



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 Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas

Members Absent: Councilor Frink and Councilor Peruzzotti

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Scott Aument.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, stated her concern that the \$49,000 spent for the current Police Study will not result in a solution that would ease the expense of policing the entire town. She expressed her desire that all residents receive the same level of police services. She offered three possible solutions that had previously been issued by RTM 5th District Rep. Richard Pasqualini. Statement is on file with the Town Clerk's office.

Scott Aument, 127 Rogers Road, Mystic, urged the Town Council to consider consolidating more services. He recommended that the Town Council implement specific recommendations from the Police Study. He asked the Town Council to consider the citizens of the entire town when making decisions that will effect everyone. Statement is on file with the Town Clerk's office.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Administrative Items

2014-0336 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Joellen Anderson - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - \$350.00 - Social Services Discretionary

E. C. Lambert - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Russ Musante - \$125.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Elaine Sloan - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund

Ralph and Diana Stanzione - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

City of Groton - Matching Funds - \$13.74 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$8.66 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Orin Stark - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Constance Watrous - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Fleet Reserve Association Brancy 20 - \$275.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park
Daughters of Isabella - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Margaret and Frank Adams - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Hali Keeler - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Suisman, Shapiro - \$1,000.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anonymous - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Robert Ashworth - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Northern Lights - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Palm - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Nancy Plauman - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
David Rose - \$95.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Servidio - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Kenneth and Laura Brown - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Alan M. Major - \$63.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Nancy d'Estang - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Kathleen Miner - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Gerald and Mary Piserchia - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Josephine Bright - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ronald Cooke - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Herta Payson - \$250.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Denise and Matthew Shafner - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Fitch Class of 1954 - \$400.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Aimee Allaire - \$4.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Benjamin Anderson - \$24.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marcy Casey - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Sandra Champion - \$9.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marilyn Coffey - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Carl Conrad - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Michael Courter - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Nora belle Du Rocher - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Juan Duran - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Chinwe Wrike - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
James Eskra - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Larry Grundy - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Elizabeth Hogan - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lauren Huck - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Arnold Jordan, Sr. - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pride Kelleles - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Heather King - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Lisa Knoblock - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Beverly Lavalley - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Eric Martin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Rebecca Martin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Amy Matteson - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Emily Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katherine Nelson - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Nina Nelson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Kathryn Roschmann - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Penelope Simmons - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Katy Stoddard - \$6.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Jennifer Stone - \$25.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Lawrence Taylor - \$1.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Merin Troutman - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Arianna Turello - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Johann Ward - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Katherine Wilhelm - \$40.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Jeanne Yello Robe - \$2.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Marsha Zimmermann - \$30.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Katherine Zod - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Noank Rowing - \$3,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Jack Komorowski - \$2,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$9.66 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary and Christine Dickson - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Argie Moore - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Matthew Perry - \$30.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

- 2014-0001 Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0002 Republican Town Committee Appointments (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0003 Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0004 Pending Litigation (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0005 Labor Negotiations (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0006 Revised Position Descriptions (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0007 Property Acquisition/Sale (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0008 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0009 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0010 Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0012 Meeting with State Legislators (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0162 General Discussions Related to Town Financial Matters (2014 Standing Referral)**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0263 Mystic Indoor Sports - Request for Financial Incentive**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

- 2014-0337 **Contingency Transfer for the Maintenance and Operation of Fitch Middle School**
This Matter was Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0339 **Road Reconstruction Bond - Year 3 Projects**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2014-0341 **Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0012 **Public Hearing on a Request for Financial Incentive for Former Pfizer Building 114**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0014 **Referral of Acquisition of Sisisky Property to the Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24**
This Matter was Referred to the Planning Commission 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.

Mayor Schmidt praised the generosity of the citizens and organizations for their contributions to the various Special Trust Funds.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Antipas reported on the January 7, 2015 Cable TV Advisory Council meeting. He stated that the committee is seeking representatives from North Stonington and Voluntown.

Councilor Cerf attended a meeting with the Town Manager to review the requests for proposals from a number of firms competing to perform the Economic Assessment Study of Groton. She referenced a letter from Fran Hoffman from CUSH, regarding the workshops on organic field management. She encourages interested students and citizens to attend the second workshop.

Councilor Flax reported that he and his children served meals at the Groton Senior Center on Christmas Day. He also attended the City Council/BOE/Town/Council/RTM Liaison meeting on January 7, 2015. He reported on a phone call from Chris Daniels, Noank Road, regarding an update on his sewer issues.

Mayor Schmidt reported that on January 7, 2015 she attended the City Council/BOE/Town Council/RTM Liaison meeting. On January 8, 2015 she attended a Tourism meeting and a Poquonnock Bridge Fire District meeting. On January 12, 2015, State Senators Looney and Austin met with members of the Town Council to offer their assistance while State Senator Maynard is recovering from his injuries. She attended two meetings for the U.S.S. Groton Sail, and a Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee meeting. She attended the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. She attended the General Dynamic's breakfast meeting where it was announced that they will soon be hiring 600 new employees, possibly more. She attended a Children's First meeting and the installation of the new Poquonnock Bridge Fire Chief. She reported that Kongsber Maritime Simulation opened a new facility on Lenard Drive in the Industrial Park.

Councilor Watson reported that the next Town and City Councils/BOE/RTM Liaison meeting will be February 4, 2015 at Charles Barnum School, 5:00 pm for a one hour meeting. He reported on the discussions of the January 7, 2015 Liaison meeting. He also attended the Groton Sail Steering and the Site Committee meetings. He is going to attend a Shellfish Commission workshop in New Haven on January 31, 2015.

Councilor Moravsik reported that on January 10, 2015 he attended the CCM Municipal Budget Workshop. He attended the U.S.S. Groton Sail Steering Committee and Site Committee meetings on January 12, 2015. On January 8th he attended the installation of the new Poquonnock Bridge Fire Chief.

Councilor de la Cruz reported that on January 12, 2015 he attended a meeting with Superintendent Dr. Graner, a representative from Ledge Light Health District and Mrs. Tammy de la Cruz discussing prescription drug abuse. He also announced that the Schools Initiative Task Force will be meeting on January 22nd at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall Annex. This meeting will be focused on discussing the new Middle School plan.

Mayor Schmidt commented on the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District's new ladder truck that was on display at the Senior Center on the evening of the installation of the new Fire Chief.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk reported that the RTM met on January 14, 2015. At that meeting, Chairman Scott reported that the RTM Economic Corporation Task Force was disbanded due to the Town Attorney's opinion. He also tendered his resignation from the RTM. She reported that the RTM 5th District caucus will be seeking a candidate to fill this vacancy. She reported that there is also a vacancy in the 7th District.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reported that she attended the installation of the new Poquonnock Bridge Fire Chief, Joseph Winski, and that she administered the oath of office to him. She also attended the January 8, 2015 Economic Development Commission meeting, where they elected Susan Dowling as the Chair of the Commission and David Perka as the Vice-Chair.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager reported that the Groton Elks will hold their annual Law Enforcement Night on February 7, 2015 at 6:00 pm. The Town Auditors will be at the next Committee of the Whole meeting to address the 2014 Town Audit.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

Mayor Schmidt reported that the Committee met with the new State Legislators, Aundre Bumgarder and John Scott, last week and they also reviewed the Police Study. She stated that all the other business will be discussed in tonight's meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2014-0263 Mystic Indoor Sports - Request for Financial Incentive

RESOLUTION APPROVING A SEVEN-YEAR TAX INCENTIVE FOR MYSTIC INDOOR SPORTS LLC

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council, on February 10, 1999, established by resolution its

Financial Incentive Policy, which provides that the Town may offer tax and other financial incentives to encourage quality development when the Town Council deems such action to be in the best interest of the community, and

WHEREAS, the purchase and proposed improvements of the property at 90 Welles Road by Matthew McCormack/Mystic Indoor Sports LLC will significantly improve the property, and the facility will provide a much needed indoor sports facility for the community, and

WHEREAS, the current facility has been neglected for some time, resulting in bankruptcy and numerous fire and building code violations, and

WHEREAS, as a result of Matthew McCormack/Mystic Indoor Sports LLC's purchase of the property, back taxes have been paid to the Town and made current, and

WHEREAS, as a result of current and future investments totaling \$3 million future larger tax revenues from the property are anticipated, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council was requested to consider a seven-year program of tax incentive as follows:

Year 1 - 100% abatement for existing buildings and land along with new improvements
 Years 2-4 - 100% abatement for new buildings and paying taxes on the full assessment of the existing buildings (built prior to 2015) and land
 Years 5-6 - 75% abatement for new buildings and paying taxes on the full assessment of the existing buildings (built prior to 2015) and land
 Year 7 - 50% abatement for new buildings and paying taxes on the full assessment of the existing buildings (built prior to 2015) and land; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has held a public hearing concerning the requested tax incentive and has taken the testimony received at the public hearing into account, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council grants to Matthew McCormack/Mystic Indoor Sports LLC financial incentives in accordance with the above schedule, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may enter into an agreement with the property owner/developer to assure that all terms and conditions of the granted financial incentives will be met.

A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0337

Contingency Transfer for the Maintenance and Operation of Fitch Middle School

CONTINGENCY TRANSFER FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF FITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

WHEREAS, transfers are sometimes necessary and represent unforeseen or unexpected expenditures that were not anticipated at the time the FYE 2015 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$56,370 be transferred from General Contingency #1074 to Public Works-Vacant Schools #1035B for costs associated with utilities and contracted/general maintenance of the former Fitch Middle School.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0339 Road Reconstruction Bond - Year 3 Projects

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING YEAR 3 REPORTS FROM THE TOWN, CITY, AND GROTON LONG POINT FOR THE ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in November 2012 Groton voters approved a five-year road maintenance and rehabilitation program for calendar years 2013 through 2017 that provides funding for the Town, City, and Groton Long Point to maintain and rehabilitate the community's road system, and

WHEREAS, the program requires each entity to file a report with the Town Council by December 30th of each year that identifies the roads completed in the calendar year, compares estimated costs to actual costs, and identifies the roads to be addressed in the upcoming year, and

WHEREAS, it was anticipated that adjustments to the list of roads may be necessary to account for factors such as utility construction, accelerated aging of road surfaces, and planned development over the course of the multi-year project, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the reports and proposed adjustments to the list of roads to be maintained/rehabilitated, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the Year 3 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program Reports from the Town, City, and Groton Long Point.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0341 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

RESOLVED, that the following individual is appointed as noted:

School Facilities Initiative Task Force - Katrina Fitzgerald (Board of Education)

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

The Mayor explained that this appointment is to fill the vacancy as a result of Kim Watson's installation as Chair of the Board of Education.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0012 Public Hearing on a Request for Financial Incentive for Former Pfizer Building 114

RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR FORMER PFIZER BUILDING 114

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the request for financial incentive by Thomas Green for former Pfizer Building 114 on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0014 Referral of Acquisition of Sisisky Property to the Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF SISISKY PROPERTY ACQUISITION TO PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER

CGS SECTION 8-24

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the acquisition of two parcels of land on Flanders Road owned by the Estate of Samuel M. Sisisky and Marilyn E. Shaff to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted and Referred.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Cerf requested that the Mayor form a committee to review the current Police Study. Mayor Schmidt explained that the Council agreed to wait for a response from the City of Groton before going forward with any proposals.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm was made by Councilor Watson and so taken.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk