



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.

Wednesday, April 14, 2004

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 31 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. delaCruz, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Dickey, Rep. Dowling, Rep. Dunbar-Rose, Rep. Elliot, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Hoelck, Rep. Lange, Rep. Miner, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. M. Morton, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Weil

Members Absent: Rep. Chiapperini, Rep. Collins, Rep. Edwards, Jr., Rep. Fay, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Swift and Rep. Waller, II

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, 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

Rep. Power led the members in the Salute to the flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2004

A motion to approve was made by Rep. DeMatto, seconded by Rep. Walker. The motion to approve carried 30 in favor, 1 abstention (abstaining: Rep. Streeter).

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Dunbar-Rose reported that Reps. Swift, Monteiro, Collins and Harrell would not be attending.

She reported that the agenda and schedule for the annual RTM budget meeting was mailed out to all members. The RTM budget session will begin on May 3, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. with the receipt of Citizens Petitions. A revised calendar for the Council Budget review sessions has been mailed out to the members.

She requested that any members that have not picked up their budget books to please do so.

The Moderator reminded everyone to vote on the upcoming school referendum on April 27, 2004.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund Balance of July 1, 2003 is \$4.9 million or 5.0% of the Actual FYE 2003 Expenditures; the General Contingency for FYE 2004

was appropriated at \$400,000 with no transfers made to date. He explained the process for upcoming fourth quarter transfers as provided by the Charter and that he expects a referral in May with action taken at the June RTM meeting.

He stated the Town Manager's newsletter has many attachments and pertinent budget articles. Mr. Vincent highlighted the recognition and full accreditation of the Groton Senior Center from the National Council of Aging/National Institute of Senior Centers. He reported only 100 senior centers nation-wide and three in Connecticut have achieved this award. He commended and thanked John Silsby, Director of Parks & Recreation, Mary Jo Riley and the Senior Center staff for all their hard work and a job well done.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager reported that Council budget deliberations are progressing. He hopes the Council will complete deliberations and refer the budget numbers to the RTM next Tuesday. A preliminary mill rate will be announced based on Council actions but a final mill rate will not be set until the RTM completes its budget review.

He stated the explanatory text for the school referendum was mailed out today.

He provided an update on several management studies that are currently being worked on. These consist of reviewing and assessing the Ambulance services in Town, the Fleet Management Program and the customer service survey of the Shennecossett Public Golf Course. He will report the findings as each study is completed.

He announced that preliminary information from the State Appropriations Committee is recommending an increase in the Town's State revenue for FYE 2005 Budget.

Rep. Lange asked if the explanatory text addressed the mill rate impact for the life of the bond so individuals could calculate their own increases.

The Town Manager replied in the affirmative.

Rep. Granatosky asked about the status of legal opinion about Groton Long Point as to whether it is a borough or homeowners association.

The Town Manager expects a definitive opinion from the Town Attorney by the end of week. He stated preliminarily that GLP is a public body and not a homeowner's association and it is appropriate for the Town to contribute to the police department but it is not necessarily required.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf

Rep. Cerf provided a summary of the business conducted at the March 16 and April 6 meetings of the Council, the March 23 and April 13 Committee-of-the-Whole meetings and the public hearing on March 29, 2004.

2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

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

Rep. Patterson shared information about the Council's review of the Police Budget in regard to public safety conditions at the High School.

4. School Design Committee - Rep. Miner

Rep. Miner reported that there are no significant changes and that the environmental surveys came back positive in regards to the upcoming school referendum.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt

Chairman Schmidt reported the committee met April 14, 2004, but no report will be made until the Annual Budget Meeting.

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

No meeting, no report.

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

Chairman Vivirito reported that a budget meeting took place immediately after the Council reviewed the Police Accounts. He felt this was a positive experience as many members were able to attend both meetings. He was pleased to report that the Council reinstated money for Community Policing and the committee accepted the Council's recommendation unanimously.

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

Chairman Weil reported the committee met on April 7, 2004 and will give her report at the budget session on May 12, 2004.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Miner inquired about the health of Rep. Edwards. Rep. Vivirito responded that he had spoken to Rep. Edwards recently and that he is undergoing treatment at this time but will be attending the RTM Budget Sessions.

Rep. Armstrong spoke out to encourage all members to be active proponents for the school referendum. He feels it is important that they speak out and provide guidance and information to the citizens. He strongly advocated that the best location for a new Eastern Point School is the King Property.

Rep. Streeter wanted to thank Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox for announcing the new book "Images of America Groton" at the April 6, 2004 Town Council meeting.

Rep. Lange stressed that all individuals should read the explanatory text, reference the mill rate increase and calculate the impact based on their individual assessment. He stated he has done this for numerous individuals and the impact was not bad.

Moderator Dunbar-Rose asked Rep. Pratt if he could explain the podium background this evening. Rep. Pratt explained it is a stage set for "Laurey, Curley, Sam and Charlotte" which is the first musical being staged at the Groton Senior Center. Performances will run from April 15 thru April 18, 2004.

J. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose requested that all present rise and observe a moment of silence for the American Troops.

K. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:28 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