



# 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 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 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**

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Wednesday, July 15, 2009

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Community Room 1

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#### Regular Meeting

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*The Town Clerk called the meeting to order at 7:33p.m.  
21 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Foisy, Rep. Luck, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Power, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Tilney and Rep. Warn  
Members Absent: Moderator Billing, Rep. Baril, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere and Rep. Svencer

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Groton City Mayor Dennis Popp, Groton City Planner Barbara Goodrich, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.*

#### B. ELECTION OF MODERATOR PRO TEMPORE

*The Town Clerk opened the floor to nominations for Moderator Pro Tempore.*

*Rep. Lisa Luck was nominated by Rep. Moukawsher.  
Rep. Kevin Power was nominated by Rep. Steinfeld.*

*There being no further nominations, the Town Clerk declared nominations closed.*

*The vote for Moderator Pro Tempore was 11 for Rep. Luck, 10 for Rep. Power. (Voting for Rep. Luck were Reps. Bauer, Cerf, Collins, Cooper, Driscoll, Ebbin, Evered, Foisy, Luck, Moukawsher, Tilney. Voting for Rep. Power were Reps. Adams, Ambroise, Barnhart, Newsome, Power, Prochaska, Sebastian, Steinfeld, Streeter, Warn.)*

#### C. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Power.*

#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2009

*A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Moukawsher, seconded by Rep. Driscoll. The vote on approving the minutes carried 20 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Ebbin.) Rep. Ebbin stated for the record that she would like a change to the Shellfish Task Force liaison report to reflect her exact words "concern was expressed that a new developer may take over the project." The Town Clerk stated that the minutes will be changed to reflect her written report.*

**E. CITIZENS' PETITIONS**

*None.*

**F. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS**

*Moderator Pro Tem Luck mentioned that the Ordinance for Thames Street Rehabilitation, if approved, will be referred by the Town Council next week to the RTM under RTM Rule 6.5.3, and will be voted on at the August RTM meeting. She noted that it will be referred to the RTM Public Works Committee.*

**G. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:****1. Financial report**

*Mr. Oefinger reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2008 is approximately \$11.0 million; the FYE 2009 General Contingency ending balance is \$18,525 after approval of the fourth quarter transfers; the Capital Reserve balance is \$1,812,395. He noted that an appropriation of \$72,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the Bridge Street Streetscape Project is on the RTM's agenda for approval at this meeting.*

**2. Monthly briefing**

*The Town Manager provided a summary on several items contained in the Town Manager's News. He noted that the Fort Hill Sewer, Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade, and School Constructions projects are complete, that monthly progress reports will cease and that project overviews will be presented within the next two months. He reported that good progress is being made on the Senior Center renovations and expansion. He announced that a public presentation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is scheduled for July 27, 2009 at the Annex.*

*The Moderator Pro Tem mentioned that Reps. Evered, Moukawsher and Luck participated in the Fourth of July parade.*

**H. LIAISON REPORTS**

*No reports.*

**I. COMMITTEE REPORTS****1. FINANCE****a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Granatosky**

*Committee member Betsy Moukawsher read the minutes of the meeting held on July 7, 2009. (Minutes are attached.)*

*Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rep. Moukawsher, seconded by Rep. Ambrose and so voted unanimously.*

**2009-0155 Bridge Street Streetscape Project - Funding for Final Engineering****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CAPITAL RESERVE APPROPRIATION FOR ENGINEERING FOR THE BRIDGE STREET STREETScape PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM have previously appropriated funds for both conceptual and preliminary design work associated with the Thames Street/Bridge Street Reconstruction Project, and

WHEREAS, as a result of this previous work, successful application has been made to the State of Connecticut for federal stimulus construction funding in the amount of \$1.1 million for the Bridge Street portion of this project, and

WHEREAS, in order to utilize the federal stimulus funding that is available, final design and bid specifications for Bridge Street must be completed as soon as possible so as to meet a February 2010 funding commitment obligation to the federal government, and

WHEREAS, funding will be needed for final design, environmental permitting, project meetings and coordination, and the bidding phase of this project in the estimated amount of \$72,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that FYE 2009 CIP #1J is increased in an amount of \$72,000 and is appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund's fund balance for the above-stated purpose.

Refer to RTM

**A motion was made by Rep. Moukawsher, seconded by Rep. Sebastian, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 20 - Rep. Adams, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Foisy, Rep. Luck, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Power, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Tilney  
Opposed: 1 - Rep. Warn

## **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.*

## **J. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Rep. Ambrose made a Motion to Adjourn which was seconded.*

*Rep. Sebastian called a "Point of Order" noting that he had his hand up at the same time.*

*Moderator Pro Tem Luck recognized Rep. Sebastian.*

*Rep. Sebastian feels that the RTM did a good job this year in scrutinizing the budget. He believes that the RTM should start now to have discussions and to establish objectives for next year's budget before the Town Manager begins his budget preparations.*

*Moderator Pro Tem Luck asked if he would like to make a referral since this subject was not on the agenda.*

*Rep. Sebastian declined to request a referral at this time, and mentioned several areas that he would like reviewed; the cost differences in compensation for police officers in the City of Groton, Groton Long Point and Town of Groton; compensation for Board of Education (BOE) employees and teachers compared to others in the Town's District Reference Group; the number of BOE administrative specialists, and the level of funding for Public Works department which he*

considers excessive. We should set an objective for next year.

Moderator Pro Tem Luck again asked him if he wanted a referral to committee.

Rep. Sebastian again declined, and suggested that one goal would be to have no tax increase to residents next year except for an adjustment for debt service. He will not ask for a referral but will continue to speak on this subject in the future.

Rep. Cooper stated that he feels Rep. Sebastian comments are germane and should be pursued.

2009-0180

**Method of RTM Adjournment**

## METHOD OF RTM ADJOURNMENT

**Referred**

Rep. Cerf requested a referral to the RTM Rules and Procedures Committee to discuss "end-of-meeting" procedures. She stated often a representative "blurts out" the motion to adjourn when "Other Business" is announced by the Moderator, thus ending the opportunity for any representative to speak or bring up new business. She feels that the Moderator should maintain control under "Other Business" and request a motion to adjourn after any "Other Business" has been addressed.

2009-0181

**RTM Time Limits for Speakers**

## RTM TIME LIMITS FOR SPEAKERS

**Referred**

Rep. Cerf also requested a referral to the RTM Rules and Procedures Committee to review limitations on how long a representative may speak and noted that individuals should not be interrupted when speaking unless a limitation is specified in the rules. She requested that the clarification be in writing.

The Town Clerk pointed out that she spoke to the Moderator Pro Temp this evening specifically because discussion was taking place on an item not on the agenda. This occurred when a representative responded to Rep. Sebastian. A speaker may request a referral and provide a brief statement of the reasons for the referral. She noted that discussion of an item not on the agenda is a Freedom of Information violation.

Rep. Ambrose noted that he would like to respond to Rep. Sebastian, but realized that it was not allowed. He noted that it was important to be pro-active.

Rep. Sebastian requested that an item be placed on the agenda under "Other Business" labeled "Future Government Spending" to avoid any FOI violation.

**K. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. Bauer and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk