



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 Natalie B. Billing, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Laurie Kim Briggs, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Warren T. Cooper, Nancy S. Driscoll, Syma Ebbin, June Evered, Peter Fairbank, Jonathon L. Foisy, Irene B. Garagliano, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Wendy L. Hellekson, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, James Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Richard Metayer, Betsy Moukawsher, Scott Newsome, Deborah Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Betty A. Prochaska, Don Pratt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Cheryl Tilney and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-CR1

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

23 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Beckwith, Evered and Luck called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Adams, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Smuts and Rep. Steinfeld

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Evered, Rep. Foisy, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Luck, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steere, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Tilney and Rep. Warn

Also present were Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, 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 Mr. Vincent.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 15 and APRIL 29, 2009

A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher and so voted unanimously.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Billing stated that Rep. Luck is organizing the RTM participation in the Fourth of July parade. She asked interested members to contact Rep. Luck.

The Moderator reported that at the Fifth District caucus held prior to this meeting, Jonathon L. Foisy was elected to fill the vacancy in the district.

The Town Clerk announced that the Democratic and Republican parties are looking for candidates for the local elections this November. She mentioned that positions are open for nine councilors, forty-one RTM members, the Board of Education (BOE) and the Town Clerk. She requested that residents who are interested in running for election contact the Clerk's office for more information. She mentioned that unaffiliated residents may also run for election. The Clerk

stated that certification of candidates must be completed by late July.

The Moderator noted that in order to have a full slate of candidates from each political party, 100 candidates are needed.

2009-0155 Bridge Street Streetscape Project - Funding for Final Engineering

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on July 15, 2009.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2008 is approximately \$11 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000 but fourth quarter transfers in the amount of \$314,475 will come before the RTM at this meeting for approval; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,804,876.

2. Monthly briefing

Mr. Vincent requested members to review the final budget comparison charts in the Town Manager News. He highlighted that the Town Operations portion of the budget represents a 1.6% decrease and that the General Fund Total represents a .1% increase.

Mr. Vincent summarized the status of the second phase of Gungywamp Road repaving, the Thames Street Reconstruction Project and Bridge Street Streetscape Project.

Mr. Ackerman reported that the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is available on the Town's website. He noted that a draft for further development of Sutton Park is included in the Manager's News.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

Shellfish Task Force - Rep. Ebbin

Rep. Ebbin reported on the meeting held on April 20, 2009. She summarized the discussions about Mumford Cove and Groton Long Point dredging, Fort Hill sewer project and the Shellfish Commission report. She noted that concern was expressed that a new developer may take over the Wal-Mart project and that new zoning regulations could allow a developer to significantly increase the number of proposed lots with no consideration for runoff or estuaries.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

She mentioned that the BOE and the School Superintendent were able to absorb the budget reduction of \$800,000 without layoffs and with minimum impact to students. She stated that federal stimulus funds were very helpful to offset the impact of the budget reduction this year.

2009-0126 Services Shared with Stonington

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE ON SHARED SERVICES WITH STONINGTON

WHEREAS, for several years the Groton Town Council and Representative Town Meeting have been faced with serious questions about what appears to be less than fair and proportionate contributions by the Town of Stonington to services that are widely shared by residents of both towns, and

WHEREAS, previous communications between the two towns have not led to meaningful changes in Stonington's contributions to those organizations and programs, and

WHEREAS, Groton is particularly concerned about securing adequate support from both towns to the Mystic and Noank Library, the Mystic River Ambulance Association and the Mystic River Pumpout Boat program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the Town of Groton may appoint a Shared Services Task Force of not more than nine members, to include volunteers from the Groton Town Council and RTM, and other members as appropriate, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor should invite the Town of Stonington to also designate up to four of the nine members of the Task Force.

Moderator Billing reported that the Town Council decided not to create a committee at this time in response to the RTM referral for services shared with Stonington. She asked members to consider what the next step should be.

1. FINANCE

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Granatosky

Chairman Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on June 17, 2009. (Minutes are attached.)

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

2009-0074 FYE 2009 Fourth Quarter Transfers

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2009 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for supplemental appropriations to Adopted Budgets and transfers from the Contingency function during the year and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter also provides for the transfer of funds from one departmental function to another departmental function during the last three months of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, transfers are necessary and represent unforeseen or unexpected expenditures at the time the FYE 2009 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$331,475 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Legal Services (#1006) @ \$52,200:
for costs associated with personnel/labor relations issues.

Public Safety (#1024) @ \$51,100:
for costs associated with payment of accumulated leave benefits (vacation, sick leave, etc.) when an employee retires/resigns.

Public Works (#1035) @ \$80,750;
for costs associated with overtime required due to the number of winter storms and the days of the week/time of day on which they occurred.

Public Works (#1035) @ \$147,425;
for costs associated with materials and supplies required for the number of winter storms which required more treated salt than was budgeted as well as an increase in the unit price of the material from what was budgeted.

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

In response to Moderator Billing, Mr. Vincent explained the timeline of fourth quarter transfers. Rep. Granatosky noted that Mr. Pandolfo had reported that there was not enough money remaining in any one account to cover any one of these items. She stated that is why it is necessary to use contingency this year.

Mr. Ackerman stated that the anticipated unexpended fund total to be returned to the General Fund is not available but will be provided as soon as it is.

The motion carried unanimously

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Fairbank

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Power

No meeting, no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

No meeting, no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES

a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Evered

No meeting, no report.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Smuts requested that it be noted for the record that the Board of Education was able to absorb the budget reduction only because of the one-time stimulus money and changes in next year's expenditures. She reported that Superintendent of Schools Kadri was able to add one more full day Kindergarten class at S. B. Butler with the stimulus funds. She stressed that the stimulus funds will not be available next year and that this will create a shortfall in the BOE budget.

J. ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk