in conjunction with their permit to build a dock on the Mystic River.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, to schedule a public hearing.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0233 Councilor Cerf FOI Complaint

Discussed

Councilors debated the merits of the matter. In conclusion, it was decided to invite Tom Hennick, CT FOIA Public Education Officer to conduct a educational session to members of the Town

Council. The invitation will be extended to Board of Education members, RTM members, and all Board and Commission members.

2013-0156 Town Manager Annual Evaluation (2013)

Not Discussed

2014-0155 Town Manager Annual Evaluation (2014)

Not Discussed

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

Recommended for Deletion:

2013-0232 FYE 2015 Budget

Recommended for Deletion

2013-0274 Cell Tower at Former Noank School Property

Recommended for Deletion

2014-0046 Provision of Funding to the Economic Development Commission to Support Attendance at Local Business Association Meetings and Functions

Recommended for Deletion

2014-0051 Mystic Streetscape Phase II

Recommended for Deletion

2014-0156 Town-Wide Police Study

Recommended for Deletion

2014-0173 Report on Town Attorney Caseload

Recommended for Deletion

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Schimdt adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.