



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Christopher Burns, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Luanne E. DeMatto, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Roscoe Merritt, Constance Miller, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Tim Plungis, Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Kevin Power called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

36 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Hubbard, McCarthy and Semeraro called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Burns, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Miller, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Plungis, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Warn

Members Absent: Rep. Hubbard, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Powers and Rep. Semeraro

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Councilors Bruce Flax, Deb Peruzzotti, Frank O'Beirne and Harry Watson, School Superintendent Paul Kadri, Director of Building and Grounds Wes Greenleaf, Board of Education member Brian Shirvell, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Sebastian.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2011

A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Hedrick.

The vote to approve the minutes carried 35 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Sebastian.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Len Burke, 96 Rhonda Drive, Mystic, opposes the Phase II School Facilities Program. He does not support building new facilities or the location of the new proposed middle school. He is against establishing two early childhood centers which are not funded or mandated by the State. He believes there will be inadequate parking at the proposed middle school and that the initial proposed site at the Kolnaski School would be better. He asked the RTM to vote no and return the project for revision.

Andrew Lavery, 210 Poquonnock Road, opposes having the Phase II School Facilities Program and Thames Street project placed on the ballot at a special referendum in May. He feels that the special referendum represents an additional expense for the taxpayers that should not be incurred. He will vote in support of the Thames Street Rehabilitation Project but will oppose the Phase II

School Facilities Program.

Peter Weissgarber, 663 Shennecossett Road, agrees that Thames Street needs to be repaired but opposes the long-term debt and additional tax burden for taxpayers. He appealed to the RTM and Town leaders to seek out Federal and State funds for this expenditure similar to the money received for the Bridge Street project. He opposes the Phase II School Facilities Program because of its cost. He mentioned that he is concerned about the next round of BRAC hearings in 2015 and the effect on the Groton Subase and the community. He congratulated Reps. Morton and Kotowski for publishing a letter that opposes raising taxes.

Mary Ann Little, 22 Pearl Street, Noank, endorses the Phase II School Facilities Project. She feels the program is a good reorganization of Groton's education system. She believes the project is comprehensive and provides many educational benefits to Groton's students. She urged the RTM to approve this project in order to capitalize on the State's 66% reimbursement rate for new construction by the June, 2011 deadline. She believes that yearly operational savings will be incurred from the reduction of educational staff and more efficient buildings.

Mary Ann Little presented comments submitted by Maureen Anderson, 46 Brookview Court, Noank. She stated that the project is well thought out and addresses the idea of "where do we want to go with our schools." Ms. Anderson believes in this plan and asks the RTM to approve it so that taxpayers may vote on the project.

Marian Galbraith, 77 Shennecossett Road, appealed to the RTM to approve the Thames Street Rehabilitation Project. She stated that the project addresses the safety and structural needs for Thames Street. She reported that the project was revised and significantly changed and the cost reduced by forty-one percent.

Michael Kane, 51 Jupiter Point Road, stated that he was a member of the Phase II School Design Committee and has been involved with various Groton commissions and committees. He strongly feels that now is the time to move forward with both projects due to low construction costs and favorable interest rates. He favors a single middle school that will enable the Town to provide advanced classes and preschool that will reduce remedial education costs for children who don't attend preschool.

Deborah Peruzzotti, 67 Leafwood Lane, disclosed that she is a Town Councilor. She urged the RTM to approve the Phase II School Facilities Project. She endorses the current plan and feels it is the best direction for the school system and students. She favors sending the plan to referendum which will allow Groton citizens to exercise their right to vote on this project.

Bruce Flax, 632 Noank Road, disclosed that he is a Town Councilor. He supports the Phase II Project. He feels that adequate research has been done and resources expended developing the project. He believes that Phase II will save taxpayers money and that it is the right of every voter in Town to render his own opinion by voting.

Roseanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, disclosed she is an RTM representative from District 6. She spoke on behalf of the following constituents in her district: Richard Voyer, 112 Russell Street, Mystic; Charles Toffling, 85 Ann Avenue, Mystic; Richard Wood, 150 Dogwood Lane, Mystic; and Kristine Paul & Timothy Murray, 44 Indigo Street, Mystic. She stated that these constituents are opposed to approving the Phase II School Facilities Project. Their objections included opposition to early childhood centers and the unification of the three middle schools into one, the bad economy, Pfizer layoffs, the increases to property taxes, the potential closure of the Subase, and the lack of a comprehensive report from Phase I identifying cost savings and improvements to student performance.

Mary Lou Peck, 283 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, agrees with most of the previous comments that the Phase II School Facilities Program should be rejected. She objects to the installation of artificial turf at Fitch High School at a cost of \$3 million which will not improve the quality of Groton education.

Mike Doyle, 15 Elm Street, Noank, believes that now is the time to allow the Groton voters to decide on the Phase II School Facilities Program. He feels it is important to obtain the best reimbursement percentage from the State, and that it saves our own community by utilizing funds from the entire state population. He feels that more businesses will locate in Groton with an improved school system. He supports the Thames Street Rehabilitation Project.

Robert Beaulieu Jr., 250 Elm Street, Noank, strongly supports the Phase II Program and urges that it be forwarded to the voters. He disclosed that he is a Groton teacher. He stated that this plan will balance class sizes and allow more advanced studies for those students who need the challenge.

Lisa Tess, 84 Ensign Drive, Mystic, feels that the community should have the opportunity to vote on this plan. She stated that she has not decided how to vote on the project but believes there is adequate time for questions and additional information to be distributed so that the community will be informed by the May referendum.

Tim Plungis, 90 Lamphere Road, Mystic, disclosed he is a RTM representative from District 6. He read a letter from Neal Gardner, 111 Mitchell Street, who was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Gardner opposes the Phase II Program. It will place additional burdens on taxpayers who are already struggling in the current economy and facing massive tax hikes proposed by the new governor.

John Higgins, 28 Hartford Court, spoke in support of the Phase II Program. He feels that the cost warrants a referendum that will allow the voters to decide.

Tiffany Ott, 112 Cherry Circle, supports the Phase II Program. She believes that repairing the existing schools will be more expensive. She favors preschool education that may reduce the amount of remedial education needed in Kindergarten through second grade. She feels that children are the most important thing in our community.

Moderator Power received a letter from Wendy MacFarland, 48 Bel-Aire Drive, Mystic, which asks the RTM to vote no on the Phase II School Facilities Program.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator reported that Rep. Helme from District 1 resigned effective February 10, 2011. He welcomed Roscoe Merritt who was elected by a District 1 caucus held prior to this meeting. He announced that Rep. Burns from District 5 is resigning effective March 10, 2011. He thanked Rep. Burns for his service and wished him well as he enters Naval Officer Candidate School.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of January 30, 2011 is approximately \$8.7 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000. The Manager mentioned that the Council has approved two transfers from Contingency to cover costs associated with the May 2, 2011 referendum for the Town Clerk's Office and Voter Registration. He noted that the transfers appear on this agenda for RTM approval. The Capital Reserve balance is \$330,917. He reported that the increase is attributable to the receipt of recording fees and interest income.

2. Monthly briefing

The Manager stated that the snow removal account is 54% over budget and that a fourth quarter

transfer will be necessary. He announced that the Groton Public Library is conducting a survey to evaluate whether the library is meeting the needs of the community and what can be done to improve library services.

He highlighted several other items from the Town Manager's News.

In response to Rep. Ambrose, the Town Manager acknowledged that the Town is applying for Federal Emergency Disaster Funds for the major snow event that impacted the State this winter. He estimates that the Town may receive \$100,000.

In response to Rep. Pasqualini, the Manager explained the process of fourth quarter transfers. He noted that the number of snow events budgeted was 12 and that the Town has had 19 events to date. He reported that the timing of the snow events can significantly increase the costs.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Moderator Power noted that Superintendent Kadri will address the RTM during its discussion of Phase II School Facilities Program.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Hedrick

Chairman Hedrick read the minutes of the meeting held on March 9, 2011. (Minutes are attached.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Johnson, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

2011-0033 Supplemental Appropriation for May Referendum Costs

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FYE 2011 CONTINGENCY TRANSFER FOR REFERENDUM COSTS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for transfers from the Contingency function during the year, and

WHEREAS, a May 2, 2011 voter referendum on the Thames Street Rehabilitation Program and the Phase II School Facilities Program will require expenditures pertaining to manning voter polling places, explanatory text preparation and distribution and other related legal and administrative expenditures, and

WHEREAS, transfers are necessary and represent expenditures that were unforeseen or unexpected at the time the FYE 2011 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$51,000 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions, and be referred to the RTM for approval:

Voter Registration (#1003) @ \$24,000:
for costs associated with manning voter polling places.

Town Clerk (#1005) @ \$27,000:
for costs associated with the preparation and distribution of the explanatory text and other related legal and administrative expenses.

A motion was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Johnson, that this matter be Adopted for March 9, 2011.

Rep. Beckwith expressed concern about approving the additional appropriation for referendum costs prior to approving the Thames Street Rehabilitation Program and Phase II School Facilities

Program that are subsequent to this item at this meeting.

The Town Manager verified that the additional appropriation would not be spent if the RTM rejects both proposals.

Rep. Sebastian feels that all taxpayers have a right to vote on items affecting the budget. He hopes that Groton will approve an annual budget referendum in the future.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 34 - Moderator Power, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Burns, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Miller, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Warn
Opposed: 2 - Rep. Kotowski and Rep. Plungis

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Pratt

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

Chairman Swindell read the minutes of the meeting held on February 24, 2011. (Minutes are attached.)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Johnson, seconded by Rep. Gilly.

Moderator Power clarified the committee's motion and recommendation. He explained the role of the RTM as charged in the Town Charter. He mentioned that an ordinance that exceeds \$750,000 must be adopted or rejected by the Town Council and RTM and if approved by both bodies then a referendum is held to allow voters to approve or reject the ordinance. He instructed the members that they are voting on whether to move forward the Phase II School Facilities Program as proposed, not whether a referendum should be held. He verified that discussion will be on the Phase II School Facilities Program and not on approving a referendum. He stated that members' discussion would be inappropriate if they address approving a referendum.

Chairman Swindell noted that the instructions on the referral to the RTM Education Committee were unclear.

Republican Floor Leader Jackie Massett requested a caucus at 9:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:31 p.m. Town Clerk Moukawsher confirmed that 36 members were still present.

The vote on approving the minutes carried unanimously.

Moderator Power announced that School Superintendent Paul Kadri is an ex-officio member of the RTM and may take part in the discussion but may not vote.

Mr. Kadri announced that a community-wide interactive technology presentation is being conducted in April. This will allow the community and regional teachers to see demonstrations of the new Promethean white boards, video conferences and the YouTube Internet-based products that are being utilized in some Groton schools.

2011-0029

Adoption of Phase II School Facilities Program Ordinance

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$133,481,150 FOR THE PHASE II SCHOOL FACILITIES PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$133,481,150) is appropriated for costs related to implementation of the Phase II School Facilities Program, consisting of the design, construction, demolition, expansion, renovation, relocation, equipping and furnishing of various of the Town's school facilities in connection with the restructuring of the Groton School District's grade level structure to Pre-K through Grade 1, Grades 2 through 6, Grades 7 through 8 and Grades 9 through 12, to be housed in two early education centers, five intermediate elementary schools, one middle school, and one senior high school, such project contemplated to include:

(a) construction of a new middle school serving all grade 7 and 8 pupils at the Claude B. Chester Elementary School site, located off of US Route 1 and CT State Route 117 in the central part of Groton, contemplated to include the demolition of the present school building, the construction of an approximately 143,500 square foot building including thirty-three classrooms, six science labs, twenty art classrooms, three music classrooms, two technology education labs, six computer labs, eight small group instruction centers, full double court gymnasium, locker rooms, weight room, auditorium to seat 400, library, school based health clinic, cafeteria, kitchen, administrative space and other educational/building support areas, with heating and cooling provided by a ground source hybrid geothermal heat pump system with integrated energy recovery systems, construction of physical education playfields (including one all weather field), access drives, parking and subsurface storm water management systems, and related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$64,697,032);

(b) renovation of the Carl C. Cutler Middle School, located at 160 Fishtown Road in Mystic, to become an intermediate elementary school facility serving grades 2 through 6, contemplated to include renovations necessary to convert approximately 15,000 square feet of the building from middle school specific spaces to elementary classroom uses, parking improvements, code-required building upgrades, and related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$5,242,188);

(c) renovations and additions to the West Side Middle School, located at 250 Brandegee Avenue in the City of Groton, to become an early education center serving Pre-K through Grade 1, contemplated to include renovations to 76,000 square feet of the existing building and an addition of approximately 11,700 square feet to provide a total of 35 classrooms arranged within three clusters of autonomous "learning communities", as well as an art classroom, music classroom, four small group instructional rooms, school based health clinic, along with kitchen, multipurpose room, administration/building support areas, and related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$23,037,357);

(d) construction of an early education center serving Pre-K through Grade 1, to be located at the current site of the present S.B. Butler Elementary School at 155 Oceanview Avenue in Mystic, contemplated to include construction of a new 79,700 square foot facility and the subsequent demolition of the present school building, the new facility to include a total of 35 classrooms arranged within three clusters of autonomous "learning communities", as well as an art classroom, music classroom, four small group instructional rooms, school based health clinic, along with kitchen, multipurpose room, administration/building support areas, with heating and cooling provided by a ground source hybrid geothermal heat pump system with integrated energy recovery systems, and related work and improvements (estimated cost of \$36,143,070); and

(e) construction of an all-weather artificial sports field and related improvements to be located on the site of the current football field at Fitch Senior High School, located at 101 Groton Long Point Road in Groton (estimated cost of \$1,002,766); and costs related to the financing thereof (estimated at \$3,358,737). The appropriation may be spent for design, construction and demolition costs, equipment, furnishings, materials, land or easement acquisition, necessary utilities, site improvements, parking, road and sidewalk improvements to and on the school sites, architects' fees, engineering fees, construction management fees, legal fees, storage, temporary space, moving and other relocation and facility closure costs, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town anticipates receiving State school building construction project grants in the estimated amount of 51.4 % of eligible project costs to defray in part the appropriation.

The Town Council shall, with Board of Education input, review and approve project phasing. The Town Council, or its designee, shall approve the final concept for each school project and may allocate the appropriation between the separate school projects as needed to pay the costs thereof. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of any element of the project and may delete elements of the project if funds are insufficient to complete the entire project. The entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so reduced or modified.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$133,481,150) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-369 and 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes and all notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes that in each year while any such bonds or notes are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project or the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (\$133,481,150). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds or notes authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 and, if applicable, pursuant to Section 54A(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that (except tot the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings, including qualified tax credit bonds, in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make

representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Board of Education is authorized to apply for and accept state grants for the project. The Board of Education is authorized to file applications with the State Board of Education, to execute grant agreements for the project, and to file such documents as may be required by the State Board of Education to obtain grants for the costs of financing the project.

Section 8. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, the Board of Education and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 9. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Sections 5.5.5.1 and 9.13 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Rep. Swindell, seconded by Rep. Johnson, that this matter be Adopted for March 9, 2011.

Rep. Streeter feels that the current proposal should be rejected and sent back to committee. She has many concerns and identified several of them. She opposes early childhood centers since the federal Head Start Program is already in place. She feels that pre-k is equivalent to day care subsidized by the taxpayers and that many four year olds cannot cope with a full-time program. She stated that many residents are struggling with no pay raises, layoffs and rising economic costs. She noted that school enrollment has steadily declined, and she is not convinced that this proposal is ready to be sent to referendum. She will vote no.

Moderator Power cautioned members about comments or discussion on whether this item should be sent to referendum. He reminded them that they are discussing the merits of the Phase II School Facilities Program.

Rep. Plungis expressed concern about eligibility for the sixty-six percent State reimbursement rate as proposed in the Phase II Program. He asked what would happen if the Town missed the groundbreaking deadline and received only sixty percent.

Mr. Kadri explained that the current proposal has a buffer that includes higher interest rates and construction costs. He stated that the application deadline for sixty-six percent is June 30, 2011 with groundbreaking by April 1, 2012.

Rep. Beckwith noted that her constituents have overwhelmingly contacted her in opposition to the Phase II Program, so she will be voting no.

Members discussed the language in the Ordinance concerning the authority of the Town Council to delete, reduce or modify the scope of any element of the project if funds are insufficient to complete the entire project.

Rep. Scott encouraged members to support the Phase II Program. He noted that he served on the committee and explained the details and development of the current proposal.

Rep. Bauer will support the Ordinance. She agrees that the Town should capitalize on lower interest rates and the State reimbursement rate.

Rep. Morton acknowledged that she will not support the Ordinance. She feels the Town does not properly care for its current assets and has deferred maintenance over the last 17 years while developing a school facility plan.

Rep. Swindell supports the plan for three reasons: the quality of education resulting from a reorganized school system that includes early childhood education; the creation of more advanced middle school courses; and improvement in the balance of class sizes.

Rep. Gilly expressed her concern about the locations of the two early childhood centers. She will not support the Ordinance.

Rep. Ebbin will support the Ordinance as she feels it addresses many issues faced by the Town. She cited racial imbalance, aging school buildings, the effort to reduce remedial teaching with pre-school education, and full day Kindergarten for all children .

Rep. Cooper fully supports the Ordinance and favors the inclusion of pre-k programs. He noted that the Town will be bonding much less than the \$133 million if all goes as planned and the Town receives the 66% State reimbursement rate.

Rep. Granatosky reminded members that when the 1996 Blue Ribbon Commission was formed a decision was made that major renovations to school facilities be put on hold until a design plan was formulated. She noted that only necessary maintenance and safety repairs were done during this time. She supports the early childhood center in District 2 since many families rely on public transportation in that district. She feels that a center located in District 2 will encourage family involvement and promote more success to students in their early years of education. She mentioned that the State reimbursement represents money from all State residents, including Groton citizens, and the Town should capitalize on the opportunity to receive as much as possible.

Rep. Collins agrees with the sentiments of Rep. Granatosky and others. He will vote to approve the Ordinance and wait to see if the voters approve it at referendum.

School Superintendent Paul Kadri explained the State reimbursements and the amount of local taxpayer money versus state subsidy. He reviewed the savings projected from Phase II due to consolidation of three middle schools into one middle school and improved educational opportunities for students.

Brian Shirvell, Board of Education member, appealed for support of the Phase II School Facilities Program. He feels that now is the time to build due to lower construction costs and favorable interest rates for bonding.

Rep. Ambrose mentioned that he is vacillating on how to vote and how to best represent the citizens due to the number of calls and conversations pertaining to this issue. He stated that the decision is difficult since many different points of view were brought to his attention. He thanked Rep. Scott for the clarity he provided earlier in this discussion. He stated that he will vote to approve the Phase II School Facilities Program.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 20 - Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Miller, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Scott, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Swindell
Opposed: 16 - Moderator Power, Rep. Baril, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Burns, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Plungis, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Warn

4. RECREATION - Chairman Warn

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Parfitt

No meeting, no report.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Burns, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Miller, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Plungis, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Warn
Members Absent: Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Powers and Rep. Semeraro

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

*Chairman Collins read the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2011. (Minutes are attached.)
Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Johnson and so voted unanimously.*

2011-0028 Adoption of Thames Street Rehabilitation Program Ordinance

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$6,375,505 FOR THE THAMES STREET REHABILITATION PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIVE DOLLARS (\$6,375,505) is appropriated for design and rehabilitation of Thames Street and intersections of adjoining streets from Bridge Street to Eastern Point Road and Smith Street. The project shall include clearing and excavation; reconstruction, milling or recycling of existing pavement and base materials, installation of new asphalt paving; installation or reconstruction of curbing, sidewalks, guardrails, handicap ramps; rebuilding, construction of, and repairs to retaining walls; reconstruction and new installation of storm drainage systems; relocation or reconstruction of other necessary utilities; traffic signal upgrades; installation of street lighting and landscaping and related improvements. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. The appropriation may be spent for design, construction management and construction costs, equipment, materials, site improvements, environmental remediation, easement acquisition, engineering fees, land survey fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes, in an amount not to exceed SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIVE DOLLARS (\$6,375,505) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes and all notes issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes that in each year while any such bonds or notes are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of the notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIVE DOLLARS (\$6,375,505). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 7-378a of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said

Section 7-378.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds or notes authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 and, if applicable, pursuant to Section 54A(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, that (except tot the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings, including qualified tax credit bonds, in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this ordinance if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 8. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Sections 5.5.5.1 and 9.13 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Johnson, that this matter be Adopted for March 9, 2011.

In response to Rep. Pasqualini, it was explained that an application to FEMA has been submitted to pay for the repairs to the collapsed retaining wall that occurred in March 2010. The bonding figure being requested is for the remaining rehabilitation of Thames Street.

Rep. Beckwith confirmed that she fully endorses this Ordinance and appealed to the members to approve it. She noted that the current proposal is reduced forty-one percent from the first proposal.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 33 - Moderator Power, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Baril, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Plungis, Rep. Collins, Rep. Morton, Rep. Warn, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Swindell, Rep. Massett, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Miller, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Johnson and Rep. Luck
Opposed: 2 - Rep. Kotowski and Rep. Burns

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Scott

No meeting, no report.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

2010-0181 FYE2012 Budget Discussion

FYE2012 BUDGET DISCUSSION

In response to Rep. Ambroise, the Town Manager commented on the proposed State budget which represents level funding with last year. Mr. Oefinger expressed concern about the elimination of the State reimbursement for the Manufacturing and Equipment exemption and the reduction of the Town's personal property grand list. He reported that a phase-in may occur for the elimination of the State Manufacturing and Equipment exemption reimbursement to municipalities. The manager noted that the Town will monitor the Governor's proposed budget and proceed conservatively as it has in the past. He commented that the proposed medical health coverage being offered to municipalities by the State will be reviewed and evaluated for its ability to offer true cost savings to the Town. He noted that any change in coverage would have to be negotiated with the unions as part of the benefits package and that several unions are due for negotiations. He believes that any change to health insurance would be seen in the FYE2013 budget.

Town Clerk Moukawsher advised members that they will be notified by email or phone when the complete package of budget books is ready for pick-up at the Clerk's office.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. was made by Rep. Harrell, seconded by Rep. Collins and so voted unanimously.