



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 Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Jordan Brayman, Antonio D. Burley, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Rosanne Kotowski, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Conley called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.
23 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Brayman, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Heede, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Parker, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Wilson and Rep. Burley

Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Luck, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. Morton, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner and Rep. Williams

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Public Works Admin Supervisor Stacey Leitch, Town Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and 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 JUNE 10, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Ambroise. The vote on approval of the minutes carried 21 in favor, 2 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Parker and Watrous.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Conley welcomed Antonio Burley as the newest member or the RTM representing the 1st District.

Reps. Baril, Espada, Hubbard, Longino, Massett, Powers and Svencer notified the Town Clerk that they were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2015 (unaudited) is approximately \$9.7 million: the General Contingency balance as of June 30, 2015 is now at zero, after the Council and RTM approved the transfer of \$288,630 to various departments. The Capital Reserve balance

as of June 30, 2015 is estimated at \$2,035,197.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager News including the appointment of Deborah Jones to the position of Assistant Director of Planning and Development. He also mentioned the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority, Household Hazardous Waste collection schedule & acceptable items for collection.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

No reports.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

No meeting; no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting; no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting; no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting; no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

No meeting; no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

2015-0159 Adoption of Ordinance to Amend Sections 3 and 4 of Ordinance No. 239

ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 3 AND 4 OF ORDINANCE NO. 239

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON: that §§ 3 and 4 of Ordinance No. 239 (§§ 13-3 and 13-4 of the Code of Ordinances) shall be amended as follows:

1. § 13-3. Delete the reference to § 6.2 of the Charter of the Town of Groton and replace it with a reference to § 7.2 of the Charter of the Town of Groton as amended effective 2009.

Pursuant to C.G.S. §§ 7-273aa-7-273oo, inclusive, there is hereby created a municipal resource recovery authority, to be known as the "Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority", 45 Fort Hill Road, Groton, CT 06340. Pursuant to C.G.S. § 7-273aa(b), the town council of the Town of Groton is hereby designated to be the resource recovery authority and in such capacity it shall have all those rights, powers, and duties set forth in the Connecticut General Statutes relating to municipal recovery authorities.

The town council, acting in its capacity as the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority, shall have the power to adopt resolutions, rules and regulations and to set rents, fees, or charges as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. Copies of any such resolutions, rules and regulations, and the amount of any such rents, fees or charges shall be made available upon request at the town hall, which shall constitute the principal office of the authority.

The town manager shall be the chief executive officer for the authority and shall have the administrative responsibilities on behalf of the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority, set forth in Section 7.2 of the Charter of the Town of Groton.

The town council shall also have the power to designate, within the geographical area one or several residential and/or commercial improvement districts, and to enter into contracts, or grant franchises, for the provision of solid waste collection, transport and/or disposal services within

those districts.

2. Amend the existing § 13-4 as follows:

Effective January 1, 1999, the removal, transport and/or disposal of solid waste from commercial units and from residential units within the geographical area shall be regulated, managed, supervised and/or performed by the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority or its agent(s) in conformance with such rules and regulations as the authority has or shall from time to time adopt. Effective on a date to be established by the authority, the removal, transport and/or disposal of solid waste from commercial units and from residential units within the geographical area shall be managed, supervised and/or performed by the Town of Groton Resource Recovery Authority or its agent(s) in conformance with such rules and regulations as the authority has or shall from time to time adopt, and from the date determined by the authority for commercial and residential units as aforesaid, all other persons are hereby prohibited from removing, transporting and/or disposing of solid waste generated within the geographical area by the commercial or residential units, respectively. The authority may, however, provide by regulation an exception for generators of solid waste to self-transport and self-dispose of such waste.

Chairman Heede read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting on June 25, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

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

Moderator Conley informed the RTM that the only motion that could be made would be a motion to veto.

A veto motion was made by Rep. McDermott, seconded by Rep. Loughlin.

Rep. Ambroise asked for clarification that the RTM needed a two-thirds vote of the total membership to veto legislation. He also asked if the motion could be tabled.

Moderator Conley confirmed that a two-thirds vote of the total membership was required and that there were not enough members present at this time. She stated that a recess or caucus could be called to call in additional members to vote. She added that the referral was given to the RTM under Council rule which requires action today.

Reps. McDermott and Loughlin were under the impression that their motion was to pass the legislation and were sorry for the confusion. Their motions were retracted.

No other motions were made and the legislation passed.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

2015-0174 Resolution for a Town Wide Budget Referendum

RESOLUTION FOR A TOWN WIDE BUDGET REFERENDUM

Chairman Ambroise read applicable portions of the minutes of the meeting on June 24, 2015. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Monaghan, seconded by Rep. Smith and so voted unanimously.

It was noted that Rep. Kotowski has since modified the wording in the resolution to include a 2% increase in spending and/or 2% tax increase.

Chairman Ambroise stated that if there was not a motion for this power of initiative he would like to discuss it in other business. He added that the referral would remain open upon further

information, feedback and research.

Rep. Grantosky asked the Town Clerk to notify the Floor Leaders of any Committee Meetings.

Moderator Conley reminded members that this information was also available on the Town website.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

In response to Rep. Neugent, the Town Manager stated that he had very little information on the new 911 system that is proposed to be implemented. He noted that he had just read about it and would report back with more information with any associated costs.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Ambroise requested the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting on July 21, 2015 or July 23, 2015 for the Rules & Procedures Committee for discussion on referral 2015-0174 Resolution for a Town Wide Budget Referendum.

Rep. Monaghan suggested this referral be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Moderator Conley agreed and stated that she will forward this revised draft of the referral to the Town Attorney. In response to members questioning the wording of what would be asked the Town Attorney, she replied, "Is this ordinance a violation of the Town Charter?"

A copy of the draft of Rep. Kotowski's revised resolution was handed out among the RTM members and she discussed details of the revision.

Rep. Turnbull, in reference to the propsed referendum resolution reminded the RTM that you do not have to be a taxpayer to vote.

In response to Rep. Parker, Moderator Conley noted that the final budget timeline is set by Charter and can only be changed by Charter revision.

L. ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk of the RTM

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II