



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

7:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. **Calendar and Communications**

Mayor Watson noted that he made a referral regarding tax impact on non-residential properties in response to a letter received from Attorney Bates representing Pfizer. Councilor Bartinik sent a communication to staff questioning the appropriateness of having someone speak to the Committee of the Whole on a referral. Mayor Watson subsequently asked Attorney Bates to speak to the Council under Public Communications next week and the Council can decide how to proceed with the referral. Councilor Bartinik's e-mail will be forwarded to the entire Council.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2007-0114 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 of April 24, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2007-0007 Pending Litigation (2007 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Scott, to enter executive session at 7:09 p.m. for a discussion with Attorney Matt Auger of the Town Attorney's Office, Town Manager Mark Oefinger, and Director of Public Works Gary Schneider about pending litigation (as defined by the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act) associated with the ordering of windows and window-related items for the ongoing school construction projects.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 8:18 p.m.

2003-0177 Renovations & Additions to Groton School Facilities - Phase I

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger reminded the Committee of the school update report in their packets, and the business caravan to the school sites on May 19th.

2006-0239**Animal Shelter****Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger reviewed options for touring the Humane Society's facilities and polled the Council on available dates and times. Mayor Watson distributed correspondence that he received from Kathy Socha and Dr. Mark Sminkey suggesting that the animal shelter should be kept in town, which he will report on at the next Town Council meeting.

Councilor Sheets stated she read The Day article about the regional shelter. Town Manager Oefinger clarified the discussion regarding a potential interim arrangement. He noted that he has a question whether or not the Humane Society could be certified if both abandoned and municipal animals were in the same facility.

Councilor Bond stated that the Fox Memorial Clinic is a non-profit and they have applied for a kennel license.

2007-0105**Community Swimming Pool****Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger reported that the Town Attorney and Mr. Berg's attorney have spoken, but there is no resolution yet. There is one activity may not qualify for 501(c)(3) status and that needs to be clarified. The Town Manager distributed copies of an e-mail from Attorney Raymond Baribeault.

Councilor Bond noted she has been contacted by two people expressing support for this proposal. She recognized Mr. Berg. Discussion followed on the issue raised by Attorney Baribeault. Mayor Watson suggested a face-to-face meeting between the attorneys, the Mayor and the Town Manager.

2007-0111**Pumpout Boat Grant Contract**

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0115**CIP Project Reauthorization - High School Auditorium****Discussed**

Town Manager Oefinger explained that \$54,000 was approved in FYE 2003 for Hagerty Auditorium and since some dollars were spent, it has a five year life. Additional funds were allocated the following year and the intent was to coordinate this project and the school renovation project, however the FYE 2003 funds must be reauthorized. Councilor O'Beirne asked why the full amount is needed if the projects are being coordinated. Wes Greenleaf noted that the exact cost of the project is not yet known and he wants to make sure there is enough money for the project.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0117**Tax Impact on Non-Residential Property****Not Discussed****2007-0008****Legislative Policy (2007 Standing Referral)****Discussed**

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent updated the Committee on the most recent budget

impact figures for Groton and reiterated crucial issues facing the legislature.

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

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.