



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 Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Joyce F. Bergeson, Laurie Kim Briggs, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Warren T. Cooper, Nancy S. Driscoll, Syma Ebbin, June Evered, Peter Fairbank, Melissa M. Finlayson, 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, and Cheryl Tilney

Wednesday, August 13, 2008

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

23 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Briggs, Fairbank, Hubbard, Prochaska, Sebastian, Smuts and Svencer called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Steinfeld and Rep. Tilney

Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Svencer

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs, 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 JUNE 11, 2008

A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. Massett.

The motion carried 22 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Beckwith).

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Moderator Billing announced that members can pick up their invitation to Groton Citizenship Day at this meeting. The Moderator mentioned that the dedication ceremony for Fitch Senior High School is scheduled for September 6, 2008.

2008-0188 Police Station Repair Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CAPITAL RESERVE PROJECT FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT BUILDING REPAIRS

WHEREAS, the Town Council at its July 22, 2008 meeting authorized and directed the Finance Department to deposit the settlement proceeds of \$57,500 pertaining to water damage at the Police Department into the Capital Reserve Fund, and

WHEREAS, the proceeds are for the designated purpose of repairing damage to the addition to the Police Department building caused by water infiltration, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a FYE 2009 Capital Reserve Project to undertake necessary repairs and forwards this Capital Reserve Project to the RTM for approval.

This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on September 10, 2008.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Vincent stated that all figures reported this evening are unaudited. He reported the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2008 is approximately \$11.0 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$2,325,755. He noted that FYE 2008 revenues were over budget by \$3.1 million. The revenue changes resulted from additional tax receipts, additional Federal Impact Aid and conveyance tax. He noted that FYE 2008 expenditures were under budget by \$750,000 due to Town Operations and a return of non-transferred Contingency funds. He stated that \$261,584 in the FYE 2008 Contingency Fund was returned to the General Fund's fund balance.

He informed members that the Information Technology Department installed the latest Global Positioning System application for tracing stolen bank funds at the Town Police Department. He explained the way the system would be used in any future bank robbery.

2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Oefinger congratulated the Finance Director, Finance staff and Department Heads for their continued team work in receiving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fourteenth consecutive year.

The Manager provided updates on the following: Fort Hill Sewer Phase I and Phase II, WPCF upgrade, School Construction and Animal Shelter projects.

He mentioned that the Town recently selected a new financial advisor, Independent Bond & Investment Consultants (IBIC). He explained the selection process and the reasons why a new advisor was chosen.

The Manager announced that the Fitch High School dedication ceremony will be held on September 6, 2008; Citizenship Day will be September 15, 2008; the 100th Anniversary celebration of Town Hall and recognition of Morton Plant is scheduled for September 17, 2008 and the dedication of the Tercentennial Playground is tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2008.

The Manager informed members that the Noank Zoning Commission has approved the temporary relocation of the Senior Center to the old Noank School. He mentioned that he expects the relocation will take place by early October. He noted that RTM meetings may be relocated to Community Room 1 at the Town Hall Annex. He asked members to speak to the Moderator if they have any suggestions or opinions concerning this item.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

1. July Fourth Parade-Rep. Luck

Rep. Luck reported that Reps. Ambroise, Cooper, Evered, Loughlin, Luck, McCarthy, Peruzzotti and Sebastian participated in the parade. She suggested that a committee be formed to start working on participation in next year's parade. She noted that representatives explained to many observers at the parade what the RTM is and what it does. She suggested that the RTM appoint a Public Relations liaison to educate citizens about the duties and responsibilities of the RTM.

2. Shellfish Task Force-Rep. Ebbin

Rep. Ebbin provided a summary of the June 23, 2008 meeting. Topics discussed were: Fort Hill Sewer project, WPCF upgrade project, Shellfish Commission report, and problems at Mumford Cove. The problems at Mumford Cove included access to the shellfish area, dredging, and

elevated red tide count. She noted that the Shellfish Commission has drafted a letter requesting that it be allowed input to the update of Town Zoning Regulations. The Commission is requesting that adequate protection of salt water estuaries be provided in the Zoning Ordinance update, as well as ensuring adequate habitat for growing clams, oysters, mussels and scallops. The Commission wants to ensure the future supply of good quality water to these estuaries.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE

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

No meeting, no report.

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

Chairman Collins read the minutes of the meeting held on August 13, 2008. (Minutes are attached.)

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

2008-0088

Reconstruction of the Packer Road/Godfrey Road Intersection

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LAND EXCHANGE AT THE INTERSECTION OF GODFREY AND PACKER ROADS

WHEREAS, Godfrey Road and Packer Road are scheduled for repaving which could increase traffic and vehicular speeds, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Department of Public Works has recommended a realignment of the intersection of Godfrey and Packer Roads, creating a "T" intersection to improve safety, and

WHEREAS, the realignment to create a safer intersection requires a land swap between the Town and an adjacent property owner, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission considered the proposed land exchange pursuant to CGS 8-24 at its May 13, 2008, meeting and views the proposal favorably, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has held a public hearing on June 17, 2008 concerning this potential land exchange at which no testimony was presented contrary to the proposed land exchange, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the land exchange at the intersection of Godfrey and

Packer Roads.

Refer to RTM

A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

Rep. Power stated for the record that he had questioned in committee the need for a three way stop at the new intersection and he would like a definitive answer.

The Town Manager explained the proposed design of the intersection. He noted that it is easier to install additional stop signs rather than removing existing stop signs.

The motion carried unanimously

7. RULES & PROCEDURES

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

Chairman Evered noted that the committee report was approved at the June RTM meeting.

2008-0125 RTM Members' Conduct and Decorum during Debate

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE RTM RULES CONCERNING DECORUM IN DEBATE

WHEREAS, a referral was made to the RTM Rules and Procedures Committee to address concerns raised during the budget sessions about decorum in debate, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amendment be made to the Rules of the Twenty-Sixth RTM:

Rule 8.5 Decorum in Debate

8.5.1 Members shall confine their remarks in debate to the pending question.

8.5.2 Members shall address all remarks to the Moderator or the Committee Chair and maintain a courteous tone. Members shall avoid personal affronts and/or accusations of improper motives.

A motion was made by Rep. Evered, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

Chairman Evered reiterated the manner in which the committee worked to develop the proposed rules. She requested that each section of the proposed rules be discussed individually.

There were no questions or discussion on Rule 8.5.1.

Rep. Moukawsher stated that she feels that Rule 8.5.2 should be combined with Rule 8.5.3.

Moderator Billing clarified the subtle differences between Rules 8.5.2 and 8.5.3.

MOTION TO AMEND to delete Rules 8.5.3 and 8.5.4 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Power.

Rep. Granatosky stated that her rationale is that subsection 3 and 4 are redundant. She feels that the first two subsections are sufficient and address the intent of the referral concerning the tone among members during debate.

Rep. Power supports the amendment on the floor and feels that subsection 3 would impede the process if questions had to be addressed through the Moderator.

MOTION TO AMEND by adding "or the Committee Chair" after the word Moderator in Rule 8.5.2 was made by Rep. Pratt, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.

Rep. Pratt's rationale was to retain the ability to address the Committee Chair.

Rep. Evered provided clarification from Robert's Rules of Order regarding the specific manner of

speaking as well as examples to explain why the Rules Committee had drafted the proposal as presented.

Rep. Garagliano stated she supports the changes. She commented that the RTM establishes and reviews its rules every two years and that they take precedence over Robert's Rules.

Rep. Ebbin stated she will support the motion as amended. She commented that the goal of this resolution will be achieved since the intent was to have members maintain a respectful tone to other members, staff, Town Council and board members in attendance.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Beckwith, seconded by Rep. Ambroise. *VOTE on Moving the Question* carried 22 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Evered).

VOTE on the Second Amendment to add "or the Committee Chair" after the word Moderator in Rule 8.5.2 carried 22 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Loughlin).

VOTE on the First Amendment to delete Rules 8.5.3 and 8.5.4 carried unanimously.

In response to Rep. Moukawsher, the Moderator clarified that *ex-officio* members must adhere to the RTM rules.

The motion carried unanimously

I. OTHER BUSINESS

In response to Rep. Collins, the Town Manager explained that there was some discussion with a filming company about filming at the corner of Route 1 and Wayne Road but permission was never granted. He stated he does not have any knowledge about whether filming was done without permission.

Rep. Ebbin reported that concerns had been raised about the lack of pre-K classes at the Catherine Kolnaski School. She noted that her district constituents include many residents who do not have available transportation to the lottery pre-K programs at Claude Chester or Northeast Academy. She feels that many of these residents are those that would most benefit from a pre-K program. Rep. Ebbin requested that the Moderator refer this item to the RTM Education Committee so they can discuss this matter both in committee and with the Board of Education. Moderator Billing acknowledged that she would discuss this with the RTM Education Committee Chair.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moderator Billing declared the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk