



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Bruce S. Flax, Councilor Dean G. Antipas, Councilor Diane Barber, Councilor Greg Grim, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Karen F. Morton, Councilor Bonnie Nault, Councilor Deb Peruzzotti, and Councilor Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik
Members Absent: Councilor Grim and Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2017-0078 Proclamation Celebrating "Looking Forward, Giving Back" At the Groton Public Library

Read

The Proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

2017-0079 Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day

Read

The Proclamation was read by Councilor Nault.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rita Volkmann, 135 Dogwood Lane, Mystic, addressed the Town Council as a resident of the Town of Groton, not as a member of the Groton Board of Education. She stated that she has given over fourteen years of service as a member of the Board of Education because of the wonderful teachers in Groton. She stated that the proposed \$5.4 million cut to the Education budget would result in the loss of forty to fifty good teachers. She stated that she had young teachers approach today telling her that they will be losing their jobs. She stated that over-achieving students will be fine in over-crowded classrooms, but that students with special needs will suffer.

Stacey Noreika, 135 Judson Avenue, Mystic, stated that she is a teacher in the Groton School District. She stated that she has three children enrolled in the Groton School District. She stated that the proposed cuts to the Education budget are short-sighted. She stated that five out of eight Town Councilors show that they hold little or no value toward education. She stated that she is afraid for the children and teachers that will lose out with these cuts. She stated that she is disgusted that the Town Council would attack the most vulnerable.

Thomas Potter, 154 Walker Hill Road, read his statement regarding issues that he has had with Town employees and that he would like to meet with the Town Council to discuss specifics. His statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Andrea Frickman, 61 Warren Avenue, Mystic, stated that she has an eight-year-old child at S.B. Butler School with twenty school children in her classroom. She stated that there are sixteen boys in this class. She stated that to avoid a tax increase, the Town Council is putting the burden on the

back of our education system, this is unacceptable. She stated that students will continue to transfer to the magnet schools in New London if the cuts happen.

Mike Whitney, 112 Deerfield Ridge Drive, Mystic, stated that he has children in the Groton School District. He stated that he moved to Groton because of the great schools. He stated that new employees for Electric Boat will not move to Groton if the schools are too crowded. He urged the Town Councilors to reconsider their vote.

Christina Scala, 9 Mistuxet Avenue, Mystic (Stonington), stated that she is upset with the proposed cuts to the Education budget. She stated that the cuts will devastate the school system and take away the ability to compete with surrounding towns. She stated that she observed a student who was considering attending Fitch High School next year because of the Digital Photography course that is offered; this course may be cut. She stated that she would like the Town Council to reconsider the budget cuts.

Valerie Riley, 6 Bolles Lane, Mystic, stated that she has 5th and 7th grade students, and that she is the PTO President at Northeast Academy. She stated that she understands the difficulties that the Town Council has before it. She stated that having the Board of Education shoulder the entire budget cut is not necessary. She suggested that the Town Council take another look at Councilor Antipas's proposal. She stated that she is concerned about increased taxes, but the alternative is a giant cut to the education system. She stated that we have a fabulous community and that these cuts will cause people to move to other communities. She urged the Town Council to reconsider these cuts.

Rebecca Beyus, 93 Charlton Lane, stated that she spoke to the Town Council at the Public Hearing on the budget and woke up the next day feeling strong. She stated that sometimes we have to give more in order to succeed.

Andrew Mierta, 11 Carole Court, stated that he moved to Groton for employment. He stated that he considered leaving two years ago, but because of the quality of the schools, he stayed. He stated that these cuts will cause people to move to other cities that have a better school system.

Ted Allen, 13 Meryl Court, stated that he is a teacher in Ledyard with three children in the Groton School System. He stated that he has always considered Groton to have a good education system. He stated that the Town Council should reconsider the education cuts.

Jim Gustafson, 61 Algonquin Drive, stated that he has children at Northeast Academy. He stated that if taxes have to be raised to pay for education, so be it.

Anabel, 112 Deerfield Ridge Drive, Mystic, is a student at Northeast Academy. She stated that if the budget is cut, everything will change. She stated that the classrooms will be larger making it more difficult to learn. She stated that cutting the education budget will make people not want to move to Groton.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Watson read the rules that pertain to the method to reconsider a vote. He stated that it is a procedural issue that imposes that only a person on the prevailing side can bring up an item for reconsideration and that five Councilors must agree with this motion.

Councilor Nault explained that the taxpayers are already going to have a tax increase of 15%. She stated that if the Town Council doesn't make cuts, the increase will be greater.

Councilor Moravsik made a motion to have Mr. Potter's issue on the next Committee of the Whole agenda and requested copies of the data.

Mayor Flax suggested that Councilor Moravsik meet with Mr. Potter to familiarize himself with the issues before he brings it to the Committee of the Whole.

Councilor Antipas explained the parliamentary procedure to reconsider an item that has been voted on previously.

Councilor Watson stated that reconsideration can be taken at the next budget session.

Councilor Barber thanked everyone for attending and stated that this was not an easy process. She suggested that any concerned citizens go up to Hartford and state their issue there.

Councilor Antipas explained that the question regarding his proposal that a speaker mentioned earlier was scenario two in the Town Manager's budget message.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2017-0091 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of March 7, 2017 and March 21, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2017-0070 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Lee Vincent - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Anonymous - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Patrick Ryan - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Thomas Norris - \$50.00 - Library Renovations
 Anonymous - \$5.99 - Library Miscellaneous
 Anonymous - \$20.00 - Library Renovations
 Diane & Robert Barber - \$800.00 - Social Service Discretionary
 Anonymous - \$15.81 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Ann Aulabaugh - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Robert & Corrine Bradley - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Cheryl & David Burnett - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Danielle Chevalier - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Richard Davies - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Gilchrist - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Diane & Dennis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Eric & Marne Larson - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lisa Money Penny - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Virginia Richards - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Nidia & Bernard Somers - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anonymous - \$15.00 - Library Renovations
 Anonymous - \$0.81 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Kathleen Borys - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Felipe & Irene Castro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Marsha Cedrone - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lynne Griffin - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 John Hamilton - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 International Assoc of Machinists - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Raymond & Jean Macionus - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Armand Morin - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Saranne Murray - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Patricia Pearce - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Thomas Powden - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 City of Groton Matching Funds - \$1,196.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Chelsea Groton Bank - \$750.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Chelsea Groton Bank - \$750.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Susan Decorte-Mcmillan - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Dorothea Moore - \$500.00 - Library Renovation

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0260 FYE 2018 Budget Discussion

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0042 Zoning Regulations Rewrite - Update

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0077 October 2016 Revaluation - Update

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0085 Town-Wide Dispatch Discussion - Update

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2016-0277 Disposition of Town Owned Property Acquired through Tax Foreclosure

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0025 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - 2017 Application

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0061 Supportive Housing Program Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0062 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0063 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0065 Adoption of Connecticut City and Town Development Act for the Purposes of the Branford Manor Rehabilitation Project

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0066 Declaration of Branford Manor Property a "Development Property" Under the Connecticut City and Town Development Act

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0067 Authorization of Tax Incentive Agreement Under the Connecticut City and Town Development Act

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2017-0069 Request for Letter of Support for Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP)

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

- 2017-0072 **Connecticut PGA Foundation Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0073 **Appointments to Noank School Public Gardens Task Force**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0074 **Distracted Driving Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0083 **Groton Housing Authority Multifamily Housing Revenue Note**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0084 **Library LED Light Conversion Project for GMTV Studio**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0086 **Reappointment of Timonhy Pratt to Jabez Smtih House**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0087 **Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Nault, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Antipas reported that he received a communication regarding the Board of Education budget. He stated that he attended the March 9, 2017 meeting for the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut.

Councilor Watson stated that he received the same email that Councilor Antipas had received. He reported that he attended Groton Children's First Safety Committee meeting on March 27, 2017. He stated that the committee voted to change their name from Passport to Groton Go. He stated that the Groton Go program is designed to offer family actives during the summer. He described a drawing that will be in August for children to win prizes. He stated that there will be a Board of Education/Town Council/City Council/RTM Liaison meeting on April 5, 2017 at the Board of Education Administration Building; they will discuss the budget .

Councilor Nault reported that she received some letters about the budget.

Councilor Moravsik reported that he attended the monthly meeting for S.E.A.T. and the Groton Public Library dedication for Jim Streeter's collection. He attended a S.E.A.T. meeting with the Department of Transportation on April 3, 2017. He stated that he attended the Town Council Appointments and Personnel Committee meeting on April 4, 2017.

Mayor Flax stated that he attended a lot of meetings including the Council of Governments meeting and the Library dedication.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the next regular RTM meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2017 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. They will be discussing and voting on item 2017-0053 Extension of Appropriation for Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program. The RTM Committees will begin reviewing the FYE2018 proposed Town Budget this month. The draft schedule has been distributed to the Town Council. The full RTM will begin reviewing the budget

on Monday May 1, 2017 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:00 p.m.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that the Town of Groton will have a new Tax Collector as of April 6, 2017. She stated that Melissa McGuire is replacing our retiring Tax Collector Cindy Small. She announced that the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra Annual Gala will be held at the Mystic Marriott on April 8, 2017. She stated that you may call 860-443-2876 for ticket information. She announced that MASH, Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality, is holding their annual fund raiser, the Ultimate Tailgating Gala to Prevent Family Homelessness, on May 5, 2017 at Mystic Seaport's Latitude 41 restaurant; more information can be found at www.mashshelter.org or by calling 860-245-0222. She announced that Opening Day for trout fishing is this Saturday, April 8, 2017. She stated that the fees are the same as last year; licenses are available at the Town Clerk's Office or online www.ct.gov/deep/fishing. She stated that May 13, 2017 is a Free Fishing Day and that no license is required to fish, but you still need to adhere to the regulations. She stated that June 18th and August 12th are free fishing license days too. She stated that State law 26-15a requires that 100% of the fees collected from the sale of sporting licenses are to be allocated from the General Fund to the Department of Energy and Environment Protection, Bureau of Natural Resources.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Committee of Three will be meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2017 to discuss the City of Groton Highway budget. He stated that the Committee of the Whole has a scheduled budget session for Saturday, April 8, 2017. He stated that he received communication from Randi Frank, the consultant hired to assist with the search for the new Town Manager; candidate reviews are scheduled for April 24 and 25, 2017. He discussed scheduling a follow-up meeting with the Board of Education in order to get an understanding of what it proposes to cut in the budget.

Mayor Flax announced that the Chair of the Board of Education reached out to him in order to set up a meeting. He stated that he thought meeting would be a good idea. He stated that in light of the amount of money that is being cut, that the Town Council should consider reviewing some of the Capitol Improvement Projects that they had passed. He suggested that the Council may want to cut some of these projects. He asked the Town Manager to arrange a meeting with the Board of Education.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced that the upcoming Arbor Day celebration will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Groton Public Library on April 28, 2017. He announced that the Submarine Birthday Ball will be held on April 29, 2017 at Foxwoods Resort.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

Chairman Watson reported that the Personnel and Appointments Committee met on March 7, 2017 where they approved the reappointment of Timothy Pratt to the Jabez Smith House Committee.

b. Rules - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

Mayor Flax stated that the Committee of the Whole had two meetings; items from those meetings are on the agenda for this evening.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2016-0277 Disposition of Town Owned Property Acquired through Tax Foreclosure

RESOLUTION MAKING A DETERMINATION REGARDING TOWN PROPERTIES
ACQUIRED THROUGH TAX SALE OR FORECLOSURE

WHEREAS, the August 2014 Process for Resale of Town Owned Property (as amended) requires the Town Council to review properties acquired through tax sale or foreclosure and to make a determination of whether the properties are to be used or reserved for town purposes or sold, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed seven parcels acquired through tax sale/foreclosure of which none are used or reserved for Town purposes and referred them to the Planning Commissions under CGS Section 8-24, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has recommended action consistent with staff's recommendation for the parcels, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council makes the following determinations on the seven parcels acquired through tax sale/foreclosure:

PIN 168916830355 E Long Hill Road	Retain
PIN 168916832067 E Long Hill Road	Retain
PIN 169917027290 E Long Hill Road	Retain
PIN 168811673098 E Joe Avenue	Sell
PIN 168910369264 E 60 Mardie Lane	Retain
PIN 168910452596 E 147 Mardie Lane	Retain
PIN 270018301468 E Rogers Road	Sell

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0025

Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - 2017 Application

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR MYSTIC RIVER HOMES

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C. § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton wishes to provide financial assistance to the eligible public housing authority to upgrade their residential buildings, making them decent, safe and sanitary; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton conducted public hearings to receive citizen comments on housing and community development needs, prioritizing the housing authority as a community need; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Groton make application to the State for \$800,000 in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development project and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered; now therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON: 1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the State financial assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statute; and 2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the Town of Groton in an amount not to exceed \$800,000 is hereby approved and that Mark Oefinger, Town Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file such application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development; to provide such additional information; to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner;

to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance if such an agreement is offered; to execute any amendments, recessions, and revisions thereto; to implement project activities, if approved; and, to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Groton and to execute any other agreement or contract relative to said project. 3. That it adopts or has adopted on behalf of the Town of Groton a policy to support the following nondiscrimination agreements and warranties provided in subsection (a)(J) of Connecticut General Statutes sections 4a-60 and 4a-60a, respectively, as amended by Public Act 07 -142, and for which purposes the "contractor" is the Town of Groton and "contract" is said Assistance Agreement:

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut.

The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employee without regard to their sexual orientation.

A motion was made by Councilor Barber, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0061

Supportive Housing Program Grant

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, homelessness is being addressed on several fronts by numerous programs but remains an ongoing problem for Groton and neighboring communities, and

WHEREAS, homeless persons with disabilities and homeless families in which at least one member is disabled require extensive counseling, support and case management services, and

WHEREAS, the Supportive Housing Program, operated by TVCCA as the grantee of record with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides funding to enable agencies and municipalities to provide counseling, support and case management services via participation the Housing Collaborative Network, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to enter into an agreement with Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. to accept grant funding in the amount of \$9,000 (or such an amount to be specified) to conduct a Supportive Housing Program in Groton via Groton Human Services for the period of February 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018 and to utilize said funding to supplant a portion of the salaries and related fringe benefits of selected Groton Human Services staff, who shall provide counseling, support and case management services to the specified Groton client population via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network.

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Barber, that this matter be Adopted.

In response to Councilor Nault, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the reason that the

language includes \$9,000 or such an amount to be specified, is that the Town doesn't know how much money the Town will get.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0062 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FYE 2018 YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES FUNDING

WHEREAS, crisis intervention, prevention and support programs and short-term counseling services will benefit at-risk Groton youth and their families and

WHEREAS, funding is available from the State of Connecticut Department of Education to supplant a portion of the salaries of Groton Human Services Counselors who provide intervention and prevention services for at-risk Groton youth, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, or his designee, is authorized to file an application with the State of Connecticut Department of Education (DOE) for FYE 2018 municipal youth services funding in an amount to be determined by the DOE and to amend contractual agreements for such funding to ensure continuation of short-term counseling, crisis intervention and prevention and support programs for Groton youth and families.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0063 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FYE 2018 YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut Department of Education offers Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant program funding to municipally-based Connecticut youth services programs for supplies and related expenses connected with programs and activities which directly and indirectly benefit Groton youth and families in areas such as youth enrichment, outreach programs, general support and positive youth development, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services has demonstrated its success in providing youth enrichment, outreach programs, general support and positive youth development, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, or his designee, is authorized to apply for and contract with the State of Connecticut Department of Education (DOE) for FY 18 Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant program funding in an amount to be determined by the DOE.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0065 Adoption of Connecticut City and Town Development Act for the Purposes of the Branford Manor Rehabilitation Project

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT ADOPTING THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE REHABILITATION, REPAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND OPERATION OF THE BRANFORD MANOR INCOME-LIMITED SUBSIDIZED RENTAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT 400 SHENNECOSSETT ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, Chapter 114 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Sections 7-480 to 7-503, inclusive (the "Act"), provides that municipalities which

have found and determined that conditions substantially as described in Section 7-481 of the Act exist in the municipality, are continuing, and may be ameliorated by the exercise by the municipality of the powers granted under the Act may exercise the powers under the Act; and

WHEREAS, in order to exercise any powers conferred upon municipalities under the Act for a period not in excess of five years, the legislative body of a municipality must, by resolution, determine that conditions substantially as described in Section 7-481 of the Act exist and make certain findings, determinations and standards required by Section 7-485 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, the property at 400 Shennecossett Road, Groton, Connecticut (the "Property"), is and for a long time has been the site of a 441 unit income-limited subsidized rental housing development known as Branford Manor (100% project-based under section 8 of the Housing Act of 1037, 42 U.S.C. sections 1437f et seq.) ("Subsidized Housing"); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton, Connecticut (the "Town"), acting through its Town Council ("Council") finds that the Property is in need of rehabilitation, repair and improvement; and

WHEREAS, the contract purchaser of the Property, Branford Manor Preservation, L.P., has agreed with the Town to rehabilitate and make specified repairs and improvements to the Property, and to continue to operate it as Subsidized Housing for a period of 30 years, but has represented that it cannot do so unless the Town makes an agreement with it to fix the real property taxes to be paid to the Town for the Property for a period of 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to exercise the powers under the Act for the sole purpose and to the extent necessary to enter into an agreement under Section 7-498 to fix the real property tax payments to be made to the Town by the owners of the Property for a period of time to end on June 30, 2037, and finds that it will be in the interest of the Town to do so;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- A. The Council finds, per General Statutes section 7-481, that unless the Property is rehabilitated and the existing conditions ameliorated, residents of the Town will be subjected to hardship in finding adequate, safe and sanitary housing and that unless the supply of adequate housing is increased significantly and expeditiously, a large number of such residents might be compelled to live in unsanitary, overcrowded and unsafe conditions and/or will leave the Town; and
- B. The Council further finds, determines and states:
- 1) Some residents of the Town are subject to hardship in finding employment and adequate, safe and sanitary housing, and that the number of residents subject to those hardships is unreasonable.
 - 2) The Town will substantially benefit from the renovation, rehabilitation, and construction of residential properties, and specifically from the renovation and rehabilitation of and the construction of improvements at the Property.
 - 3) Private enterprise is not meeting the need for the renovation, rehabilitation, and construction of residential properties particularly including the need for adequate, safe and sanitary income-limited subsidized rental housing.
 - 4) The need for employment and adequate, safe and sanitary housing will be lessened and the Town will be revitalized by the exercise of the powers granted under the Act as prescribed by this Resolution.
 - 5) Adequate provisions shall be made by the contract purchaser for the payment of the cost of acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance and insurance of the Property.
 - 6) Although it is anticipated that there will be no need for one at the Property, a feasible method exists and shall be utilized by the contract purchaser for the relocation into safe and sanitary dwellings of comparable rent of families and individuals displaced as a consequence of the exercise of any power granted under the Act as prescribed by this Resolution and such families and individuals shall not suffer disproportionate injuries as a result of actions authorized by the Act and

this Resolution for the public benefit.

7) The Property shall not be acquired or disposed of without due consideration by the contract purchaser of the environmental and economic impact of such acquisition or disposition and the adequacy of existing or proposed municipal services.

8) The acquisition or disposition of the Property shall by the contract purchaser advance the public interest, general health, safety and welfare, and development, growth and prosperity of the Town.

C. The Town Council hereby adopts this Resolution, subject to the following conditions: (1) that the powers of such Act invoked hereby shall be restricted to the Property; and (2) any tax fixing and/or incentive agreement for the Property granted pursuant to the Act shall result in the Town receiving, in any year that such agreement is in effect, at least the value of the taxes assessed on such Property during the tax year immediately preceding the first tax year of the applicability of such agreement.

D. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption by the Town Council and shall remain in effect for five years from that date.

A motion was made by Mayor Flax, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0066

Declaration of Branford Manor Property a "Development Property" Under the Connecticut City and Town Development Act

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT TO DECLARE THE PROPERTY AT 400 SHENNECOSSETT ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT A DEVELOPMENT PROPERTY UNDER THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT

WHEREAS, the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, Chapter 114 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Sections 7-480 to 7-503, inclusive (the "Act"), provides that municipalities which have found and determined that conditions substantially as described in Section 7-481 of the Act exist in the municipality, are continuing, and may be ameliorated by the exercise by the municipality of the powers granted under the Act may exercise the powers under the Act; and

WHEREAS, in order to exercise any powers conferred upon municipalities under the Act for a period not in excess of five years, the legislative body of a municipality must, by resolution, determine that conditions substantially as described in Section 7-481 of the Act exist and make certain findings, determinations and standards required by Section 7-485 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No.2017-0065, adopted on April 4, 2017 the Town Council ("Council") of the Town of Groton, Connecticut (the "Town"), made such findings and expressed such determinations and standards, specifically with regard to property at 400 Shennecossett Road, Groton, Connecticut (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Property is and for a long time has been the site of a 441 unit income-limited subsidized rental housing development known as Branford Manor (100% project-based under section 8 of the Housing Act of 1037, 42 U.S.C. sections 1437f et seq.) ("Subsidized Housing"); and

WHEREAS, the Town, acting through its Town Council, finds that it would be in the interest of the Town for the Property to continue to be so used, but that the Property requires rehabilitation, repair and improvement; and

WHEREAS, Branford Manor Preservation, L.P. (the "Developer") is the contract purchaser of and proposes to purchase the Property and to invest \$18.5 million in the Property over a three year period for new construction, rehabilitation of existing structures, and replacement and upgrading of appliances and the like, all as shall be specified in an agreement to be made between the Developer and the Town, but which shall include the construction of a community center; refurbishing of all

hallways and common areas; and the outfitting of each apartment with new cabinets, counters, sinks, flooring, appliances, lighting, bathroom vanities, and paint; and

WHEREAS, the Developer shall provide social services not currently provided to the residents of the Property, the nature and extent of which shall be specified in said agreement to be made between the Developer and the Town, but which shall include on-site counseling, therapeutic and recreational activities, and advocacy services; and

WHEREAS, the Developer is a for-profit limited partnership, the general partner of which is Branford Manor Preservation G.P., LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Developer shall manage the Property through its proprietary management company, Related Management Company, L.P.; and

WHEREAS, the Developer has established a solid reputation in developing and managing low-income, Section 8 subsidized housing projects such as the one at Branford Manor; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes municipalities to exercise certain powers, including the power to make agreements as to real property taxes, with regard to property that the municipality declares to be a "Development Property;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Council declares the Property, as defined above, to be a Development Property, as defined by Section 7-482(d) of the Act, for the purpose of enabling it to be the subject of a tax agreement under Section 7-498 of the Act.
- B. The findings and determinations made and the standards and conditions imposed by Town Council Resolution No. 2017-0065 are incorporated in and made a part of this Resolution.
- C. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

A motion was made by Councilor Nault, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0067

Authorization of Tax Incentive Agreement Under the Connecticut City and Town Development Act

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT TO AUTHORIZE A REAL PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE AGREEMENT UNDER THE CONNECTICUT CITY AND TOWN DEVELOPMENT ACT FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND OPERATION OF A LOW-INCOME SUBSIDIZED RENTAL HOUSING COMPLEX AT 400 SHENNECOSSETT ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the Connecticut City and Town Development Act, Chapter 114 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Sections 7-480 to 7-503, inclusive (the "Act"), provides that municipalities which have found and determined that conditions substantially as described in Section 7-481 of the Act exist in the municipality, are continuing, and may be ameliorated by the exercise by the municipality of the powers granted under the Act may exercise powers under the Act; and

WHEREAS, in order to exercise any powers conferred upon municipalities under the Act for a period not in excess of five years, the legislative body of a municipality must, by resolution, determine that conditions substantially as described in Section 7-481 of the Act exist and make certain findings, determinations and standards required by Section 7-485 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 2017-0065, adopted on April 4, 2017 the Town Council ("Council") of the Town of Groton, Connecticut (the "Town"), made such findings and expressed such determinations and standards, specifically with regard to property at 400 Shennecossett Road, Groton, Connecticut (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Property is and for a long time has been the site of a 441 unit income-limited subsidized rental housing development known as Branford Manor (100% project-based under section 8 of the Housing Act of 1937, 42 U.S.C. sections 1437f et seq.) (“Subsidized Housing”); and

WHEREAS, the Town, acting through its Town Council, finds that it would be in the interest of the Town for the Property to continue to be so used, but that the Property requires rehabilitation, repair and improvement; and

WHEREAS, Branford Manor Preservation, L.P. (the "Developer") is the contract purchaser of and proposes to purchase the Property and to invest \$18.5 million in the Property over a three year period for new construction, rehabilitation of existing structures, and replacement and upgrading of appliances and the like, all as shall be specified in an agreement to be made between the Developer and the Town, but which shall include the construction of a community center; refurbishing of all hallways and common areas; and the outfitting of each apartment with new cabinets, counters, sinks, flooring, appliances, lighting, bathroom vanities, and paint; and

WHEREAS, the Developer shall provide social services not currently provided to the residents of the Property, the nature and extent of which shall be specified in said agreement to be made between the Developer and the Town, but which shall include on-site counseling, therapeutic and recreational activities, and advocacy services; and

WHEREAS, the Developer is a for-profit limited partnership, the general partner of which is Branford Manor Preservation G.P., LLC; and

WHEREAS, the Developer shall manage the Property through its proprietary management company, Related Management Company, L.P.; and

WHEREAS, the Developer has established a solid reputation in developing and managing low-income, Section 8 subsidized housing projects such as the one at Branford Manor; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes municipalities to exercise certain powers, including the power to make agreements as to real property taxes, with regard to property that the municipality declares to be a “Development Property,” and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No.2017-0066, adopted on April 4, 2017 the Town Council declared the Property, as defined above, to be a Development Property, as defined by section 7-482(d) of the Act, for the purpose of enabling it to be the subject of a tax agreement under section 7-498 of the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that:

- A. The Council declares the findings and determinations made and the standards and conditions imposed by the Town Council in Resolution No.2017-0065 are incorporated in and made a part of this Resolution.
- B. The Town Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute a tax incentive agreement under the Section 7-498 of the Connecticut City And Town Development Act for the improvement and operation of a low-income subsidized rental housing complex at 400 Shennecossett Road, Groton, Connecticut, said agreement to be in form and content substantially the same as the draft agreement presented to the Town Council for the public hearing it held and its deliberations on this Resolution, including that said agreement will fix the real estate taxes to be paid at the Property until the real estate tax payment due on June 30, 2037, unless the agreement is terminated before that date, and on the conditions that said agreement to be subject to the approval of the Town Attorney as to legal

matters and that the Developer make the filings required by a “Sponsor,” as that term is defined by Section 7-482(n) of the Act and give the Town satisfactory evidence that the filings were made.

C. This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0069

Request for Letter of Support for Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP)

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE THAMES RIVER INNOVATION PLACE COMPETITIVE GRANT REQUEST AND CANDIDACY FOR INNOVATION PLACE STATUS

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has recently promoted a program named CT Next Innovation Places that seeks to support entrepreneurs and leaders developing places that will attract the talent desired by high-growth enterprises, and

WHEREAS, the CT Next program has initiated a competitive grant round for implementation grants, and

WHEREAS, an unprecedented alliance of public, private and nonprofit sectors in New London and Groton, including the City of New London, City of Groton, Town of Groton, seCTer, Connecticut College, New London Public Schools, the SECT Cultural Coalition, Electric Boat, Pfizer, and UCONN has collaborated in pursuit of achieving Innovation Place status and an implementation grant award, and

WHEREAS, the strategic plan that the Thames River Innovation Place team has drafted in pursuit of the implementation grant aligns with our Plan of Conservation and Development and is aimed at enhancing the regional innovation ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, the strategic plan proposes a series of initiatives designed to foster innovation and economic growth in the Town of Groton and the surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, the Thames River Innovation Place team has submitted a letter to the Town of Groton seeking formal endorsement for the competitive grant request and Innovation Place status, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby endorses the Thames River Innovation Place implementation grant application and candidacy for Innovation Place status as part of the CT Next Innovation Places program.

A motion was made by Councilor Barber, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0072

Connecticut PGA Foundation Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A CONNECTICUT PROFESSIONAL GOLF ASSOCIATION GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Groton Parks and Recreation is seeking authorization to apply for a \$2,145 grant from the Connecticut Professional Golf Association to fund the a youth golf program to introduce children to the game of golf, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee is authorized to apply for a grant in the amount of \$2,145 from the Connecticut Professional Golf Association Grant program to offer clinics and a camp to introduce children to the game of golf.

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Barber, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0073 Appointments to Noank School Public Gardens Task Force

APPOINTMENTS TO NOANK SCHOOL PUBLIC GARDENS TASK FORCE

RESOLVED, that the following appointments are made to the Noank School Public Gardens Task Force:

Michael Noel, 100 Williams Street, Groton
Anne Oosterwyck, 229 Fishtown Road, Mystic

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0074 Distracted Driving Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY DISTRACTED DRIVING - HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police Department plans to utilize the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety Distracted Driving - High Visibility Enforcement grant funding to support enforcement operations that go beyond normal police patrols, and

WHEREAS, the grant provides for a concerted effort to enforce distracted driving laws and consists of checkpoints as well as vehicular detection patrols, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the grant is to increase law enforcement presence above and beyond normal police patrols in order to address the increased incidence of distracted driving during the grant period, which runs April 4 through 30 and August 2 through 16, 2017, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may apply for the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety Distracted Driving - High Visibility Enforcement grant with an anticipated total state grant amount of \$23,900 including the Police Department match in the amount of \$5,975 (25%) as required under the grant provisions.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted.

Mayor Flax announced that he had heard several radio announcements stating that State of Connecticut Law Enforcement will be patrolling for distracted drivers starting April 4, 2017. He asked if this grant pays for officers on duty that would normally have to perform this task.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger answered yes, stating that the Town budgets for this type of patrolling. He stated that this is a matching grant to enhance the current program. He stated that many communities use this grant to augment their distracted driver programs.

Councilor Antipas stated that there is a current law that prohibits drivers from being distracted; there are a number of things that can distract a driver.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0083 Groton Housing Authority Multifamily Housing Revenue Note

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF A MULTIFAMILY HOUSING REVENUE NOTE AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MAYOR'S CERTIFICATE

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Housing Authority (the "Authority") intends to issue its Multifamily Housing Revenue Note, Series 2017 (the "Note") in the maximum principal amount of \$55,000,000 and lend the proceeds to Branford Manor Preservation, LP, a limited partnership organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, to partially finance the renovation of the Branford Manor, an existing 442 unit multifamily rental housing complex located at 400 Shennecossett Road, Groton, Connecticut and other costs (the "Project") which is described in

greater detail in the Certificate of the Mayor attached hereto (the "Mayor's Certificate"); and

WHEREAS, in order for obligations to qualify as tax exempt obligations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") Section 147 (f)(2) of the Code provides that after a public hearing, the elected representative of the geographic jurisdiction in which the facility to be financed is located must approve the issuance of the obligation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Code, the applicable elected representative of the Town of Groton is its Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that based on the Certificate of the Executive Director of the Authority which provides that the other conditions and requirements of Section 147 (f)(2) of the Code have been satisfied, the Town Council hereby approves the issuance of the Note the proceeds of which will be lent to Branford Manor Preservation, LP to partially finance the Project.

2. We hereby direct the Mayor of the Town to execute the Mayor's Certificate to evidence the approval of the Town Council made hereby.

3. This approval is made solely for purposes of Section 147 (f)(2) of the Code.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0084

Library LED Light Conversion Project for GMTV Studio

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A 2017 CIP PROJECT TO REPLACE GMTV STUDIO LIGHTING WITH LED LIGHTS AT THE GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2016 the Town Council approved the Groton Public Library 2016 Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program application replacement of GMTV studio lighting with LED lights, and

WHEREAS, the project was approved for NAA funding in the amount of \$58,349.22, and

WHEREAS, the project was not included in the Library's FYE 2017 Capital Improvement Program submission, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes a modification of project 6) D) for the Groton Public Library in the FYE 2017 through FYE 2022 Capital Improvement Program to add the LED Studio Light Conversion Project in FYE 2017 at a cost of \$58,349.22, with the source of funds being the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Nault, seconded by Councilor Barber, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on May 10, 2017.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0086

Reappointment of Timonhy Pratt to Jabez Smtih House

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING TIMOTHY PRATT TO THE JABEZ SMITH HOUSE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Timothy Pratt, 1288 River Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Jabez Smith House Committee for a term expiring 9/7/20.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

In response to Councilor Nault, Council Watson stated that this is four-year term and that some appointments are three and five-year terms. He stated the it depends on the type of Commission or Board.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0087

Reappointment of Laura Bradley to Fair Rent Commission

REAPPOINTMENT OF LAURA BRADLEY TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Laura M. Bradley, 38 Round Hill Road, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission for a term expiring 7/1/19.

Not acted upon

X. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Barber, and so taken unanimously at 9:05 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Clerk of the Council
Groton Town Clerk*