



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 Scott L. Newsome, Representatives Karin Adams, Robert Bailey, Jeanne Baker, Joe Baril, Alicia T. Bauer, Rafael Burgos, Jr., Clarence Casper, Bobbi Jo Cini, Christine Conley, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Susan Dean-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Jim Evans, Thomas A. Frickman, Bob Garcia, Nancy Gilly, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Emily Maher, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Lisa McCabe, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe L. Merritt, Jim Nault, Kathy Neugent, Lian Obrey, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Carolann Quinn, Dutcha Sliker-Hersant, Joan Steinfeld, Irma J. Streeter, James L. Streeter, Archie Swindell, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Gary Welles, Ivy R. Williams, and Jonathan Wilson.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.

A. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson
Members Absent: Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Obrey and Rep. Williams

He stated that 33 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Also present were Councilor Bonnie Nault, Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously as amended.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Thomas Potter, 154 Walker Hill Road, presented a list of comments and questions pertaining to the sale of the William Seely School property. He emphasized that a report from Camoin Associates, entitled Economic & Market Trend Analysis-Town of Groton, CT does not give a true picture of the demographics in Groton. He stated that the report misses the significance and impact of the large Navy community that we have in Groton. He appealed to the RTM to send the referral back to the Town Council for modification to the pending purchase and sales agreement to include a clause that says all primary access to any commercial developer of the Seely School Property must be from Route 12.

Gretchen Chipperini, 87 Phoenix Drive, commented on the purchase and sales agreement of the William Seely School property. She added that the Camoin Report is not accurate in the demographics of Groton because of its large Navy population. She believes that any zoning changes to the school property should be done prior to the sale and that the present perspective agreement could be improved on before being signed.

Rep. Bauer departed at 7:45 p.m. 32 members present.

Rep. Swindell called for a Republican caucus at 7:47 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:00 p.m.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Reps. Deane-Shinbrot, Dematto, Hubbard, McDermott and Obrey notified the Town Clerk that they were unable to attend the meeting.

The Moderator referred Town Council Referral 2016-0037 to the Finance Committee to be reported on at the March regular RTM meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of January 31, 2016 was approximately \$9.1 million. He reported that the General Contingency amount for FYE 2016 was appropriated at \$550,000 and no transfers are pending approval. He stated that the Capital Reserve Fund balance as of January 31, 2016 was \$988,886.

2. Monthly briefing

Mr. Oefinger highlighted items from the Town Managers News, including Community Speaks Out, a group formed to bring awareness of drug and alcohol abuse. He reported that the group will have a community forum on March 2nd from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Fitch High School. He stated that the forum is open to the public. He reported on the progress of the Vergennes Court project. He stated that the Town was awarded federal funding which will pay 90% of the total construction cost. He reported that the Commanding Officer of the Subbase will highlight the mission and role of today's Submarine Force and Naval Submarine Base New London at the Groton Public Library on February 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Rep. Wilson asked for more information about the proposed Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge.

The Town Manager explained that there is contact and website information listed on the page regarding the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge in the Town Manager's Monthly Report.

G. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Town Manager made reference to the Economic Development Division Update for January 2016 that was presented to all members. The update highlighted various projects in different stages in the Town of Groton.

H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

I. LIAISON REPORTS

Town & City/RTM Board of Education Liaison Committee

Rep. Massett reported that the Town/City Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee met on Wednesday February 3, 2016. She stated they discussed the National League of Cities meeting scheduled to be held in March in Washington, D.C. and ideas for marketing the school district. She stated that they also discussed ideas for cuts to the Board of Education budget that can be made and still allow the Board of Education to meet its contractual and educational obligations. She stated that there was discussion on the possibility of installing replacement LED lighting in school parking lots. She stated that Dr. Graner gave an update on possible reimbursement for the building of new schools as proposed by the School Facilities Task Force. She stated that they discussed the ongoing issue of racial imbalance.

Golf Advisory Board

Rep. Conley reported that the Golf Advisory Board met on February 1, 2016. She stated that a recommendation was made for the greens fees to remain in line with neighboring golf courses. She stated that this would result in a 3% increase for season passes. She stated that this recommendation will go to Parks and Recreation and then to the Town Council for approval. She stated that the rates are to be set by April 1, 2016.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Quinn

Chairman Quinn read the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on February 4, 2016. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

Rep. Swindell stated that he would like a referral on what will be happening to the other vacant schools such as Groton Heights. He added that if the demographic information in the Camoin Associates report is an error, it should be corrected.

Moderator Newsome reminded Rep. Swindell that any referral request must be in writing.

The Town Manager stated that asbestos has been abated in the Seely School.

Chairman Quinn made a motion to accept the amended minutes, seconded by Rep. Pasqualini and so voted unanimously.

2015-0232

Sale of William Seely School Property

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF THE WILLIAM SEELY SCHOOL PROPERTY TO KINCORA DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the Town previously entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Kincora Development, LLC of Waltham, Massachusetts for the Town owned William Seely School property on Walker Hill Road, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council conducted a public hearing on the proposed sale on September 15, 2015 and also met with residents in the vicinity of the property, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission reviewed a Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-24 referral on September 8, 2015 and expressed support for the sale of the property, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the sale of the William Seely School property to Kincora Development, LLC.

Refer to RTM

A motion was made by Rep. Quinn, seconded by Rep. Baril, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 32 - Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Conley, Rep. Evans, Rep. Frickman, Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Longino, Rep. Maher, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Nault, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinford, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson
Non-voting: 1 - Rep. Bauer

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Conley

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Neugent

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Wilson

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman McDermott

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Dean-Shinbrot

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

Chairman Massett stated that the 30th Representative Town Meeting Rules to be adopted has a numbering correction to be made on the contents page. She stated that Section 9, General Rule 9.6 should be Rule 9.5.

Rep. Wilson stated that he will be submitting a referral to request a change to Rule 3.7 and Rule 6.4.1.2.

2016-0025 Adoption of RTM Rules

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADOPTION OF RULES & PROCEDURES OF THE THIRTIETH RTM

BE IT RESOLVED, that the rules of the Thirtieth Representative Town Meeting as recommended by the Temporary Rules and Procedures Committee are hereby adopted.

A motion was made by Rep. Massett, seconded by Rep. Streeter, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 32 - Moderator Newsome, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Adams, Rep. Casper, Rep. Longino, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Marley, Rep. Streeter, Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Baril, Rep. Parker, Rep. Evans, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Welles, Rep. Massett, Rep. Nault, Rep. Cini, Rep. Wilson, Rep. McCabe, Rep. Baker, Rep. Maher, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Conley, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Wagner and Rep. Bailey
Non-voting: 1 - Rep. Bauer

K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. Massett suggested that during this years budget meetings that a Town Councilor sit with the Town Manager and help to explain the rationale of the Town Council's decisions.

Rep. Neugent requested that members be notified as soon as possible when budget meetings are scheduled for sub-committees.

Rep. Conley asked when the FYE 2017 budget books would be available.

The Town Manager confirmed that the FYE 2017 budget books would be available on March 15th.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager announced that the pending lawsuit pertaining to the Mystic Streetscape Project was discussed at the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting on February 9, 2016. He stated that arbitration concluded with the construction company to receive \$600,000 which includes \$150,000 in legal fees and interest charges.. He continued to say that the initial lawsuit was for over two million dollars. He has requested a resolution to be drafted to get this paid. He is giving the RTM notice that a referral will be forthcoming and requested that the RTM approve this referral at the regular RTM march meeting to avoid any further interests charges.

Rep. Marley stated that as a member of the Finance Committee he would like to request copies of the contract and any other pertinent documents on this lawsuit.

Rep. Wilson asked where the money would come from to pay this lawsuit.

Mr. Oefinger responded that it would be paid out of the Capital Reserve Account. He added that there is still a possibility to receive some Federal Grant Funds to help pay for this settlement.

Rep. Parker asked if the Town has settled with the City Highway which has been in arbitration.

Mr. Oefinger confirmed that it is still pending.

M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Pasqualini and seconded by Rep. Massett. Moderator Newsome adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II