



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 Kevin Power, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Christopher J. Burns, Michael Collins, Nancy M. Congdon, Warren T. Cooper, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Nancy E. Gilly, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Keith L. Hedrick, Damon Q. Helme, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Michael Dean Johnson, Rosanne E. Kotowski, Elizabeth Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Karen F. Morton, Scott Newsome, Dana C. Parfitt, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Kristen L. Powers, Don Pratt, Betty A. Prochaska, Sandry Ramos-Morales, John F. Scott IV, Jack Sebastian, Dana S. Semeraro, Jennifer Smuts, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, and Robert A. Warn

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex-Community Room 1

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Kevin Power called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

25 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Beckwith, Burns, Collins, Fairbank, Luck, Powers, Ramos-Morales, Scott, Sebastian and Warn called to say they are unable to attend this meeting. Rep. Prochaska will be late.

Members Present: Moderator Power, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Helme, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Svencer

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Bartinik, Jr., Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Burns, Rep. Collins, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Luck, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Powers, Rep. Ramos-Morales, Rep. Scott, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Warn

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Board of Education Director of Technology Services Paul Sikorski, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, 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 led by Rep. Pasqualini.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2010 and MAY 19, 2010

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

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Power reported that the RTM Rules and Procedures Committee was unable to meet due to work obligations of the chairman. A report is expected at the August RTM meeting.

The Moderator requested that any member who is interested in serving on the Groton Heights School Reuse Task Force contact him to volunteer.

The Moderator informed members that due to budget constraints, committee agenda notifications or cancellations may be combined in the monthly meeting packet. He reminded members to contact the office, moderator or committee chair if they are unable to attend a meeting.

2010-0156

Reauthorization of Funds - Catherine Kolnaski to Fitch High School for Water Infiltration

This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on August 18, 2010.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2010 is approximately \$10.3 million; the General Contingency balance for FYE 2010 is \$102,275 which will be returned to Fund Balance; the Capital Reserve Fund balance is \$2,889,311. He stated the increase to the Capital Reserve Fund balance is attributable to revenues from interest income, school building grants and recording fees.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted numerous items in the Town Manager's News and announced that the Town's web site has a link for the Revaluation project.

Rep. Prochaska arrived at 7:45 p.m.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

None.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE

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

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES

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

No meeting, no report.

4. RECREATION

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

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION

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

In the absence of Chairman Swindell, the Moderator reported that there was no quorum at the meeting on July 15, 2010.

2010-0105 Change in Previously Authorized Board of Education CIP Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION FOR EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

WHEREAS, Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri requested that the Town Council consider a change in a previously authorized Capital Improvement Program project for enhancing educational technologies related to video furnaces, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kadri feels that a contracted, Web-based software and hosting solution would better meet the current and future needs of the school district, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the FYE 2009 CIP #5F-1 Educational Technologies-Video Furnace for \$73,000 be closed and those funds be transferred to the General Fund, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$73,000 is appropriated from the General Fund's unreserved, undesignated fund balance to the Board of Education account #10800 - Education Services.

Refer to RTM.

Discussed

A motion that this matter be adopted was made by Moderator Power, seconded by Rep. Hedrick.

Rep. Bauer gave a brief synopsis of the information provided to the members that were present at the July 15, 2010 meeting.

Director of Technology Services Paul Sikorski explained the differences in technology between video furnaces and the proposed new web-based software and hosting solution. He verified the cost effectiveness of utilizing a web-based system versus the unsustainable expenses of video furnaces for additional schools.

The Manager addressed the concern raised by Rep. Morton as to why the web-based software and hosting solution was not included in the current FYE2011 budget. He clarified that the video furnace was selected by the Board of Education staff and their consultant for the school construction project. He noted that Town staff did not get involved until problems were identified during construction, and that JCJ was not involved at all.

Rep. Semeraro stated that she objects to approving this authorization. She feels it sets a precedent and that the usual process for funding should be followed in the next budget cycle.

Rep. Smuts stated she will not support this authorization because of the process that is being followed to use CIP funds. She objected to the fact that the Superintendent conducted a second study for newer technology in June with remaining FYE2010 BOE funds. She suggested that the BOE fund this item with FYE2011 money or request funding in next year's budget.

Rep. Steinfeld agrees with Reps. Semeraro and Smuts.

The Town Manager noted that Superintendent of Schools Paul Kadri had notified his office that he was unable to attend tonight's meeting. The Manager clarified the Town Council's actions on this item. He suggested that the RTM defer this item until the next meeting to allow the Superintendent an opportunity to be present and answer questions.

A motion was made by Rep. Bauer, seconded by Rep. Pratt, that this matter be Postponed to a Certain Time to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on August 18, 2010.

Rep. Massett raised a "Point of Order" to clarify the difference between motions to defer, postpone and table.

The Town Clerk provided clarification and confirmed that the motion to postpone until the next meeting is the most appropriate.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 17 - Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Helme, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Pratt, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Svencer
Opposed: 8 - Moderator Power, Rep. Baril, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Prochaska and Rep. Smuts

5. PUBLIC SAFETY**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Parfitt**

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC WORKS**a. Chairman's notes on the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**

In the absence of Chairman Collins, Rep. Ebbin read the minutes of the meeting held on July 7, 2010. (Minutes are attached.)

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

Rep. Barnhart left at 8:16 p.m.

2010-0135

River Road Repairs

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE PERMITTING AND DESIGN OF REPAIRS TO RIVER ROAD

WHEREAS, a section of River Road was damaged during the March 2010 rain event effectively dead-ending the road for vehicular traffic, and

WHEREAS, no funds are currently appropriated to permit, design and repair the road, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has estimated the cost of permitting and design work at \$75,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a supplemental appropriation of \$75,000 be appropriated from the Capital Reserve Fund Balance as a FYE 2011 road project.

A motion was made by Rep. Ebbin, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld, that this matter be Adopted.

Director of Public Works Gary Schneider responded to members' questions in regard to the River Road study and repairs. He noted that the scope of service did not originally take into account the scenic road designation, analysis of opening the road to one way traffic or the need for a public hearing. He provided information about the Town's involvement in the repairs to State Route 184 bridge and the North Stonington Road bridge. Mr. Schneider clarified the FEMA reimbursement amount for the reconstruction of River Road. He stated that a public hearing will be held since River Road is a scenic road. He noted that staff will closely monitor items that may not be covered by reimbursement such as the materials used for guard rails or signage.

Rep. Ebbin expressed concern that the Town should take a pro-active approach to the design and rebuilding of River Road in light of future severe weather patterns that may affect the area. She acknowledged that constraints imposed by FEMA allow only the rebuilding of the roadway as is.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 24 - Moderator Power, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Congdon, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Gilly, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hedrick, Rep. Helme, Rep. Kotowski, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Morton, Rep. Parfitt, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Svencer
Non-voting: 1 - Rep. Barnhart

7. RULES & PROCEDURES

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

No meeting, no report.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Harrell and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk