



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Manager
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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Flax.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Deputy Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro, and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Nathan Caron.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Lee Vincent.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Michael Boucher, 16 Hillside Ave, submitted written comments for the record. He stated that he thought it was time to form a Committee of Common Sense of volunteers that would work with the Town Government and City residents to address concerns about how City Government and Groton Utilities may be hurting both Town and City taxpayers. Mr. Boucher noted that the Commission of Common Sense could help make a better Town of Groton. and could bring forth proposals to City residents on how to combine services and save money. Mr. Boucher stated that City residents need to work with the Town of Groton to make sure the Town of Groton follows parking proposals put forth by the Thames River Heritage Park Plan. Mr. Boucher spoke about Pfizer and its plan to have fuel cells built on its property. He commented on the claim that the power generated from the fuel cells and the sale of the power generated in its area would violate Groton Utilities' franchise rights. He noted that it seems that residents cannot own solar panels in the Groton Utilities controlled electric service area because Groton Utilities will not allow it. He commented that the solar panel issue is similar to the same fuel cell problem Pfizer has with Groton Utilities. Mr. Boucher stated that the City of Groton approved requesting a forty-two million dollar loan from the State of Connecticut for building a new water treatment plant. He announced that water rates will rise as much as twenty-one percent for those individuals who purchase water from Groton Utilities. He suggested that the Town of Groton could be helpful in requesting documents from Groton Utilities regarding Groton Utilities' debt and the accounting of millions of dollars the Water Department has turned over to Groton Utilities. He questioned why the City continues to fight the recreational use of the reservoir property, specifically the Tri-Town Trail. He stated that the City has no problem with solar panels on reservoir property and having the State of Connecticut taxpayers fund up to twelve million dollars in loan forgiveness for the City Water Treatment Plant.

Recess for Public Hearing on:

Mayor Flax recessed the meeting to hold a Public Hearing at 7:40 p.m. The Deputy Town Clerk read the call for the Public Hearing that was advertised in the New London Day on February 24, 2016 and March 09, 2016.

2016-0036 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - 2016 Application

Paige Bronk stated that he was joined by Susan Cullen from his staff; Andy Woodstock from Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities; Elaine Schmidt Executive Director for Groton Housing Authority; and Architect Chris Widmer. Mr. Bronk stated that since 1973 the Town of Groton has received Community Development Block Grant funds from the Small Cities Program totaling more than 10.5 million dollars. He stated that the Town of Groton has spent the grant funds on assisting first-time homeowners, road reconstruction, improvements to public buildings, rehabilitation of private residential properties, and rehabilitation of Housing Authority properties. He announced that funds that are paid into the program are utilized under the Program Income Re-use Plan and will be used to rehabilitate additional homes for sidewalk and road infrastructure and improvements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act; he stated that this information has been included in his comments for the State of Connecticut's benefit. Mr. Bronk stated that the 2016 Community Development Block Grant request of \$800,000 will be used to further the work that was completed with the \$800,000 grant from 2014 that has been fully expended rehabilitating additional units for handicapped accessibility, improving a community room, and making additional code compliance and energy efficiency upgrades. He announced the Housing Authority owns 40 efficiency apartments and 126 one-bedroom units in the Pequot and Grasso Gardens properties. He stated that the Housing Authority properties serve a population based on age and income requirements, and that this population often has no other housing options. He announced that the Groton Community Development staff, in conjunction with the Housing Authority Board, has been actively searching for funding for years to bring major capital improvements to the Housing Authority's properties. Mr. Bronk stated that the first Community Development Block Grant was used for the limited rehabilitation of 64 units within Pequot Village in 2014. He announced that multiple grants will be needed to fully rehabilitate the property to realize ten percent handicapped accessibility. He stated that future safety and energy efficiency updates are also desired for the benefits of all residents of the Housing Authority. He indicated that the Town of Groton has partnered with the Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities (ECHO) to help develop this year's proposal, and that the funds needed for this year's proposal are fully reimbursable under the Community Development Block Grant. He announced that the grant is administered through a three-party agreement with the Town's Economic and Community Development Division, the Groton Housing Authority, and the Eastern Connecticut Housing Opportunities office. He noted that the Town of Groton's development and housing plans meet State and Federal objectives of the Community Development Block Grant program by benefiting low and moderate income households, providing safe, decent, and affordable energy-efficient housing. He concluded his remarks by stating that the plan also meets objectives by revitalizing deteriorated residential districts while discouraging displacement, leveraging program income to appropriately further program priorities, enforcing housing and health codes, and promoting coordinated strategies to meet the needs of the community.

Mayor Flax asked if anybody had signed to speak during the Public Hearing.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that nobody had signed-up to speak.

Since no one had signed-up to speak, Mayor Flax closed the Public Hearing at 7:47 PM.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**2016-0094 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

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

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Nault stated that Mayor Galbraith was at the March 1, 2016 Town Council meeting and the minutes did not include a discussion about the parking lot. She noted that there were some things the Mayor said that were left out of the minutes, and those things should be included in the minutes.

Councilor Watson stated that Councilor Nault could review a recording of the meeting and inform the Town Clerk's office of the changes she would like to see included in the minutes.

Mayor Flax stated that the Council will postpone the vote on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Watson stated that omitted comments could be added and the Council could pass the Consent Calendar as amended.

Councilor Antipas stated that the Town Council could pass on the basis that omitted comments would be included in the minutes. He stated that the Town Council could pass everything else in the Consent Calendar and skip passing the minutes.

Councilor Watson amended the motion to approve the Consent Calendar without approving the Minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting until they have been looked at. Councilor Nault seconded the amendment. The amendment passed by a vote of 8-0-0.

A motion by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas to pass the Consent Calendar as amended without approving the Minutes from the March 1, 2016 Town Council Meeting. The vote was 8-0-0.

Mayor Flax announced the Town Council would vote on approving the Consent Calendar as amended. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

The motion carried unanimously

a. Approval of Minutes

b. Administrative Items

2016-0071 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Charles B. Allyn Foundation - \$2,500.00 - Library Renovations

Alan Major - \$80.00 - Library Miscellaneous

LEARN - \$300.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0064 National League of Cities (NLC) Legislative Agenda

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

2016-0069 FYE 2016 Contingency Transfers - Wage Adjustments

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

2016-0072 Claude Chester School Asbestos Removal Project

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

2016-0073 Use of FYE 2016 CIP Funds to Purchase Police Radios

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

- 2016-0074** **Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0075** **Revised Agreement with Milone and MacBroom for a Long-Range School Facilities Plan**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0077** **Proposed Revisions to Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan, Policies, and Job Descriptions**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0078** **2016 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0080** **Referral of Town-Owned Property Acquired through Tax Foreclosure to the Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24**
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 Antipas, 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 stated that he read to students on March 2, 2016. He attended the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut meeting on March 10, 2016.

Councilor Barber announced the Town Council has been vetting volunteers for the Charter Revision Commission. She stated that there are great people who want to volunteer.

Councilor de la Cruz stated that there was a forum at Fitch High School on March 2, 2016, and it went very well. He noted that they met with Seniors at Fitch High School, and they discussed dangers the Seniors may encounter in the first year of college. He attended a Suicide Prevention fundraiser hosted by the Mystic Veterans of Foreign Wars on March 5, 2016. He stated that he sat-in on the Charter Revision Commission interviews. He announced that there will be a Community Speaks Out fundraiser at Utopia Salon in Waterford from 12:00-4:00p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2016.

Councilor Nault stated she and Councilor Barber attended an Economic Development meeting at the Town Hall Annex on March 3, 2016. She announced there was a Sub Century Meeting on March 4, 2016, and there was a Special Sub Century Meeting for Sub Century Week following this regular Sub Century Meeting. Councilor Nault noted that she went to Washington, D.C. for the National League of Cities, and she noted that she had a full report that she would share with the Town Council. She indicated that the highlight of the trip was when she and Councilor Watson met with United States Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and two staff members from United States Representative Courtney's office. Councilor Nault noted that she was able to submit five items that were on the list, and here was a lot of discussion about heroin. Councilor Nault concluded by stating that on Monday, March 14, 2016 she went to the Capitol in Hartford and spoke in support of the sale of the Mystic Oral School.

Councilor Watson stated that he went to the National League of Cities with Councilor Nault. He noted that there were two thousand Councilors, Mayors, and First Selectmen in attendance, and he met with U.S. Senators Murphy and Blumenthal and the Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Courtney. He noted that topics discussed included the impact of civilians in privatized military housing, Heritage Park/Nautilus Dock, economic development on Thames Street, Base

realignment, and Sub Century, which he stated was put together by Councilor Nault. He indicated that he submitted a summary of the topics discussed to Nicki in the Town Manager's office. He announced that he attended a meeting on March 15, 2016 between the Marine Magnet School and the Noank Rowing Club regarding starting a rowing program at the Magnet School. Councilor Watson stated that he read to students as a part of Read Across America Week at Pleasant Valley and S. B. Butler Schools. Councilor Watson concluded by stating that he attended Councilor de la Cruz's forum at Fitch High School.

Mayor Flax announced he attended the School Facilities Initiative meeting on March 3, 2016. He stated he met with Groton City Mayor Galbraith on March 7, 2016, and he met with the Town Manager on March 8, 2016. He noted that he attended the Charter Revision interviews on March 12, 2016 and March 14, 2016. He stated that he attended the Southern Connecticut Council of Governments Opiate Heroin Response Committee meeting. He noted that he and Councilor Nault met with Parks and Recreation on Monday, March 14, 2015 concerning activities that may take place between the parade and fireworks. He stated that he met with the Town Manager on March 15, 2016. Mayor Flax indicated that he received a thank-you packet from Ms. Emily Calkins' fourth-grade class from Claude Chester School. He announced there will be a School Initiative Task Force presentation on March 16, 2016 at 6:00p.m.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Deputy Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro announced the next regular RTM Meeting will be held at the Groton Senior Center on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

c. Clerk of the Council

Deputy Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro announced that absentee ballots for the April 26th, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary will be available April 5, 2016. She noted that if anybody has questions about absentee ballots, he or she can contact the Groton Town Clerk's office.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that he hopes to get the Town Council a revised budget schedule by the end of the week. He announced that the Public Hearing on the budget will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center. He noted the Town Council has a joint meeting with the Board of Education on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to receive an update and report from the School Facilities Initiative Task Force. Town Manager Oefinger stated that potential items on the upcoming Town Council Committee of the Whole agenda for Tuesday, March 22, 2016 include Small Cities Community Development Block Grant, a Distracted Driving Grant that is ready for the Town Council's consideration, a School Facilities Initiative update, potential authorization to begin the referendum process, 2017 budget discussion, Charter revision and how the Town Council would like to proceed with making appointments, a request that was received for the Thames River Heritage Park Water Taxi, and potential meeting dates for a joint meeting of the Groton City Council and the Groton Town Council.

Councilor Nault stated that she would not be able to attend a meeting of the Groton City Council and the Groton Town Council on March 21, 2016.

Councilor Antipas asked the Town Manager what he was planning for the potential meeting on March 28th, 2016.

Town Manager Oefinger noted four items that he had discussed with the Mayor of the City of Groton: Sub Century, Heritage Park, a business that is looking to possibly purchase Colonial Manor and is interested in using tax increment financing to pay for a portion of the development, and a discussion on economic development activities within the City and Town of Groton.

Mayor Flax stated that it looked like March 28, 2016 would not work as a meeting date. He stated that it would be good to meet on another date. He noted the Mayor of the City of Groton was

courteous in inviting the Groton Town Council to a Groton City Council meeting, but it may be possible to have the meeting on a Tuesday that the Groton Town Council meets. He stated that there may be an opportunity to meet with the City of Groton at 6:00 p.m. before the Public Hearing on the Budget on Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

Councilor Nault stated that she would like to be a part of the vote regarding Charter Revision.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations -

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance -

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Rules -

No meeting, no report.

e. Public Safety -

No meeting, no report.

f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

Mayor Flax stated that the Committee of the Whole met and discussed items on tonight's agenda.

Councilor Nault stated that she was curious as to why the Economic Development Commission was not on the list of Committee Reports.

Mayor Flax stated that a report of the Economic Development Commission should be included under Communications and Reports.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2016-0069 FYE 2016 Contingency Transfers - Wage Adjustments

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2016 GENERAL CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

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

WHEREAS, during FYE 2016 budget deliberations, labor agreements for the CILU-Telecommunicators and AFSCME-Supervisors employees had settled and those wage increases were included in a department's FYE 2016 Budget, and

WHEREAS, during FYE 2016 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 and Non-Union, and

WHEREAS, wage increases for two of those groups (CILU-Clerical and Police) are now known and should be incorporated into a department's FYE 2016 budget through a General Contingency transfer, and

WHEREAS, during budget deliberations additional funds were added to the General Contingency in anticipation of wage adjustments occurring during the fiscal year for a total Contingency appropriation of \$550,000, and

WHEREAS, before this transfer is applied, the General Contingency has a balance of \$550,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$337,296 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Voter Registration #1003	\$975
Town Clerk #1005	\$4,169
Information Technology #1011	\$8,427
Finance #1013	\$18,867
Public Safety #1024	\$224,266
Public Works #1035	\$13,228
OPDS #1046	\$15,417
Human Services #1051	\$11,814
Library #1063	\$26,240
Parks & Recreation #1064	\$13,893

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0072

Claude Chester School Asbestos Removal Project

RESOLUTION ON CLAUDE CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ASBESTOS REMOVAL PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Groton Board of Education has determined that an asbestos removal project needs to be completed at Claude Chester Elementary School, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council authorizes the Groton Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for the proposed project to conduct an asbestos abatement project at Claude Chester Elementary School, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Permanent School Building Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the proposed project to conduct an asbestos abatement project at Claude Chester Elementary School, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes the preparation of drawings and specifications for the proposed project to conduct an asbestos abatement project at Claude Chester Elementary School.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0073

Use of FYE 2016 CIP Funds to Purchase Police Radios

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING USE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUNDS FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE TOWN POLICE RADIO SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the PERF Police Study recommended integrated police communications, and the most efficient method to accomplish this would be to upgrade the Town Police Department 800 MHz system to a simulcast system, and

WHEREAS, \$100,000 was appropriated in the FYE 2016 budget to evaluate the existing system and initial equipment purchases, and

WHEREAS, evaluations of the system and coverage areas have been conducted by current vendors at no cost to the Town, and

WHEREAS, the immediate replacement of Town Police Department portable radios and repairs to the existing 800 MHz system are of critical importance for both operational effectiveness and

officer safety, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council acknowledges the use of the FYE 2016 funding to purchase portable radios for the Town Police Department and to begin making repairs and improvements to the existing 800 MHz radio system with the goal of developing a simulcast system.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0074

Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CONNECTICUT GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) provides reimbursement funding for a portion of electrical vehicles, charging stations and associated installation and site preparation through the EVConnecticut Program, and

WHEREAS, the EVConnecticut funding is intended primarily to address energy and environmental protection initiatives through both public and private projects, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton's objectives include investments in capital expenditures to reduce future operating costs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit an application to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the EVConnecticut Program for a reimbursement grant for the public fleet.

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

Councilor Nault asked Town Manager Oefinger who pays for the electricity for the electric charging stations and how much the electricity would cost.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that the Town of Groton pays for the electricity, and he thought the cost to the Town of Groton would not be that much.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0075

Revised Agreement with Milone and MacBroom for a Long-Range School Facilities Plan

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A REVISED AGREEMENT WITH MILONE AND MACBROOM FOR A LONG-RANGE SCHOOL FACILITIES PLAN

WHEREAS, the Town Council authorized Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign a Scope of Services and enter into an agreement with Milone and MacBroom for a long-range school facilities plan in October 2012 and revised agreements in March 2013 and February 2015, and

WHEREAS, Milone and MacBroom is working with the School Facilities Initiative Task Force to provide recommendations for the design of a school system that reflects the Town's long-term vision and takes into consideration educational programs, budgets, facilities, and demographic changes, and

WHEREAS, Milone and MacBroom has submitted a contract addendum with a lump sum fee of \$59,500 (not including direct expenses) to study the feasibility for middle school co-location and renovating existing middle schools into elementary schools, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and RTM have appropriated \$75,000 in a FYE 2016 capital improvement project to define a plan addressing the needs of Groton's public schools, now

therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign the contract addendum with Milone and MacBroom for a long-range school facilities plan.

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

Councilor Barber stated that she thought the plan was already set for the schools.

Town Manager Oefinger stated there is a lot of work that has been done, and there is work that remains, and this funding is for the work that has not been completed.

Councilor Barber asked Town Manager Oefinger what the \$59,500 and the \$75,000 would be used for. She asked if the \$59,500 was in addition to the \$75,000 previously approved for FYE 2016.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that the \$59,500 was for the scope of work, and the \$59,500 is included in the \$75,000 that had been approved for FYE 2016.

Councilor Nault asked Town Manager Oefinger if the total was \$75,000.

Town Manager Oefinger stated the additional funding that was authorized during last year's budget deliberations was \$75,000. He explained that this amendment to the contract is for \$59,500 and does not include direct expenses. He noted any direct expenses would be paid for out of the \$75,000 that had been previously approved.

Councilor Antipas asked Town Manager Oefinger if this funding covers work that has already been done.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that his sense is that some of the funding covers work that has already been completed in order to keep the effort going.

Councilor Antipas stated that ideally nothing is done until the Town Manager receives a contract.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that there is a contract, but this situation is different because the Town Council was concerned there were missing pieces the Board of Education needed to conclude in terms of school education specifications. He stated that based upon a joint meeting of the Groton Town Council and the Board of Education at Avery Point, this project's funding would be broken into stages.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0077

Proposed Revisions to Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan, Policies, and Job Descriptions

RESOLUTION APPROVING REVISIONS TO PART-TIME/SEASONAL/TEMPORARY PAY PLAN, POLICIES, AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS

WHEREAS, changes to the rates in the Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan are proposed to address market pressures that have made it difficult to recruit and retain employees and to address increases in minimum wage, and

WHEREAS, the pay level for some positions has been increased based on requirements, responsibility and skill level, and

WHEREAS, the positions of Golf Ranger and Pro Shop Attendant have been added to the plan and Program/Playground Assistant and Community Service Officer positions have been removed in line with current positions, and

WHEREAS, the Senior Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor positions have been separated because of the difference in certification requirements and primary responsibilities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the changes to the Part-Time/Seasonal/Temporary Pay Plan, policies, and job descriptions as presented in a March 3, 2016 referral memo from the Director of Human Resources/Risk Management.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0078

2016 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course

RESOLUTION SETTING 2016 RATES FOR THE SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE

WHEREAS, the Golf Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission have each endorsed different changes to the fees for the Shennecossett Golf Course for 2016, and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation staff is recommending the changes proposed by the Golf Advisory Board, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the municipal golf course rates for 2016 shall be the rates as attached to this resolution.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0080

Referral of Town-Owned Property Acquired through Tax Foreclosure to the Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY ACQUIRED THROUGH TAX FORECLOSURE TO PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the following Town-owned properties and recommendations for disposition to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24:

PIN 169810462770E, South Road - Sell to Adjacent Property Owners Only

PIN 168910459100E, 157 Grove Avenue - Sell

PIN 169909262469E, 529 Gold Star Highway - Sell

PIN 169909168945E, 517 Gold Star Highway - Sell

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Barber, that this matter be Referred to the Planning Commission.

Councilor Nault asked if selling the South Road property to the adjacent property owners would result in the Town of Groton receiving the full market value of the property.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the property has seven fairly large gravel pit excavations and is encumbered by a sanitary sewer outfall. He stated that if one of the adjacent property owners does not want to buy the property, his recommendation would be to not sell it because of the gravel pit excavations and the sewer outfall. He stated that the value to the adjacent property owners may be in additional density credit, and he does not see the property as having much value as a stand-alone piece.

Councilor Barber asked Town Manager Oefinger if any of the abutting property owners have come forward.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that nobody has come forward, and the Town of Groton has not

approached them. He explained the Town of Groton acquired the property through tax foreclosure and the Council's procedures require the Town of Groton to go through a detailed process before getting rid of the property. The first step of the process is sending the list of properties to the Planning Commission and asking for its input regarding potential sales or transfers of any properties on the list. He stated the Planning Commission will review the referral and make a report to the Town Council.

Councilor Watson stated the South Road property has a tiny amount of frontage, and that the excavated land was used to construct the airport's runway.

Councilor Antipas stated the Town Council should know how much the property is worth, and if the adjacent property owners are willing to pay a fair price for the property, then he is satisfied the sale would be good for them and the Town of Groton. He asked Town Manager Oefinger when the properties were appraised.

Town Manager Oefinger stated the last appraisal would have been when all properties in the Town of Groton were appraised, and that there was probably an appraisal done at the time of the foreclosure. He noted that initially the committee thought the Town should hold on to the property, but after the committee met, Public Works concluded the Town does not have to hold on to it if it could bring value to the adjacent properties.

Councilor Antipas asked Councilor Nault how much a commercial appraisal of the property would cost. He stated that if there was an appraisal of the property the Town Council would have a baseline from which to work.

Councilor Nault replied it would cost at least one thousand dollars.

Councilor de la Cruz asked Town Manager Oefinger if the sale would have to go to the RTM after the Council was done with it.

Town Manager Oefinger stated that he would check the procedures.

The motion carried unanimously

Councilor Watson moved to suspend the rules to consider authorizing the Town Manager to execute settlement documents that were discussed in Executive Session before this Town Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor de la Cruz and passed unanimously.

2016-0089

Authorization for Town Manager to Execute Settlement Documents

Resolution Authorizing Town Manager To Execute Settlement Documents

WHEREAS, an employee in the Department of Public Works has filed Grievance 15-01 and CHRO Complaint Number 1540237 against the Town regarding certain alleged employment conduct, and

WHEREAS, the Town and employee have reached an amicable agreement to resolve the Grievance, the CHRO claim, and any other claims, and for the employee to retire in good standing from the Town, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to execute the documents necessary to finalize the settlement reached between the Town and the aforementioned Department of Public Works employee.

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

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Nault stated that she discovered there was Town-owned property that has a small waterfront area, and she learned from the Town Manager that the property was purchased for the purpose of open space conservation. She noted that when she searched for Town-owned property online, there was a list of more than 250 items. She requested to have a list of Town-owned property from the Town Manager's office. She stated that there may be the potential to sell additional Town-owned property.

Town Manager Oefinger stated he would be glad to get the Town Council a list of Town-owned property. He noted the list of Town-owned property changes and the Town has tremendous mapping. He noted the best document would be the most recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan from 2012. He explained that the four properties that the Town Council had just discussed were acquired through foreclosure. He stated that property the Town of Groton gets from open space historically comes from four sources: the eight-million-dollar bond from the late 1980s, the development process, through an offer from a property owner, and through a grant application.

Councilor Grim asked Town Manager Oefinger if there was a plan to sell Groton Heights, and if there was a timeline for the environmental work that will be done there. He asked if the pending environmental work had already been funded.

Town Manager Oefinger replied that the Town of Groton still owns Groton Heights. He explained the Town secured a grant last year for additional environmental investigations. He stated that he was under the impression that it is still the Town Council's desire to sell the property. He noted that the environmental work that needs to be done at Groton Heights has been funded by a grant. He stated that he will get an update on the work that has been done, or will be done, at Groton Heights.

Councilor Watson noted that the Conservation Commission keeps an active list of Open Space. He stated the Town Council just voted to authorize the Town Manager to apply for a Wetlands Permit to put a sidewalk in front of the Johl property. He noted that it would be a good idea to review Town-owned property.

Councilor Nault wondered why the Town of Groton does not give Town Residents the ability to use Town-owned property that has waterfront access.

Councilor de la Cruz asked the Town Manager about the status of the Crystal Lake Road project.

Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Town of Groton did the remediation and the Town is awaiting the final results of tests of the groundwater. He stated that the results of the test will enable the Town to submit the final paperwork to the State of Connecticut.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Watson to adjour the meeting, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Nathan Caron, Office Assistant II