



# 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

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Wednesday, November 9, 2016

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.*

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Barber and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

*None.*

4. **Approval of Minutes**

**2016-0266 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 October 25, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

**2016-0250 LED Conversion for Streetlights**

**Discussed**

*Director of Public Works Gary Schneider and Sustainability Program Project Manager Rick Norris were present to request authorization to complete the installation phase of the LED streetlight conversion project in the Eversource area of the Town and parking areas. Mr. Norris distributed and reviewed an updated referral memo including a financing plan and a revised FYE 2017 CIP project showing funding sources. In addition to the streetlight conversion, the Town would also like to do parking lot lights at Town facilities.*

*Mr. Norris answered questions from Town Councilors. Mr. Schneider noted that the Town will need to enter into a separate agreement to maintain the streetlights which may also result in savings to the Town. The project also includes repair and replacement of some streetlight arms.*

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

*Mr. Schneider noted that the delta between the energy savings and the cost of the lights would come out of the Public Works operating budget for four years. Discussion followed on the change to the CIP project.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0113 Tax Incentive Agreement for Branford Manor**

A motion was made by Councilor Nault to enter executive session at 6:27 p.m. to discuss 2016-0113 Tax Incentive Agreement for Branford Manor, and to invite Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Director of Planning and Development Jon Reiner, and Town Attorney Mike Carey to attend.

The motion carried unanimously

**Motion**

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Grim, to send a letter of support for the Branford Manor project to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA).

The motion carried unanimously

**2016-0267 Joint Land Use Study Grant****Discussed**

*Jon Reiner, Director of Planning and Development, explained that SCCOG is managing a land use study grant that will look at the future of the Submarine Base. The Town will contribute staff time. The total amount of the grant is \$319,000 and it will be used to hire a consultant. Staff is seeking authorization to participate in the project.*

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

The motion carried unanimously

**2016-0268 Farm Viability Grant****Discussed**

*Jon Reiner, Director of Planning and Development, explained that SCCOG wants to apply for a grant from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture for a regional project looking at best practices and growth of agricultural resources. The Town will contribute staff time. Funds would be used to hire a consultant.*

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

The motion carried unanimously

**2016-0255 Purchase of Tablets for the Town Council****Discussed**

*Information was provided to Town Councilors on the cost of providing paper agenda packets, which is estimated to be \$1,360.00 annually.*

**2016-0261 Rotary Club of Mystic Grant - Library****Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that this is a grant application in the amount of \$1,000 to be used for the Library's Book Buddies program.*

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

The motion carried unanimously

**2016-0264 Agreement with Lincoln Center****Discussed**

*The Senior Center has had discussions with the Lincoln Center to show programs at the Senior Center at no cost. Staff is seeking authorization to enter into an agreement with the Lincoln Center, which has been reviewed by the Town Attorney.*

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

The motion carried unanimously

**2016-0265 Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District**

**Discussed**

*This is a grant application by LLHD in the amount of just over \$7,100 to support five of their programs related to substance abuse prevention.*

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0260 FYE 2018 Budget Discussion****Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger reminded the Council of joint meetings with the Board of Education on November 15th at 6:00 p.m. and the RTM on November 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.*

*The Town Manager solicited topics to discuss with the Board of Education, and he suggested a discussion of the Board's CIP projects in light of the passage of the school referendum.*

*Councilors asked for an update on out of district school enrollment and the student population coming from Navy housing.*

**2016-0204 Review of Town Services and Operations****Discussed**

*The Council asked that this item be put on a Committee of the Whole agenda following the discussions with the Board of Education and RTM.*

**2016-0008 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2016 Standing Referral)****Discussed**

*See discussion in 11/9/16 Committee of the Whole minutes under #2016-0011 Meeting with State Legislators (2016 Standing Referral).*

**2016-0009 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2016 Standing Referral)****Discussed**

*See discussion in 11/9/16 Committee of the Whole minutes under #2016-0011 Meeting with State Legislators (2016 Standing Referral).*

**2016-0010 Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2016 Standing Referral)****Discussed**

*See discussion in 11/9/16 Committee of the Whole minutes under #2016-0011 Meeting with State Legislators (2016 Standing Referral).*

**2016-0011 Meeting with State Legislators (2016 Standing Referral)****Discussed**

*The Council discussed meeting with various entities and decided to meet with new legislators before the end of the year and the Stonington Board of Selectmen in January or February.*

**2016-0263 Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2016 Standing Referral)****Discussed**

*See discussion in 11/9/16 Committee of the Whole minutes under #2016-0011 Meeting with State Legislators (2016 Standing Referral).*

**2016-0177 City Highway Budget - FYE 2016****Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger noted that a decision was issued in the FYE 2016 City Highway Budget arbitration and the Town has received a letter from the Mayor of the City. The Council must determine how to proceed.*

Council Committee of the Whole, Town Manager Mark Oefinger, and Town Attorney Matt Auger go into executive session at 7:42 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations related to pending litigation and/or pending claims concerning the highway budget dispute between the Town and City of Groton.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

*The executive session ended at 8:57 p.m.*

**2016-0090 City Highway Budget - FYE 2017**

Not Discussed

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

**Recommended for Deletion:**

**2015-0217 Subase Centennial Anniversary**

Not Discussed

**2016-0041 Sub Century Events**

Not Discussed

**2016-0180 Groton Long Point Road Ownership Issue**

Not Discussed

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.*