



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

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

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL BY TOWN CLERK

*Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.
40 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartinik, Jr., Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Collins, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Helme, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Scott, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Tilney, Rep. Vivirito and Rep. Warn
Members Absent: Rep. Newsome

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Mayor James Streeter, Town Councilors Deb Peruzzotti and Harry Watson, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, 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 Mayor Streeter.

C. ORGANIZATION OF TWENTY-SEVENTH RTM

1. Administration of oath to all Representatives by Town Clerk.

Town Clerk Tarbox administered the oath of office to the 40 members present.

2. Adoption of Rules

2009-0310 Adoption of RTM Rules

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADOPTION OF RULES & PROCEDURES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH RTM

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-sixth RTM are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-seventh RTM elected November 3, 2009.

A motion was made by Rep. Pratt, seconded by Rep. Scott, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

3. Election of Moderator

The Town Clerk called for nominations for the office of Moderator.

The name of Kevin Power was placed in nomination by Rep. Smuts.

The name of John Scott was placed in nomination by Rep. Pasqualini.

There being no further nominations, the Town Clerk declared nominations closed.

The vote for the office of Moderator was 21 for Rep. Power, 19 for Rep. Scott. (Voting for Rep. Power were Reps. Barnhart, Bartinik, Beckwith, Gilly, Granatosky, Hedrick, Hubbard, Johnson, Kotowski, Massett, Morton, Parfit, Power, Prochaska, Sebastian, Smuts, Steinford, Streeter, Swindell, Vivirito, and Warn. Voting for Rep. Scott were Reps. Ambroise, Baril, Bauer, Collins, Congdon, Cooper, Ebbin, Fairbank, Harrell, Helme, Luck, McCarthy, Pasqualini, Powers, Pratt, Scott, Semeraro, Svencer, and Tilney.)

Rep. Scott requested that the election of Kevin Power as Moderator be accepted by acclamation. There was unanimous consent.

4. Oath of Office and presentation of gavel to Moderator

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox administered the oath of office and presented the gavel to Moderator Kevin Power.

5. Brief recess to allow Moderator to review correspondence, etc.

*A brief recess was taken and the meeting resumed at 7:54 p.m.
Reps. Smuts and Tilney left during the recess.*

D. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION

Moderator Power presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following outgoing RTM representatives: Karen Adams, June Evered, James Loughlin, Lisa Luck and Deb Peruzzotti.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2009

*A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Luck. Rep. Ebbin requested a correction to her comment on page 5.
The vote on the minutes as corrected carried 35 in favor, 3 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Beckwith, Streeter and Vivirito).*

F. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

G. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

2009-0309 Appointment of Temporary RTM Rules & Procedures Committee

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE TO PREPARE RULES FOR THE TWENTY-SEVENTH RTM

The Moderator hereby appoints the following as a temporary Rules & Procedures Committee to review and recommend Rules and Procedures for the Twenty-seventh RTM:

1. Jean-Claude Ambroise, Chair
2. Carole McCarthy
3. Nancy Beckwith
4. Joan Steinford
5. Jackie Massett

This matter was Adopted.

H. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Kevin Power thanked Rep. Scott and all the members for the acclamation of the vote for Moderator.

Moderator Power announced that the Democratic Floor Leader will be Rep. Patrice Granatosky and Republican Floor Leader will be Rep. Jackie Massett.

He reminded all members to provide their information sheets to the Town Clerk's office. He noted that he will be conferring with the Floor Leaders to set up the RTM committees.

The Moderator stated that the Finance Committee will be established first and members will be notified as soon as possible, since there are two referrals due at the January 20, 2010 meeting and

a committee meeting needs to be scheduled.

Moderator Power announced that Rep. Harrell recently became engaged to former RTM member George Swift.

I. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of November 30, 2009 is approximately \$11.1 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,533,051. Mr. Vincent noted that the decrease in the Capital Reserve balance is due to a supplemental appropriation of \$74,000 for an IT Disaster Recovery Project that was approved by the Town Council and referred to the RTM in November.

Mr. Vincent mentioned that State Legislators Elissa Wright and Andrew Maynard addressed the Town Council on December 15, 2009 in regard to the State budget deficit. He reported that the legislators are trying to prevent any further reduction to municipal aid. He requested that members read the attachments in the Town Manager's News for additional information.

2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Oefinger announced the holiday closings of Town offices for Christmas and New Year's. He mentioned that the distribution of holiday baskets by Social Services is scheduled for Friday, December 18, 2009 and that volunteers are always welcome.

The Manager congratulated Parks and Recreation Director John Silsby and Recreation Superintendent Jerry Lokken for the Distinguished Service Award and Outstanding Professional Award received at the Connecticut Recreation and Park Association Conference.

The Town Manager congratulated Finance Director Sal Pandolfo and his staff for receiving the Distinguished Budget Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the sixteenth consecutive year. He stated that this award is a significant accomplishment that is noted by the bond rating agencies.

The Manager mentioned that the lease with LEARN for the Marine Magnet High School has been signed. He expects that demolition of the old Eastern Point School will begin by the end of the month.

He reported that the Senior Center construction is nearing completion and estimates that the grand opening will be in early March.

The Manager mentioned that a meeting with Groton Long Point is scheduled to discuss the condition of the Beach Pond Road bridge. He feels that it will be necessary to provide money in the budget for its replacement. More information is contained in the Town Manager's News.

In response to Rep. Collins, the Manager explained that LEARN was granted an easement across the upper playing field at the Marine Magnet High School to install piping for a geothermal heat system. The field will be maintained by the school. He noted that if significant upgrades are done in the future, the Town will take over maintenance, since the Town owns the field and has only granted an easement to the school. The Manager explained that Little League and T-ball use the field for practice and that several other teams have been using it recently while the West Side Middle School field is being repaired.

Rep. Steinfeld stated that she is pleased with the progress and near completion of the sidewalks from Winthrop Estates north on Route 12 and under Route 95.

The Town Manager clarified that the sidewalks will be plowed by the Town since there are no adjacent property owners to keep them clear. He noted that roads are the priority and that sidewalks are secondary.

J. OTHER BUSINESS

2009-0190

Preliminary RTM Budget Discussion

PRELIMINARY BUDGET DISCUSSION FOR RTM'S FY2011 BUDGET PROCESS

Discussed

Rep. Sebastian observed that the RTM approves expenditures and has no input on the income to the Town. He feels that it would not be unreasonable if the RTM had consensus to recommend a zero tax increase. He stated that many residents will not receive Social Security increases and that Medicare costs are increasing. He suggested that the Town Manager and Superintendent provide the lowest estimate possible for State and Federal Revenue and propose a budget that does not raise taxes.

Moderator Power noted that Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox has served as Clerk of the RTM for the last twelve terms of the RTM. He thanked her for her diligent service to the Town for the last 24 years.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk