



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

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, May 24, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. He announced that Councilors Nault and Peruzzotti were absent and declared a quorum with seven members in attendance.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Councilor Nault and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

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II. NEW BUSINESS

2016-0117

Introduction of Ordinance on School Facilities Initiative

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$184,500,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN, CONSISTING OF A NEW, CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL AND CONVERSION OF THE EXISTING MIDDLE SCHOOLS INTO "RENOVATED LIKE NEW" ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GROTON:

Section 1. That the sum of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$184,500,000) is appropriated for costs related to design and construction of (i) a new, approximately 169,000 sq. ft. consolidated middle school to be situated on the Town-owned Merritt site on Fort Hill Road between Ella Grasso Technical High School and Robert E. Fitch High School and (ii) conversion of the existing Carl C. Cutler Middle School at 160 Fishtown Road and the existing West Side Middle School at 250 Brandegee Avenue, into two "renovated like new" elementary schools. The appropriation may be spent for design, acquisition, installation and construction costs, equipment, materials, construction management, site improvements, engineering fees, architects' fees, design and bidding services, testing and inspection costs, related site and utilities work, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing. The Town Council shall determine the scope and particulars of the project and may reduce or modify the scope of the project, and the entire appropriation may be expended on the project as so modified or reduced.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$184,500,000) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Sections 7-369 and 10-289 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes for the project. The amount of temporary notes outstanding at any time shall not exceed ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$184,500,000). The notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-378 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Sections 7-378a and 7-378b of the General Statutes with respect to any notes that do not mature within the time permitted by said Section 7-378.

Section 4. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes authorized by Section 3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day Pitney LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to determine the dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

Section 5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that (except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys) the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes authorized by this resolution if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

Section 6. That the Town Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, and the Board of Education are authorized to apply for and accept state grants to finance the project and state loans to finance the project.

Section 8. That the School Building Committee for the project is authorized to construct the project; to approve design and construction expenditures and any easement acquisition costs incurred for the project; and to contract with architects, engineers, contractors and others on behalf of the Town for said project.

Section 9. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, the Board of Education, the School Building Committee for the project and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds or notes to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

Section 10. This ordinance shall become effective only if it has been adopted by vote of not less than five (5) members of the Town Council and by the Representative Town Meeting, and only

if the appropriation set forth in Section 1 and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Sections 5.5.5.1 and 9.13 the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

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

Councilor Antipas moved to amend the introduction of the ordinance to reflect the new information that is in version three. The motion was seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously, 7-0-0.

Councilor de la Cruz spoke in favor of the ordinance. He stated that he hoped that the public would educate themselves and support this project.

Councilor Grim stated his support for the ordinance. He stated that the Board of Education should revisit applying for special financing from the State.

Councilor Barber stated that she agrees with Councilor Grim's statement. She stated that voters need to be educated on the issues in order to understand what will happen to the three schools that will be closed as a result of this project.

Councilor Antipas agreed with Councilor Barber's statement. He stated that the Town Council must develop a plan to dispose of surplus buildings and property. He stated that he will support the project.

Councilors discussed the need to address re-purposing or selling the schools that will be closed as a result of this project. They agreed that the public needs to be assured of the benefits in closing the schools. They agreed that a reuse plan may encourage the public to support the project.

Councilor Morton stated her support for the ordinance. She mentioned a news article regarding the Town of Ledyard. The article stated that the State will be withholding the Town's approved grants for a year because their building project was not shovel ready. She suggested that the State is using this method to help balance their budget. She stated that the Town Council should be apprised of any application that the Board of Education submits to the State in order to keep a close watch on the progress.

Councilor Grim requested a referral to discuss forming a Task Force to develop a plan to address surplus property.

Councilor Antipas stated that it will be at least five years before any of the three schools are closed.

The motion carried unanimously

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2016-0118

Public Hearing on an Ordinance on School Facilities Initiative

RESOLUTION SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE FOR THE GROTON 2020 PLAN

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on an ordinance appropriating \$184,500,000 for the design and construction of the Groton 2020 Plan, consisting of a new, consolidated middle school and conversion of the existing middle schools into "renovated like new" elementary schools and authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in the same amount to finance said appropriation on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be

Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

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2016-0119 Referral of Ordinance on School Facilities Initiative to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF ORDINANCE ON THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the Groton 2020 Plan consisting of the construction of a new, consolidated middle school and conversion of the two existing middle schools into "renovated like new" elementary schools, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the Groton 2020 Plan to the Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Barber, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Planning Commission, due back on June 21, 2016.

The motion carried unanimously

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2016-0120 Referral of Ordinance on School Facilities Initiative to City of Groton Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF ORDINANCE ON THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE GROTON 2020 PLAN TO THE CITY OF GROTON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the Groton 2020 Plan consisting of the construction of a new, consolidated middle school and conversion of the two existing middle schools into "renovated like new" elementary schools, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the Groton 2020 Plan to the City of Groton Planning and Zoning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the City of Groton Planning & Zoning Commission, due back on June 21, 2016.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0142 Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 17)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND TAXES DUE ON JULY 1, 2016

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a General Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$121,558,250, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimates cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2017 current property taxes will total \$39,943,164, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$666,693 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2016 to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2017 General Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$80,948,393 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, 2016 is hereby established at 21.73 mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to raise \$80,948,393 ($\$80,948,393 \div \$3,789,539,060 \div 98.3\% \times 1,000 = 21.73$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0143

Establishment of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove District Fund (FYE 17)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR MUMFORD COVE DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2016

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Mumford Cove District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$21,028, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2017 current property taxes will total \$0, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$0 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2016, to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2017 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, 2016 is hereby established at 0.310 mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to raise \$21,028 ($\$21,028 \div \$68,076,524 \div 99.8\% \times 1,000 = 0.310$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

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2016-0144

Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 17)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GROTON SEWER DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2016

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Groton Sewer District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$828,774, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2017 current property taxes will total \$14,580, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$200,000 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2016, to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2017 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, 2016 is hereby established at 0.25 mills per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to raise \$614,194 ($\$614,194 \div \$2,470,845,364$ (excluding motor vehicles) $\div 98.7\% \times 1,000 = 0.25$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

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III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Clerk of the Town Council*