



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 28, 2013

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

2013-0142 FYE 2013 Suspense List

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 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 at least nine times with no response, and

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

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

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

Town: \$743,260.51
Sewer District: \$2,957.66
Mumford Cove: \$24.29
Total: \$746,242.46

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0149 Collecting a Fee for DMV Reporting

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF A FEE FOR DMV REPORTING

WHEREAS, Connecticut State Statute 14-33(a) requires municipalities to notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles if a taxpayer is delinquent in the payment of property taxes on any motor vehicle, and

WHEREAS, the State charges municipalities a fee for the use of their Delinquent Motor Vehicle Tax Collection Service, and

WHEREAS, the Town tax division staff expends a considerable amount of time and expense in administration of delinquent motor vehicle accounts, and

WHEREAS, Connecticut State Statutes 7-148(c) and 12-166 empower the Town to collect taxes including the collection of interest, penalties, and fees charged thereon, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council authorizes the Tax Collector to charge a \$2.00 fee on any account that is delinquent in paying motor vehicles taxes for which the Town has notified the Commissioner of the DMV of such delinquency under the provisions of CT State Statute 14-33(c), and be it further

RESOLVED that said policy shall take effect July 1, 2013.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0144

Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 14)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GENERAL FUND TAXES DUE ON JULY 1, 2013

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a General Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$ 119,953,958, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimates cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2014 current property taxes will total \$39,763,956, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$2,013,860 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2013 to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2014 General Fund budget, and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$78,176,142 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, 2013 is hereby established at 20.72 mills per thousand dollar of assessed valuation to raise \$78,176,142 ($\$78,176,142 \div \$3,857,363,246 \div 97.8\% \times 1,000 = 20.72$ mills).

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

Councilor Peruzzotti was disappointed that after all the hard work the Town Council did on the FYE 2014 budget, the RTM restored some of the cuts. She will not be supporting the motion.

Councilor Morton and Mayor Somers were also disappointed that the RTM did not adopt the budget cuts that the Town Council has passed.

Councilors discussed the budget process and the responsibilities of the Town Council and the RTM.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Opposed: 1 - Councilor Peruzzotti

2013-0145

Establishment of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 14)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR MUMFORD COVE DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2013

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Mumford Cove District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$21,078, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2014 current property taxes will total \$50, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$400 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2013, to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2014 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, 2013 is hereby established at 0.305 mills per thousand dollar of assessed valuation to raise \$20,628 ($\$20,628 \div \$67,759,810 \div 99.7\% \times 1,000 = 0.305$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0146

Establishment of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District Fund (FYE 14)

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TAX RATE FOR GROTON SEWER DISTRICT FUND DUE JULY 1, 2013

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has approved a Groton Sewer District Fund Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 providing for expenditure appropriations totaling \$1,181,810, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council estimated cash revenue exclusive of FYE 2014 current property taxes will total \$24,214, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$550,000 is hereby appropriated as fund balance available as of July 1, 2013, to partially meet expenditure appropriations contained in the FYE 2014 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, 2013 is hereby established at 0.25 mills per thousand dollar of assessed valuation to raise \$607,596 ($\$607,596 \div \$2,452,328,820$ (excluding motor vehicles) $\div 98.5\% \times 1,000 = 0.25$ mills).

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0143

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2013 JAG GRANT

WHEREAS, the 2013 Justice Assistance Grant is a federal grant administered under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program and may be used to purchase equipment and technology directly related to law enforcement functions for public safety, and

WHEREAS, the grant will allow the Groton Town Police to expand in-car camera capabilities in the existing fleet of marked patrol vehicles, and

WHEREAS, in-car cameras afford the agency and patrol officers an increased level of officer safety and training, provide additional tools for combating criminal activity through the gathering of evidence, aid in the reduction of municipal liability and further enhance efficiency and effectiveness with respect to existing homeland security concerns, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee may apply for the Edward

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program grant of \$12,000 for Fiscal Year 2013 to expand in-car camera capabilities in the existing fleet of marked patrol vehicles.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0150

Authorization to Prepare a Bond Ordinance for Police Station Renovations

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A BOND ORDINANCE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS FOR POLICE STATION RENOVATIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed Project 6) B) in the FYE 2014 Capital Improvement Program to renovate portions of the Groton Town Police Station, 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 Town staff and the Town bond attorney are authorized to prepare a bond ordinance to be introduced by the Town Council, along with other resolutions as necessary.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0151

Authorization to Prepare a Bond Ordinance for Flanders Road Utilities Extension (Segments South of I-95)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A BOND ORDINANCE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS FOR FLANDERS ROAD UTILITIES EXTENSION (SEGMENTS SOUTH OF I-95)

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a proposal to extend water and sewer utilities on Flanders Road, and

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

RESOLVED, that Town staff and the Town bond attorney are authorized to prepare a bond ordinance to be introduced by the Town Council, along with other resolutions as necessary.

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

The motion carried unanimously

III. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*