



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 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 Deane-Shinbrot, 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, September 14, 2016

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

Moderator Scott Newsome called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

A. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Moderator Newsome, Rep. Adams, Rep. Bailey, Rep. Baker, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Burgos, Jr., Rep. Conley, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Evans, Rep. Sliker-Hersant, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Maher, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCabe, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Obrey, Rep. Parker, Rep. Quinn, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Welles and Rep. Wilson

Members Absent: Rep. Casper, Rep. Cini, Rep. Frickman, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Nault, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Watrous and Rep. Williams

Moderator Newsome stated that 29 members were present and he declared a quorum.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, 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 AUGUST 10, 2016

Moderator Newsome made the request to add more information to the Finance and Education Committee report section of the minutes. He submitted his request as a motion to amend the minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Rep. Wilson and seconded by Rep. Parker.

The vote on approval of the amended minutes carried unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Newsome stated that Reps. Casper, Cini, Frickman, Loughlin, Nault and Pasqualini notified the Town Clerk of their absence.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2016 was approximately \$9.9 million. He reported that the General Contingency budget was appropriated at \$425,000 with a current balance of \$418,000. He reported that the Capital Reserve Fund balance as of June 30, 2016 is estimated to be \$1.5 million. This increase from the prior month is preliminarily related to projects that had closed as of June 30, 2016.

2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Mark Oefinger highlighted items from the Town Manager's Monthly News report. He mentioned that the Groton Public Library has been nominated by Congressman Joe Courtney for the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. He stated that letters of support must be submitted by the Library before October 3rd in order to be considered for the Medal. He updated the RTM about the LED Streetlight Project Status. Four sample LED replacement streetlights were installed on Fort Hill Road between the entry to Grasso Tech and Groton Long Point Road. Comments pertaining to the sample lights should be sent to Rick Norris at rnorris@groton-ct.gov. He announced that in partnership with TVCCA Inc., Groton Human Services has started accepting energy assistance applications for Groton residents for the FYE 2017 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. Residents wishing to apply for this program should contact Groton Human Services to schedule an appointment. He referred to attachment 2 of the Town Manager's News which is an article from The Day Newspaper. The article states that Eversource is investing \$5.1 million to expand its natural gas system in Groton, making the fuel available to an additional 400 residents. He referred to attachment 4 which is a flyer from Groton Public Schools, Children First Groton for Healthy Development. A summit on Infant, Children, Adolescent Mental Health to be held on Thursday, September 29th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Fitch High School. Please register by September 22 at www.groton.k12.ct.us. Snacks and child care will be provided.

Responding to Rep. Welles, Town Manager Mark Oefinger gave an update on the North Stonington Road Bridge project.

G. REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

None.

H. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Graner reported on recent developments in the Groton school system. He highlighted the very positive opening of the school year and discussed the enrollment at both Catherine Kolnaski and Northeast Academy's magnet programs. He mentioned that the Board recently hired a communications coordinator to support the school district's outreach. He stated that the coordinator could possibly support the Town of Groton in its efforts to promote economic development. He confirmed that the Department of Administrative Services has accepted all the paperwork required for the 3 projects of the Groton 2020 Plan. He added that they asked to be notified on November 9, 2016 if the projects are to go forward. He announced that the Charles Barnum Elementary School was nominated and selected to receive a National Blue Ribbon Award. He noted that it was the only elementary school in Connecticut to receive the award.

I. LIAISON REPORTS

Rep. Obrey stated that the Economic/Community Development Manager Paige Bronk, reported to the Economic Development Commission that they now have a program in place to market Town owned buildings that are allocated for sale.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Quinn

Chairman Quinn stated that the meeting scheduled for September 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. did not have a quorum and there was no report. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a

recommendation on approval of Referral 2016-0220 Allocation of Funds from Capital Reserve Fund Balance for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction.

Moderator Newsome read Referral 2016-0220 to the RTM membership.

Responding to Rep. Conley, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the revised agenda for the Regular RTM meeting on September 14, 2016 and the notice for the Finance Committee meeting on September 14, 2016 was emailed to RTM members on September 8, 2016.

Rep. Wilson made a motion to approve Referral 2016-0220, seconded by Rep. Massett.

Responding to Rep. Obrey, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that there is not enough room for putting a round about or traffic circle near the main gate of the Submarine Base in this project. He added that the Department of Transportation was very proactive on this project and that the Base Commander was looking forward to its completion. He strongly recommended the RTM to approve the referral.

Rep. J. Streeter stated that this project is very important for Groton and urged the RTM members to give their full support to it.

Moderator Newsome noted that this project when completed will be a positive addition to the Submarine Base when the next round of the Base Realignment and Closure comes along.

2016-0220

Allocation of Funds from Capital Reserve Fund Balance for Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ALLOCATION OF \$120,000 OF CAPITAL RESERVE FUND BALANCE TO THE CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, a total of \$558,210 was approved in the fiscal years 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 from the Capital Improvement budget for the 10% local match for the reconstruction of Crystal Lake Road, and

WHEREAS, the \$558,210 was based on the preliminary \$5,582,100 cost estimate of the project prepared by the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Project Development Unit, and

WHEREAS, the final plans have been completed and the current final Connecticut Department of Transportation estimate for the project is \$6,744,120, and

WHEREAS, the project is expected to be publicly bid by September 2016, and

WHEREAS, additional funding in the amount of \$120,000 is necessary to fund the local 10% match, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the allocation of \$120,000 from Capital Reserve Fund Balance to project 1) I) Reconstruction of Crystal Lake Road/Military Highway.

Refer to RTM under Rule 6.5.3.

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

The motion carried unanimously

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 Deane-Shinbrot

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Massett

Chairman Massett read the minutes of the meeting held on July 13, 2016. The minutes are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and make a recommendation on Referral 2016-0165 RTM Electronic Voting.

Responding to Rep. Gilly, Rep. Massett confirmed that there would be no cost for the trial period. If the RTM decides to purchase the system, the cost would be \$1549.00 plus tax.

The vote on approval of the amended minutes carried unanimously.

Moderator Newsome suggested trying the system on a trial basis, at no cost, to evaluate it.

Responding to Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott stated that he would need to discuss the set up procedure with Turning Technologies. He added that this system would reduce the time spent voting by the RTM especially during budget meetings and would eliminate any possible errors.

Moderator Newsome thanked Rep. McDermott for all his research on this referral.

Rep. Neugent mentioned that she likes to see how other Representatives vote in real time and so do her constituents. She added that public opinion of this system needs to be considered as well.

Responding to Rep. Massett, Moderator Newsome stated that after the trial period the referral will have to be approved by the RTM membership. He mentioned other prerequisites, such as where the funding will come from and who would be responsible for operating and maintaining the equipment.

Rep. Wilson made a motion to accept the Trial Agreement with Turning Technologies, seconded by Rep. Conley.

In response to Mayor Flax, Rep. McDermott stated that the hardware was included in the price and that he did not go through the purchasing process for a bid. He reported that in his research of this system, he looked at other companies and found Turning Technologies to be the best buy for the price. He noted that they came highly recommended by RTM's in Massachusetts that use the system.

The vote on accepting the Trial Agreement with Turning Technologies carried 25 in favor, 3 oppose, 1 abstention. Opposed: Reps. Adams, Massett and Steinfeld. Abstaining: Rep. Welles.

2016-0165**RTM Electronic Voting**

RTM Electronic Voting

K. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. Massett made a request to Mayor Flax that at least one Town Council member be available at the RTM budget meetings to explain their rationale for reducing or increasing funds on

individual accounts.

Rep. Conley requested that there be a joint Town Council and RTM goal setting meeting before budget deliberations begin.

L. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

M. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Welles and so voted unanimously. Moderator Newsome adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Michael Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II