



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Antipas

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2016-0221 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 meeting of August 9, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Grim, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

2016-0220 Allocation of Funds from Capital Reserve Fund Balance for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction

Discussed

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, reviewed the Crystal Lake Road project timeline going forward. The contract will be awarded in December; construction will begin in spring 2017 and be completed in summer 2018. Staff is seeking authorization to use \$120,000 from Capital Reserve Fund Balance for the local match associated with the final cost estimate of \$6.7 million. Mr. Schneider provided a brief overview of the project and explained preliminary cost estimates versus pre-bid final cost estimates.

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

Mr. Schneider described the location of the bike path.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0228 Thomas Road Project - Update

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the project that was originally envisioned in 1992. He reviewed funding awards and noted that cost estimates have risen over the years to \$1.9 million. Mr. Schneider provided a brief overview of the project. The Town has the

funds to complete design and permitting, but not the local match for construction. Staff is currently working on obtaining easements and permits. The project will be bid in November 2017 and is expected to be completed in October 2018. If the final cost estimate remains at \$1.9 million, the Town will need additional matching funds. A request for an additional \$160,000 will be included in the FYE 18 CIP budget.

Councilor Antipas arrived at 6:18 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

2016-0226 Request for Letter of Support for CTNext Innovation Places Project

Discussed

Paige Bronk, Manager of Economic and Community Development, explained the CTNext Innovation Places program. A public-private partnership was initiated by the state to try to create sense of places in Connecticut. The effort resulted from General Electric leaving the state to locate somewhere that their employees wanted to live and work. This program is consistent with the recommendations of the Town's market analysis. Many entities have worked on this initiative and developed a regional focus centered on the Thames River. This is a competitive grant program, and two non-profits, CURE and SPARK, would be the applicants. The groups are looking for support from municipalities and also trying to secure funding in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Bronk explained that regional collaboration is an important factor in receiving the grant and future implementation funding.

Mr. Bronk reviewed the purpose of the project in more detail. Councilors expressed their concerns about the effort including equity among the participants, funding equity, regionalization, and lack of involvement by Groton Public Schools.

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

Mr. Bronk noted that the Town is not required to provide financial support, but staff is recommending it. No one is excluded from the effort and new partners are joining every week. Inclusivity is the goal.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0201 Referendum Date, Form of the Question, and Explanatory Text for the Design and Construction of the Groton 2020 Plan

Discussed

This is a request for the Town Council to authorize the referendum date, form of the question, and explanatory text for the school facilities initiative. Discussion followed on the information that will be included in the explanatory text. Mayor Flax expressed a desire to review the explanatory text prior to its distribution.

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

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, to amend the motion to include review of the explanatory text by the Mayor.

The motion to amend carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0179 North Stonington Road Bridge

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Town is under a time deadline to respond to the state regarding acceptance of a grant for the North Stonington Road Bridge rehabilitation/replacement project. The newspaper reported that Stonington has agreed to move forward with the project, but

they would need approval from the Board of Finance. If the project is approved by the Town Council, RTM approval will also be necessary. The project is estimated to cost \$1.2 million and the state will pay approximately 50% of eligible costs. At this time, it is unknown what impact regulatory requirements will have on the project cost. As the cost rises, the Council may want to reconsider doing the project. Mr. Schneider noted that final cost estimates should be available in time to submit an FYE 18 CIP project. Discussion followed on the possibility of extending water to Groton from Stonington.

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

The motion carried unanimously

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.