



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 Jean-Claude Ambroise, Representatives Karin Adams, Scott W. Aument, Sr., Joseph Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Susan Chase-Hildebrand, Michael Collins, Christine Conley, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, Nancy Driscoll, Dave Ferreira, Neal Gardner, Patrice Granatosky, Lorraine M. Greubel, Karen Hatcher, Keith L. Hedrick, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Jim Loughlin, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Newsome, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Pam Ryley, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Richard Semeraro, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Lori A. Watrous, Amanda L. Whewell and Ivy R. Williams

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Jean-Claude Ambroise called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

28 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Driscoll, Hatcher, McDermott, Merritt, Sebastian, Steinfeld, Streeter, Watrous and Whewell notified the Town Clerk of their absence. He stated that School Superintendent Dr. Ramos is unable to attend due to a special Board of Education meeting on the BOE budget.

Members Present: Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Ryley, Rep. D. Semeraro, Rep. R. Semeraro, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams

Members Absent: Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Greubel, Rep. Hatcher, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Whewell

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds William Robarge, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, 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.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2013

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Bauer and so voted unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Ambroise informed members that former Rep. Betty Prochaska passed away last weekend. She had tendered her resignation on January 29, 2013. He announced that Rep. Johnson resigned effective January 22, 2013. He noted that this creates two vacancies in the Fifth District.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of January 31, 2013 is approximately \$9.3

million; the General Contingency balance will be \$275,608 if the RTM approves the General Contingency transfers on this agenda; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,271,682. He noted that the increase is due to interest and recording fees.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

The Moderator noted that he had reported on the absence of Dr. Ramos under his communications report.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

Town Council/Board of Education/RTM/City Council

Rep. Massett reported on the items discussed at the January 9, 2013 meeting, including playing fields, the Town budget process, overcrowding/redistricting update, contract updates, use of Fitch Middle School, and rotating the committee's meeting location to different Town facilities.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

Chairman Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2013. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

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

2013-0021 Refunding Prior Years' Bonds (Part 1)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$21,300,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON ANY PORTION OF THE TOWN OF GROTON'S \$16,570,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2006, \$15,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2007, AND \$9,675,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2009; AND COSTS RELATED THERETO

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Groton issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed TWENTY-ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$21,300,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, and to apply the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006 (consisting at initial issue of \$15,000,000 School Bonds and \$1,570,000 General Purpose Bonds), \$15,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2007 (consisting at initial issue of \$15,450,000 School Bonds and \$50,000 General Purpose Bonds), and \$9,675,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009 (consisting at initial issue of \$645,000 School Bonds and \$9,030,000 General Purpose Bonds), including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds that in each year while any such bonds 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 as the same become due and payable.

(b) The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign the bonds 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. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(c) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. 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 authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(d) 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 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.

(e) That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Town's outstanding \$16,570,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2006, \$15,500,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2007, and \$9,675,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(f) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2014.

Refer to RTM Under Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto, that this matter be Adopted for February 13, 2013.

Members discussed the reason for the refunding and the associated fees.

The Town Manager explained that refunding is similar to refinancing a mortgage at a lower interest rate. He assured members that no additional money is being bonded and that the refunding is being done to save money over the lifetime of the bonds.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0046

Refunding Prior Years' Bonds (Part 2)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$2,200,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON ANY PORTION OF THE TOWN OF GROTON'S \$3,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SEWER BONDS, ISSUE OF 2007, AND COSTS

RELATED THERETO

RESOLVED,

(a) That the Town of Groton issue its refunding bonds, in an amount not to exceed TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$2,200,000), the proceeds of which are hereby appropriated: (1) to fund one or more escrows, and to apply the balance held in such escrows, together with the investment earnings thereon, to the payment in whole or in part, as to be determined by the Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town, of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the Town's \$3,000,000 General Obligation Sewer Bonds, Issue of 2007, including the payment of interest accrued on said bonds to the date of payment, and (2) to pay costs of issuance of the refunding bonds authorized hereby, including legal fees, consultants' fees, trustee or escrow agent fees, underwriters' fees, net interest and other financing costs and other costs related to the payment of the outstanding bonds described above. The refunding bonds shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-370c of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds that in each year while any such bonds are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town, other than properties within the City of Groton, 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 as the same become due and payable.

(b) The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign the bonds 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. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the amount, date, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds; to sell the bonds at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds.

(c) That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the refunding may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the refunding. 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 authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

(d) 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 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.

(e) That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to enable the Town to effectuate the refunding of all or a portion of the Town's outstanding \$3,000,000 General Obligation Sewer Bonds, Issue of 2007, and to issue refunding bonds authorized hereby for such purposes, including, but not limited to, the entrance into agreements on behalf of the Town with underwriters, trustees, escrow agents and others to

facilitate the issuance of the refunding bonds, the escrow of the proceeds thereof and investment earnings thereon, and the payment of the outstanding bonds in whole or in part.

(f) That the above authorization to issue refunding bonds shall lapse on June 30, 2014.

Refer to RTM Under Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto, that this matter be Adopted for February 13, 2013.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0022

FYE 2013 Contingency Transfers - Wage Adjustments

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2013 GENERAL CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

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

WHEREAS, during FYE 2013 budget deliberations, labor agreements for the Police and AFSCME-Supervisors employees had settled and those wage increases were included in a department's FYE 2013 Budget, and

WHEREAS, during FYE 2013 budget deliberations, labor agreements/pay plans were not known and were not included in a department's budget for the remaining employee groups (CILU-Telecommunicators, CILU-Clerical, United Steelworkers-Parks/Public Works and Non-Union), and

WHEREAS, wage increases for three of those groups (CILU-Telecommunicators, United Steelworkers-Parks/Public Works and Non-Union) are now known and should be incorporated into a department's FYE 2013 budget through a General Contingency transfer, and

WHEREAS, during budget deliberations additional funds were added to General Contingency in anticipation of wage adjustments occurring during the fiscal for a total Contingency appropriation of \$450,000, and

WHEREAS, before this transfer is applied, the General Contingency has a balance of \$444,400, and

WHEREAS, including the approved wage increases in a department's FYE 2013 budget will provide a fairer comparison of personnel services between a department's FYE 2014 Request and the FYE 2013 Adjusted budget that will appear in the FYE 2014 Budget book, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$168,792 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Town Clerk #1005	\$4,223
Town Manager #1010	\$7,562
Finance #1013	\$10,486
Administrative Services #1014	\$41,639
Public Safety #1024	\$9,293
Public Works #1035	\$53,330
Planning & Development #1046	\$13,047
Human Services #1051	\$3,007
Library #1063	\$7,332
Parks & Recreation #1064	\$18,873

Refer to RTM under Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto, that this matter be Adopted.

Rep. Kotowski expressed concern that non-union raises are more than the two percent proposed in last year's budget. She requested a figure that would reflect a two percent wage increase across the board and noted her intent to move that figure. She stated that Groton employees are the highest paid in the region based on information that she compiled.

The Town Manager clarified the sequence of events in regard to salary adjustments during last year's budget review, including the actions taken by the Town Council and RTM. He noted that his proposed budget contained a two percent salary adjustment for all employees in each function. The Manager stated that \$134,877 would be the transfer figure for a two percent wage adjustment for non-union, United Steelworkers and CILU-Telecommunicators.

In response to Rep. Cerf, the Manager mentioned that non-union raises had been held in abeyance for the last two years. He stated that there are 50 non-union employees and that after consideration, he decided on the percentages for the non-union increases. He noted that some non-union employees could request to become union employees, entitling them to overtime.

A MOTION to Amend the figure to \$134,877 was made by Rep. Kotowski, seconded by Rep. Gardner.

Rep. Kotowski feels that non-union employees should receive only a two percent raise. She stated that many residents have had no raises due to economic constraints and that to give more than a two percent wage increase defeats the purpose of not receiving an increase for the last two years.

The Town Manager noted that the figures would need to be adjusted in each function to reflect the changes in the amended motion. He stated that the additional funds necessary for the increases approved by the Town Council would have to be found elsewhere in each function. This could result in layoffs or furlough days in certain departments.

The proposed amendment was clarified to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that \$134,877 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Town Clerk #1005	\$2,815	
Town Manager #1010	\$5,042	
Finance #1013	\$6,991	
Administrative Services #1014		\$34,400
Public Safety #1024	\$6,196	
Public Works #1035	\$48,734	
Planning & Development #1046		\$8,698
Human Services #1051		\$2,004
Library #1063	\$4,888	
Parks & Recreation #1064	\$15,109	

Members discussed Groton's salary ranges in comparison to other towns in the region. The Moderator requested that Rep. Kotowski provide the information from her regional study of the salaries of municipal employees.

The Town Manager noted that because several unions were in negotiations last year, he did not want to reveal the proposed non-union wage increase for the current fiscal year.

The vote on the amendment of \$134,877 was defeated 8 in favor, 20 opposed. (In Favor: Reps. Aument, Bauer, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, D. Semeraro and R. Semeraro).

Members discussed the impact on revenues of the declining Grand List, questioned why any raises are being given to employees in spite of the difficult economy, and suggested that the Town needs to be tougher in future negotiations. It was suggested that the Town follow through with lay-offs or furlough days if necessary, rather than just threatening to take action.

Discussion continued in relation to union concessions.

The Town Manager noted that he would be delighted to have one plan for all employees but this is hindered by the varying degrees of importance placed by each union on wage increases, health coverage and retirement benefits.

A Motion to Move the Question was made by Rep. D. Semeraro, seconded by Rep. Adams. The vote to Move the Question carried 21 in favor, 7 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Aument, Cerf, Deane-Shinbrot, Gardner, Kotowski, Swindell and Ambroise.)

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 21 - Rep. Adams, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. Ryley, Rep. D. Semeraro, Rep. R. Semeraro, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams
Opposed: 7 - Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Aument, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Kotowski and Rep. Pasqualini Jr.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES - Chairman Ferreira

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Hedrick

Chairman Hedrick read the minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2013. (Minutes are attached to the permanent record.)

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

2012-0321 Reallocation of CIP Funds to Fitch High School Roof Replacement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$235,000 WITHIN THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO THE FITCH HIGH SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, \$600,000 was approved in the FYE 2013 capital improvement budget for a project to replace a portion of roof at Fitch High School, and

WHEREAS, the cost to replace the roof exceeds the allocation by approximately \$200,000, and

WHEREAS, \$270,000 was approved in the FYE 2013 capital improvement budget to replace the boilers at S. B. Butler Elementary School, of which \$110,000 was transferred to the Mary Morrison Asbestos Floor Tile Replacement project, and

WHEREAS, the project at S. B. Butler is complete with a surplus of \$35,000, and

WHEREAS, \$1,385,800 was approved in the FYE 2012 capital improvement budget for Middle School Modifications, and

WHEREAS, the project at the middle schools is nearing completion with an estimated surplus of \$200,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the reallocation of \$35,000 from the S. B. Butler Boiler Replacement project (#5G) and \$200,000 from the Middle School Modifications project to

the Fitch High School Roof Replacement project (#5H).

A motion was made by Rep. Hedrick, seconded by Rep. Svencer, that this matter be Adopted for February 13, 2013.

Members discussed the accuracy of the architect's cost estimate, the appropriation of funds for a project prior to bids, State code building requirements for roof construction, and the criteria for obtaining a waiver from the State.

Members discussed the Town's current practice of approving the entire estimated cost of a project prior to soliciting bids. Discussion continued at length, citing several past projects that contained deficiencies in the cost estimate provided by the architect. It was noted that these funds are being reallocated from other projects that were completed under budget.

Rep. Dean-Shinbrot left at 9:25 prior to the vote.

Rep. Collins supports the motion on the floor and noted the Town's track record for coming in under budget and returning the excess to Capital Reserve Fund.

Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds William Robarge stated that savings were realized on several other CIP's since in-house labor was allowed by the contractor on those projects. He noted that in-house labor is not likely for the roof replacement project. He added that he and Town Planning/Engineering staff will be reviewing the architect's submittal for this project and that he has considerable expertise in roofing.

Rep. Gardner commented that he wants a guarantee that the job will be done to code, will be right the first time, and that the Town will be reimbursed by the architect or contractor for any deficiencies in installation. He made a comment as to the return of unused funds.

Moderator Ambroise clarified that excess monies are returned to the Capital Reserve Fund.

Rep. Granatosky noted that the Town's bond rating is based on good fiscal management, financial restraint, and following established Town policy. She expressed her concern at the tone of several members' comments and the implication of wrong-doing by Town staff. She recommended that members maintain a dignified tone when speaking.

Mr. Robarge confirmed that the Town needs to demonstrate that it has appropriated the necessary funds prior to filing for reimbursement grants from the State.

Rep. Aument stated that he will support appropriating the funds to fix the roof but asked members to raise questions at the budget session in regard to cost estimates and details of new projects.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 23 - Rep. Adams, Rep. Aument, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chase-Hildebrand, Rep. Collins, Rep. Conley, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Ferreira, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. Ryley, Rep. D. Semeraro, Rep. R. Semeraro, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams
Opposed: 4 - Moderator Ambroise, Rep. Gardner, Rep. Kotowski and Rep. Pasqualini Jr.
Non-voting: 1 - Rep. Deane-Shinbrot

4. RECREATION - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

No meeting, no report.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. Kotowski stated that non-union retirement benefits are extremely generous and that the Town should consider scaling back this benefit.

In response to Rep. Cerf, the Town Manager stated that non-union employees do have monthly co-pays for health insurance.

The Town Manager remarked on the Governor's biennial budget proposal and its impact on future revenue from the State. He mentioned possible changes in 2014 motor vehicles taxes that will result in a \$3.4 million loss to the Town. He noted that he expects an increase in the Town Operations and Board of Education budgets for the next fiscal year. He reported on the challenges the Town faces from decreases in Federal Impact Aid since the privatization of Navy housing.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

2013-0054 Decorum in debate/Time limit on consideration of new items

DECORUM IN DEBATE/TIME LIMIT ON CONSIDERATION OF NEW ITEMS

This matter was Referred to the RTM Rules & Procedures Committee.

Rep. Svencer requested a referral due to the tone of comments made during discussions at this meeting. He specified that RTM Rule 8.5.2 needs to be revised prior to the budget session.

RTM Rules Chairman Jackie Massett requested that the committee also discuss the portion of the Moderator's annual budget letter that states that no new items will be considered after 10:00 p.m.

Moderator Ambrose commented that he has only continued with new items after 10:00 with the consensus of the body.

Rep. Cerf stated her concern that questions asked by representatives are not being reflected in the minutes.

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher explained that she has initiated a new policy to streamline the minutes while providing what is essential for meaning and context. She invited Rep. Cerf to talk with her about her concerns in more detail if she feels it is necessary.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 10:01 p.m. was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Barnhart and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk