



# 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

**Representatives Jeffrey Armstrong, Joseph Baril, Lori Bartinik, Genevieve Cerf, Wayne Chiapperini, Michael Collins, Joseph delaCruz, Luanne DeMatto, Debra Dickey, Susan Dowling, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, George Edwards Jr, Suzanne Elliot, Norbert Fay, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Barbara Hoelck, Gordon Lange, David Miner, Nancy Mitchell, Deborah Monteiro, Matt Morton, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Darcy Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Rita Schmidt,, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, George Swift, Patricia Thunberg, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, John Waller and Elizabeth Weil.**

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Wednesday, February 11, 2004

7:30 PM

Senior Center

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#### Regular Meeting-Revised Agenda

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 34 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Chiapperini, Rep. Collins, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Dickey, Rep. Dowling, Rep. Dunbar-Rose, Rep. Elliot, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hoelck, Rep. Miner, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. M. Morton, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Weil  
Members Absent: Rep. delaCruz, Rep. Edwards, Jr., Rep. Fay, Rep. Lange, Rep. Power, Rep. Swift and Rep. Waller, II

*Also present were Mayor Harry Watson, Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Ledge Light Health Director Sam Crowley, Community Health Coordinator Cindy Barry, Town Councilors Thomas Skrmetti, Mick O'Beirne and Paulann Sheets, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf, Registrar Vicki Rossman, 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.*

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2004

*A motion to approve was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld. The motion carried 33 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Mitchell).*

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*None*

#### E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

##### 1. Presentation

*Moderator Dunbar-Rose introduced Ledge Light Health District Director Sam Crowley and Community Health Coordinator Cindy Barry.*

*Mr. Crowley recognized Shawn Greeley and Jennifer Helfrich for their help with the local cable health show. He spoke about the expansion of the Health District to include more area towns. He reviewed the services provided by the District. He stressed that he wants the public to be aware that they do much more than food and septic inspections. They are currently involved in the development of a Bio-Terrorism program.*

*Cindy Barry described, through a Powerpoint presentation, the duties and responsibilities of the LLHD. She also stated that her job is collecting and providing data about the strength and*

weakness profiles of the towns and educating the public. She designs and implements programs that are needed.

Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose reported Reps. Lange and delaCruz are out of town. Rep. Swift is unable to attend. Rep. Power is in Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

Item 2004-0043 Transfer of Funds for Claude Chester Roof Replacement was referred to the RTM Education Committee under Rule 6.5.3 and is on the agenda for this meeting.

Copies of the draft Referendum Questions authorized by Committee-of-the-Whole were distributed prior to the meeting by Town Manager staff.

## F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

### 1. Financial report

Mr Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund Balance as of July 1, 2003 is \$5.2 million or 5.3% of the Adopted FYE 2004 Budget; the General Contingency for FYE 2004 was appropriated at \$400,00 with no transfers made to date; the Capital Reserve Fund has a balance of \$1,912,696. (The increase of \$24,855 is due to interest revenue). He spoke briefly about the one page draft for the options of the Referendum Questions which he distributed prior to the meeting. He reviewed the topics discussed with the local delegation of the General Assembly at their meeting on February 5.

### 2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Oefinger presented an update on the Allyn Building in Mystic. He has discussed a proposal that includes condos and retail space. The developer wants to lease additional parking at the Gravel Street pump station.

He announced that a tentative schedule for the School Referendum Questions has been drafted. A Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 1, 2004. He expects that the Ordinances and questions will be referred under Rule 6.5.3 for consideration at the regular RTM March meeting or at a special meeting if necessary to maintain the schedule for a Referendum on April 27.

He stated that the budget process is progressing and the budget will be sent to the printer the first week of March. He expressed concern regarding the Motor Vehicle Grand List. He is expecting a decrease since used car values have dropped significantly. This will impact the tax revenue for motor vehicles.

### 2004-0067 School Referendum Issues

#### SCHOOL REFERENDUM ISSUES

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Education Committee, due back on March 10, 2004. The motion carried.**

*This item was referred to committee by the Moderator for preliminary consideration.*

**This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on March 10, 2004. The motion carried.**

*This item was referred to committee by the Moderator for preliminary consideration.*

## G. LIAISON REPORTS

### 1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf

Rep. Cerf attended four meetings and stated that numerous citizens spoke about the school referendum at the recent Council meetings. She announced the Town's 300th Anniversary Celebration will start with a Ball in February, 2005. She stated that the significant increase in revenue from the new conveyance tax has not hurt sales in Groton. She praised the Council for all the work they are doing.

Rep. DeMatto stated for the record that the letter to the Council was not an action from the RTM, but from 22 members of the RTM.

**2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt**

*No report.*

**3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson**

*Rep. Patterson spoke about the School Referendum Questions and the State reimbursement. She reported that Fitch High School has three new roof leaks.*

**4. School Design Committee - Rep. Miner**

*Rep. Miner deferred his report, as all the information has already been presented.*

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS****1. FINANCE****a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt**

*No meeting; no report.*

**2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT****a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Dickey**

*No meeting; no report.*

**3. EDUCATION****a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Newsome**

*Chairman Newsome read the minutes of the meeting held on February 11, 2004. (See minutes attached.)*

*A motion that minutes be approved was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Schmidt and so voted unanimously.*

**2004-0043 Transfer of Funds for Claude Chester Roof Replacement****RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CLAUDE CHESTER SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Town Council approves a project to replace the roof at Claude Chester School, and

WHEREAS, the total cost of the project is estimated by the Board of Education at \$400,000, and

WHEREAS, the Town must pay for the full cost of the project prior to receiving an anticipated reimbursement of approximately 50% from the state, and

WHEREAS, \$332,578.18 of the cost is already available from funds previously appropriated for school roofing projects which are now completed, and

WHEREAS, the remaining share of the \$400,000 cost for the Claude Chester School's roof can be obtained by transferring funds that remain from other completed school repair projects, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the amount of \$67,421.82 be transferred from Capital Maintenance to Capital Reserve.

Refer to RTM

**A motion was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Miner, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES****a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman DeMatto**

*No meeting; no report.*

**5. RECREATION**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman delaCruz**

*No meeting; no report.*

**6. PUBLIC SAFETY**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito**

*No meeting; no report.*

**7. PUBLIC WORKS**

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

*No meeting; no report.*

**8. RULES & PROCEDURES**

**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Weil**

*No meeting; no report.*

**I. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Statement delivered to Town Council from some RTM members re: Eastern Point School (attached)**

*Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose opened the floor for discussion.*

*Rep. Weil expressed concern that the letter was presented from 22 members of the RTM. She thought it misrepresented the members who had not signed it and she has no stated position yet.*

*Rep. Schmidt stated the letter was very clear and was signed by individuals who agreed with its content.*

*Rep. Armstrong apologized and explained his position. He stated the signatures represented the individuals who were willing to sign at the end of the previous meeting.*

*Rep. Collins stated he did not sign the letter as he was out of town. He wants any school construction to meet current specifications. He believes the bricks and mortar are just as important as the education taking place inside.*

*Rep. Monteiro expressed concern and anger at the gossip circulating that the members who signed were going to veto. The letter merely states an opinion and does not state they will veto the upcoming referendum.*

*Rep. Granatosky stated the letter clearly was not from the RTM body at the Council meeting, but was from individuals having the same opinion.*

*Rep. Pratt had several questions about Capital Improvement Project school money.*

*Town Manager Oefinger that stated some money was approved for Fitch, but since the work was not started, the Board of Education requested the money be used for the emergency repair for Claude Chester. He explained the time line for use of Capital Improvement project money. He stated that any unused portion goes back into capital reserves.*

**2. Discussion of Upcoming Budget Items**

*No discussion.*

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Miner. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk*