



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

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, June 6, 2017

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the roll call of the meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Cindy Landry, and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Police Chief L.J. Fusaro.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2017-0129 Proclamation Recognizing Natalie Schafer

Read

This proclamation was read into the record by Councilor Moravsik.

2017-0130 Proclamation Recognizing National Prevention Week 2017

Read

This proclamation was read into the record by Councilor Nault.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Jeff Pritchard, 31 West Mystic Avenue, Mystic, stated his concerns with the Town Council referral 2017-0133, which combines the Planning and Zoning Commissions. He requested that this item be referred to the Planning Commission for review and comment prior to sending it to a Public Hearing. He stated that one of his concerns is that an ordinance is difficult to change. He stated that if it were a Resolution, there would be less of a problem. He recommended that the new commission have five members and two alternates. He stated that the current Zoning Commission has been working on new Zoning Regulations, and he suggested a committee be formed in order to complete this work. He suggested that the new committee be charged to submit a written report by the end of the year.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Flax stated that there will be a Public Hearing regarding the proposal to combine the Zoning and Planning Commissions on June 20, 2017. He stated that comments can be submitted at the hearing.

Councilor Nault responded to Mr. Pritchard by stating that the maximum membership of the new commission is seven, but that they do not have to have seven.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes**2017-0144 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 2, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

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

b. Administrative Items**2017-0118 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 - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Raymond & Virginia Bousquet - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Anonymous - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Penelope Dawley - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Mary Eaves - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Henry & Pamela Olexy - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Christopher Smarra - \$70.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Douglas & Debra Wilson - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Capt. Fred & Gail Yeo - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$495.40 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
League of Women Voters of SE CT - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Gail Milroy, Beach Buddies - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Theodore & Annette Ainslie - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anonymous - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Christa Barber - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Marsha Cedrone - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Jean & Frederick DeGrowth - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Charles Dautre - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
James Drakos - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Fort Hill Counselors - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Michael & Pamela Maffia - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Cynthia Miffit - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Lisa Moneypenny - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Mari Svensen-Macpeek - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Arthur & Marie Shaw - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Mystic Woman's Club - \$930.00 - Parks & Recreation Revolving
Joellen Anderson - \$100.00 - Parks & Recreation Revolving
Joseph Hildreth - \$5.00 - Parks & Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2017-0044 Town Manager Search Committee**

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

2017-0140 FOI Complaint Docket #FIC 2017-0232

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

- 2017-0088 **ARC Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application (2017)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0113 **Pfizer Local Community Grant - Senior Center**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0115 **Interlocal Agreement for Regional Community Enhancement Task Force**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0116 **FYE 2017 Contingency Transfer for AFSCME-Supervisors Wages**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0117 **Connecticut Surface Transportation Block Grant - Thomas Road Multi-Use Path**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0120 **Office of Policy and Management Body-Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE)
Reimbursement Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0121 **Reappointment of Mark Somers to Historic District Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0122 **Reappointment of Jeff Zuliani to Parks and Recreation Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0123 **Reappointment of Edward Stebbins to Zoning Board of Appeals**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0124 **Reappointment of Robert Deveau, Jr. to Fair Rent Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0125 **Reappointment of Marie Shaw to Library Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0126 **Reappointment of Barbara Tarbox to Planning Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0127 **Reappointment of Frederick Allen to Harbor Management Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0128 **Planning and Economic Development Project Funding Update for FYE 2017**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0131 **Execution of Contract with Candidate for Town Manager**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0133 **Introduction of an Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and
Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0134 **Setting of a Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the
Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0135 **FYE 2017 Suspense List**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0142 **Potential Appointment of Current Town Manager to SEAT and Retirement Boards**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

- 2017-0143 Appointment of Mark Oefinger to Retirement Board**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0145 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2018)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0146 Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 2018)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0147 Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 2018)**
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 Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, 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 Nault stated that she had attended a lot of the RTM budget meetings.

Councilor Moravsik stated that he had attended the SEAT meeting last month. He reported that he participated in the Mystic Memorial Day Parade, and that he attended the Groton Long Point budget meeting. He reported that he attended the June 3, 2017 Holland Club meeting.

Mayor Flax reported that he and the Town Manager attended the Great American Defense Community Award ceremony presented by Bob Ross. He stated that the entire Council of Governments attended the ceremony. He stated that the West Side Middle School band gave a fine performance. He reported that he read a proclamation at an awards ceremony recognizing three Girl Scouts for saving their Father's life. He reported that he attended a policy meeting for the Sub Base New London JL Study. He reported that he walked in the Noank Memorial Day Parade and that he walked Pequot Woods. He stated that he attended a Council of Governments meeting on May 24, 2017 and the Groton Business Association State of Groton breakfast meeting. He stated that members of the GBA were discussing measures to retain the post Super Storm Sandy influx of New Jersey tourists. He reported that he conducted an impromptu survey in Mystic recently, which revealed that six out of twenty-five people were from New Jersey, seven from Connecticut, three from Massachusetts, three from New Hampshire, and three from New York. He stated that this was a good illustration that people are traveling to our area for vacation. He stated that we need to work to maintain the attraction.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the next RTM meeting will be held on June 14, 2017 at the Groton Senior Center starting at 7:30 p.m.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher mentioned that the Town received a substantial conveyance fee from the sale of Branford Manor this month. She announced that the Clerk's office started issuing 2017 dog licenses on June 1, 2017. She stated that the State of Connecticut imposes a \$19.00 fee for unaltered dogs and a \$8.00 fee for altered dogs. She stated that proof of a valid rabies immunization and any alteration must be shown. She reported that she attended the Eastern Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award ceremony for Mary Lenzini.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger state the CURE Innovation Common's Annual Bioscience and Technology Community Picnic will be held on June 13th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 93 Shennecossett Road. He noted that the Sea Bee golf tournament will be held on August 4th.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson**

Chairman Watson read the report of the May 2, 2017 Personnel and Appointment Committee meeting. The report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

b. Rules - Chairman Antipas

No meeting. no report.

c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

Mayor Flax reported that the Committee of the Whole had met several times and that many of the items that were discussed are on the agenda under New Business.

IX. NEW BUSINESS**2017-0145 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2018)**

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND TAXES DUE ON JULY 1, 2017

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a General Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$118,897,132, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimates cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2018 current property taxes will total \$32,271,904, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$481,258 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2017 to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2018 General Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$86,143,970 is the amount that needs to be raised from property taxes, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tax rate for taxes due July 1, 2017 is hereby established at 23.63 mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to raise \$86,143,970 ($\$86,143,970 \div \$3,705,520,790 \div 98.4\% \times 1,000 = 23.63$ mills).

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

Councilor Antipas reviewed the comparison between the current and proposed mill rates. He stated that he did not attend the Committee of the Whole meeting, but assumed that discussions included the comparisons of the budget, the dramatic drop in revenue, and the 6.4% levy increase required to meet the reduction in revenue.

Mayor Flax stated that all of the items that Councilor Antipas mentioned were discussed during the last Committee of the Whole meeting. He reiterated that the State Legislature has not completed the state budget, so the Town of Groton has no knowledge of what to expect for revenue from the State. He explained that the Town Manager had set up four scenarios for the Town Council and RTM to use as a guideline for revenue assumption. He stated that the Town Council used scenario two, which assumes a decrease of \$5 million in revenue from the State. He stated that he made a request that the Town Manager submit a budget scenario that assumes a \$3 million reduction in revenue. He stated that he supports the \$3 million scenario.

Councilor Peruzzotti clarified her statement and vote during the Committee of the Whole meeting. She explained the difficulty in making the decision of which scenario to support.

Councilor Moravsik stated that he support the \$3 million scenario. He said that the Town will have a problem whether the State cuts more than the \$3 million or \$5 million. He expressed his

hope that the State will realize the burden that the Town of Groton is faced with. He stated that the \$3 million scenario put less of a burden on the taxpayers.

Councilor Antipas stated that if the Council supports the \$3 million scenario and the reduction turns out to be greater, the shortfall must be made up from either issuing a supplemental tax bill or taking money from the Fund Balance account.

In response to Councilor Antipas, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that if the Fund Balance was used to make up any shortfall in revenue, bond rating companies might be concerned. He stated that he would assume that the bond rating companies would be aware of our unusual situation. He stated that the rating companies may question why the Town Council changed direction after a month using the \$5 million scenario. He reviewed Fund Balance comparisons of other communities that have similar bond ratings. He stated that the Fund Balance is meant to be used for unexpected events. He stated that the Town has known about the Governor's proposed reductions since the first week in February.

Councilor Antipas stated that he supports the \$5 million scenario.

Mayor Flax replied to Councilor Antipas by stating that if he is looking to help the taxpayers, the Town Council should go with the \$3 million scenario. He stated that we will have to send out a supplemental tax bill to make up for any additional revenue loss from the State.

Councilor Barber explained how the Committee of the Whole deliberated between proposed reductions from the State. She reviewed that they started with a \$14 million scenario, down to \$10 million, and decided to go with the \$5 million scenario. She stated that she believes that the Town Council has done it's best for the taxpayers in cutting everything thing it could. She stated that in her opinion, the \$5 million scenario is conservative, and she supports that scenario.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger agreed to provide the list of items that the Town Council cut during budget deliberations.

Councilor Grim stated that if the reduction is less than we prepared for, any additional revenue could be put toward Fund Balance to use to lessen next year's burden.

Councilor Nault stated that she agreed with Councilor Barber. She stated that the Town Council cut the budget significantly, compared to last year. She stated that the Town Council, as well as the RTM, did a very good job of tightening belts and saving taxpayer's money. She stated that the reason the Town is in this situation is because of the State.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 2 - Mayor Flax and Councilor Moravsik

2017-0146

Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 2018)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR MUMFORD COVE DISTRICT FUND
DUE JULY 1, 2017

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Mumford Cove District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$21,028, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2018 current property taxes will total \$0, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$0 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2017, to

partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2018 Mumford Cove District Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tax rate for taxes due for the Mumford Cove District Fund on July 1, 2017 is hereby established at 0.34 mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to raise \$21,028 ($\$21,028 \div \$62,627,285 \div 99.7\% \times 1,000 = 0.34$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0147 Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 2018)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GROTON SEWER DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2017

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Groton Sewer District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$834,176, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2018 current property taxes will total \$11,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$200,000 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2017, to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2018 Sewer District Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the tax rate for taxes due for the Groton Sewer District Fund on July 1, 2017 is hereby established at 0.27 mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to raise \$623,176 ($\$623,176 \div \$2,375,069,727$ (excluding motor vehicles) $\div 98.8\% \times 1,000 = 0.27$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0088 ARC Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application (2017)

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ARC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM APPLICATION (2017)

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut provides tax credits to businesses that make cash investments in qualifying community programs conducted by tax exempt or municipal agencies, and

WHEREAS, the Arc New London County, Inc. has proposed an energy conservation project that will provide insulation and convert the heating system to heat pumps in a residence that supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the Arc New London County Inc. 2017 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program application in the amount of \$27,724 for an energy conservation program.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0113 Pfizer Local Community Grant - Senior Center

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY FOR A PFIZER LOCAL COMMUNITY GRANT TO PROVIDE UPDATED TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR SENIOR CENTER PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Senior Center would like to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$7,500 from the Pfizer Local Community Grants Program, and

WHEREAS, funding would be used to improve the technology used for the Senior Learning Network education program and the Lincoln Center Live program through the purchase of a laptop, smart television, and sound system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager or his designee is authorized to apply for a Pfizer Local Community Grant in the amount of \$7,500 to support programs at the Groton Senior Center.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0115

Interlocal Agreement for Regional Community Enhancement Task Force

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GROTON TO ENTER AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITIES OF GROTON AND NEW LONDON AND THE TOWNS OF LEDYARD, STONINGTON AND WATERFORD FOR THE REGIONAL COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Regional Community Enhancement Task Force (RCETF) is a multi-jurisdictional authority with a purpose of investigating individuals engaged in illicit criminal activities, developing intelligence data on criminal activity, and disseminating information to appropriate federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, and to improve the quality of life for all citizens of participating towns, and

WHEREAS, in order to formalize the Town's participation in the RCETF an Interlocal Agreement is required to outline the relationship between all participating agencies in order to ensure that each understands and agrees to guidelines concerning policy, supervision, planning, training and public relations, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with the Cities of Groton and New London and the Towns of Ledyard, Stonington and Waterford for participation in the Regional Community Enhancement Task Force.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0116

FYE 2017 Contingency Transfer for AFSCME-Supervisors Wages

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2017 GENERAL CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for General Contingency transfers during the year, and

WHEREAS, during FYE 2017 budget deliberations, only the labor agreements for the CILU-Telecommunicators employees had been settled and those wage increases were included in a department's FYE 2017 Budget,

WHEREAS, during FYE 2017 budget deliberations, labor agreements/pay plans were not known and were not included in a department's budget for the remaining employee groups; CILU-Clerical, United Steelworkers-Parks/Public Works, Police, AFSCME-Supervisors and Non-Union, and

WHEREAS, wage increases for one of those groups (AFSCME-Supervisors) are now known and should be incorporated into a department's FYE 2017 budget through a General Contingency transfer,

WHEREAS, during budget deliberations funds were included in the General Contingency in anticipation of wage adjustments occurring during the fiscal year for a total Contingency appropriation of \$425,000, and

WHEREAS, before this transfer is applied, the General Contingency has a balance of \$18,896 and

RESOLVED, that \$8,182 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions:

Public Works #1035 \$5,727

Finance #1013 \$2,455

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0117

Connecticut Surface Transportation Block Grant - Thomas Road Multi-Use Path

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR THE THOMAS ROAD MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Thomas Road Multi-Use Path project was awarded Enhancement (SAFET-LU) funding as the Federal match for the project, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) has informed the Town that the State Department of Transportation is spending down the SAFET-LU program funds and cannot ensure that the funding will be available when the project is ready to be constructed in 2018, and

WHEREAS, the State has informed the SCCOG that funds in the CT Surface Transportation Block Grant program are available, but an application must be submitted by the Town through the SCCOG in order to access these funds, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to make an application to the CT Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (2016-2021), Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside for the Thomas Road Multi-Use Path in the Town and City of Groton.

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

In response to Mayor Flax, Town Manager Oefinger stated that this item has already been approved in budgeted Capital Improvement Projects previously. He explained the the State used the fund that were allocated for this project and this is simply just another source of funding from the State. He stated that the construction will begin in 2018.

In response to Councilor Grim, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that any road construction will be a seperate project. He stated that this project is only for the multi-use path.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0120

Office of Policy and Management Body-Worn Recording Equipment (BWRE) Reimbursement Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF BODY-WORN CAMERAS AND SUPPORTING STORAGE DEVICES UTILIZING THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT'S BODY-WORN RECORDING EQUIPMENT (BWRE) REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, OPM is offering grant money to municipal law enforcement agencies for body-worn recording equipment and digital data storage devices or services. It is a reimbursement grant and not an advance payment grant, and

WHEREAS, the Town must procure the body-worn cameras and storage devices and/or contracts with locally budgeted funds and submit an application and proof of purchase to receive reimbursement. Purchase must be made by June 30, 2017 to receive 100% reimbursement for the equipment and for the initial one year only digital services contract. (Digital services include data /

evidence management and storage, as well as redaction software), and

WHEREAS, recurring maintenance contract costs would not be covered after the first year. Preliminary vendor cost estimates for annual maintenance not covered by the grant are \$25,000 - \$40,000 per year for a period of five years inclusive of the initial grant covered year. These costs also include equipment refresh and replacement of all equipment after 30 months, and

WHEREAS, Town acceptance of these funds requires conformance to all requirements identified in P.A. 15-4 concerning the procurement and distribution of any and all body-worn recording equipment. Furthermore, the Town must abide by the policy directives contained in the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council's General Notice 15-05: Policy - Use of Body Worn Cameras and Minimum Technical Specifications, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Police Department is authorized to purchase body worn cameras and supporting storage devices utilizing the Office of Policy and Management Body-Worn Recording Equipment Reimbursement Grant Program.

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

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that this grant program has a very tight time table.

Police Chief Fusaro gave an update on the project. He stated that the Town Purchasing Agent has received four responses to the RFP, and they are being evaluated. He stated that each of the proposals has the ability to conform to the tight schedule. He stated that a bill was introduced in the legislature that, if passed, may extend the schedule for an additional year.

Councilor Watson stated that he supports body cameras and asked if the City of Groton planning to use this system in tandem.

In respond to Councilor Watson, Police Chief Fusaro stated that he and City Police Chief Davoren agree to collaborate, but that City is not prepare to presue the use of body cameras at this time.

Councilor Watson led a discussion regarding electronic storage for the data collected from the cameras.

Councilor Nault stated the she supports the project and encourages them to complete the process by the June 30th deadline.

Councilor Moravsik stated that he believes that Groton Long Point Police Chief Nixon would be interested in using body cameras.

Police Chief Fusaro stated that the legislative initiative includes vehicle cameras. He stated that some of the Town cruisers currently have dash cameras.

In response to Councilor Antipas, Town Manager Mark Oefinger did not know if the Town insurance policy premium would be reduced as a result of the patrol officer's use of body cameras.

Councilor Barber stated that she supports the project.

Mayor Flax stated that he does not support the proposal because of the increase costs because the program requires all patrol officers to wear a camera. He cited the digital storage service as an additional cost that could be as much as \$30,000 a year. He suggested that other program could be reviewed.

Police Chief Fusaro stated he had similar concerns regarding the cost, but that in the future, body cameras will be equired.

Mayor Flax questioned how many cameras were needed and how the cost would compare if we did not outfit all the patrol officers.

Police Chief Fusaro stated that there are three shifts a day to cover, plus extra cameras for incidentals. He stated that video evidence management and storage needs are to be taken into consideration. He stated that all information must be stored for ninety days. Evidentiary data and arrest data requires a four-year retention. He stated that the grant provides a camera for each officer. He stated that the cameras cost between \$399 and \$499 each.

In response to Councilor Antipas, Police Chief Fusaro stated that the contract includes all upgrades with a refresh program after thirty months.

In response to Councilor Grim, Police Chief Fusaro stated that this is a five-year contract with a refresh after thirty months. He stated that the contract stipulates that the cameras are used for law enforcement activities with the public interaction.

Police Chief Fusaro stated that the policy is available to the public on the Police Department website.

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0121 Reappointment of Mark Somers to Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARK J. SOMERS TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Mark J. Somers, 67 Ramsdell Street, is hereby reappointed to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/21.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0122 Reappointment of Jeff Zuliani to Parks and Recreation Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JEFF ZULIANI TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Jeff Zuliani, 907 Shennecossett Road, is hereby reappointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending 12/31/21.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0123 Reappointment of Edward Stebbins to Zoning Board of Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD STEBBINS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

RESOLVED, that Edward Stebbins, 251 Elm Street, Noank, is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring 12/31/21.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0124 Reappointment of Robert Deveau, Jr. to Fair Rent Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROBERT DEVEAU, JR. TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Robert A. Deveau, Jr., 33 Library Street, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Fair Rent Commission for a term expiring 7/1/20.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0125 Reappointment of Marie Shaw to Library Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARIE SHAW TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Marie C. Shaw, 20 Colony Road, is hereby reappointed to the Library Board for a term expiring 12/31/19.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0126 Reappointment of Barbara Tarbox to Planning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BARBARA TARBOX AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Barbara Tarbox, 74 Algonquin Drive, Mystic is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/21.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0127 Reappointment of Frederick Allen to Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING FREDERICK ALLEN AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Frederick L. Allen, 1039 Poquonnock Road, Unit 224, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Harbor Management Commission for a term ending 09/01/19.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0128 Planning and Economic Development Project Funding Update for FYE 2017

RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND ANALYSIS

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has completed a Town-wide market analysis with a recommendation to research and implement strategies to improve economic opportunities in Groton; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has adopted the Plan of Conservation and Development with recommendations to complete a number of plans and analysis to improve our economy, our village and node areas of development, and to improve our existing housing stock; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Development Services has scopes of work and requests for proposals to complete a number of projects to implement the market analysis and Plan of Conservation and Development recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Development Services proposes to complete some proposed planning and economic development projects for the fiscal year 2017 that were previously deferred or did not have adequate funding to complete the projects; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Development Services proposes to utilize existing department funding for the following projects:

- Poquonnock Bridge design standards: \$25,000 from OPDS salary savings
- Economic Development webpage: \$20,000 from 10465 5290 and \$5,800 from salary savings
- Wayfinding signage program: \$10,000 from 10465 5290 and \$19,500 from salary savings
- Housing and economic redevelopment strategies: \$12,000 from salary savings

WHEREAS, the above mentioned projects will be utilized as new economic development tools to encourage development and redevelopment in planned targeted areas in Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby endorses Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS) staff to utilize OPDS funding for said projects.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0131 Execution of Contract with Candidate for Town Manager

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH A CANDIDATE FOR TOWN MANAGER

RESOLVED, that Mayor Bruce Flax is authorized to execute a written agreement reflecting the terms discussed by the Town Council/Town Manager Search Committee in executive session with the selected candidate for the position of Town Manager subject to review by the Town Attorney and modifications within a reasonable scope.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0133 Introduction of an Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

INTRODUCTION OF AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON AND TO ABOLISH THE ZONING COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

1. Although the Planning and Zoning Commissions have provided the townspeople of the Town of Groton consistently exemplary service, changing economic and other conditions, including the increasing uncertainty of the State of Connecticut's ability to provide revenues to the municipalities, have caused the Town Council to reconsider the utility of having two separate commissions. Information obtained by the Town Council strongly indicates that it would be in the Town's best interest to create a combined Planning and Zoning Commission in order to, among other things, unify and expedite the processes of obtaining zoning approvals and thus encourage economic development.
2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-4a, the Planning Commission is hereby designated as the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Groton, and said Planning and Zoning Commission shall have all powers granted to planning commissions, zoning commissions, and planning and zoning commissions by the laws of the State of Connecticut, including without limitation the powers granted planning and zoning commissions by Chapters 124 and 126 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
3. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall consist of seven regular members and three

alternates, all of whom shall serve five year terms, and each of whom shall be a resident elector of the Town and appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council. The present terms of office of the five regular and three alternate members of the Planning Commission, including any currently vacant seats, shall continue until their current expiration date. Thereafter the Town Council shall appoint regular and alternate members for terms of five years. The terms of the two additional seats for regular members created hereby shall terminate on December 31, 2021, and shall thereafter be filled for five year terms. No regular or alternate member of the Planning and Zoning commission may concurrently be a regular or alternate member of the Town of Groton Zoning Board of Appeals.

4. Alternate members shall have all the powers and duties conferred on alternate members of a Planning and Zoning commission by the General Statutes. Alternates shall be designated to act according to a regular rotation process so as to assure to the extent practicable equal participation by each in the affairs of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

5. The Town Council shall by majority vote fill all vacancies of the regular and alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the unexpired portion of any term.

6. The Zoning Commission is abolished and shall cease to exist.

7. This Ordinance shall be effective 45 days after enactment by the Council unless vetoed by the RTM.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0134

Setting of a Public Hearing on an Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON AND TO ABOLISH THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission as the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Groton and to Abolish the Zoning Commission on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0135

FYE 2017 Suspense List

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 SUSPENSE LIST

WHEREAS, State law requires that once a year a list shall be compiled of taxes that should be suspended, and

WHEREAS, the accounts which have been determined as uncollectible have been contacted multiple times with no response, and

WHEREAS, placing uncollected items on the Suspense Lists helps avoid waste of money and staff time, and

WHEREAS, the taxpayers remain liable for all amounts that are placed on the Suspense List, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following amounts be added to the Suspense List as reported to the Town Council:

Town: \$929,350.25
Sewer District: \$6,591.14
Mumford Cove Association: \$6.42
Total \$935,947.81

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0142 Potential Appointment of Current Town Manager to SEAT and Retirement Boards

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK R. OEFINGER TO THE SOUTHEAST AREA TRANSIT (SEAT) REGIONAL BOARD

WHEREAS, Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger was previously appointed by the Town Council to serve on the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Board for a term expiring 12/1/19, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oefinger has announced his retirement and his last day in the office will be 7/11/17, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council affirms its appointment of Mark R. Oefinger, 201 Broad Street, to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Board for a term expiring 12/1/19.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0143 Appointment of Mark Oefinger to Retirement Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK R. OEFINGER TO THE RETIREMENT BOARD

WHEREAS, Mark R. Oefinger is a member of the Retirement Board by virtue of his position as Town Manager, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Oefinger has announced his retirement and his last day in the office will be 7/11/17, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council, appoints Mark R. Oefinger, 201 Broad Street, as a member at large to the Retirement Board for a term expiring 12/31/19.

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

The motion carried unanimously

X. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Peruzzotti made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Watson, and so called by Mayor Flax at 8:58 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Groton Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*