



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 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, October 2, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 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, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Schmidt.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

William Biletzke, 580 Sandy Hollow Road, would like to know the process for eliminating the scenic road designation on Sandy Hollow Road. He stated that this designation has created a lot of unnecessary issues. Mr. Biletzke remarked that curbing is necessary to keep this road from eroding, and mentioned that road crews are continually reworking the sides of the road.

Alan Whitfield, 17 Laura Avenue, Mystic, works in the construction field. He stated that Groton has one of the best paving crews, and the problems with the road can easily be fixed. Mr. Whitfield noted that the debris going into the church driveway and another driveway at the bottom of the hill is a liability for the Town if someone should fall.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Streeter stated that the ordinance that made Sandy Hollow Road a scenic road also describes the process to get the designation rescinded. A majority of lot owners abutting the road need to petition to start the process.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0277 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 18, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2012-0229 Central Corridor Rail Coalition Request for Support

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

- 2012-0231 Amended Agreement Regarding Fitch High School Baseball Field - Update**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0260 Spicer Fund Fundraiser**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0275 Reallocation of FYE 2013 CIP Funds to Mary Morrisson Asbestos Floor Tile Removal Project**
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 Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Morton, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar. The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors toured the Groton Heights School building and then viewed the new police boat.

Councilor Peruzzotti met with Mr. Biletzke regarding Sandy Hollow Road. She, along with Councilors Johnson and Schmidt, attended a redistricting meeting.

Councilor Watson attended a meeting at the Mystic & Noank Library. He, along with Councilor Antipas, attended the Mystic fire boat dedication.

Councilor Schmidt attended an Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee meeting.

Councilor Streeter attended a historical association gathering at the Groton Public Library. He, along with Mayor Somers, attended the open house at the Avery Copp Museum.

Mayor Somers, along with Councilor Flax, attended a Noank Fire District meeting regarding the reuse of Noank School.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next regular RTM meeting will be held on October 10, 2012.

c. Clerk of the Council

Explanatory text for the upcoming Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program Bond Ordinance referendum is at the printer. The Town Clerk noted that 90-day and 45-day ballots have been mailed and regular absentee ballots will be available October 5, 2012.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager noted that an Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee meeting will be held on October 15, 2012, a Children First Groton meeting will be on November 14, 2012, Law Enforcement Night at the Groton Elks will be on October 6, 2012, Fall Festival will be October 6, 2012, and the Third Annual Military Appreciation Breakfast will be on October 19, 2012. The Town Manager attended a meeting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the Crystal Lake Road project and met with Rick Norris regarding possible placement of a life-size statue of John Kelley.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

The Committee of the Whole met earlier tonight and discussed an amendment to the baseball team agreement, reallocation of funds to Mary Morrison and Sandy Hollow Road curbing. They also received an update regarding ongoing Board of Education negotiations.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2012-0229 Central Corridor Rail Coalition Request for Support****RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE EXPANSION**

WHEREAS, undue reliance upon particular modes of passenger transportation and the neglect of others leads to inefficiencies, delays and wasteful allocation of resources; and

WHEREAS, a modern national passenger train system is an essential element of a truly balanced transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the low level or absence of passenger train service in certain areas of New England (including Groton) has resulted in an unbalanced transportation system in those areas, contributing to traffic congestion, air pollution, wasteful expenditures, and growth control problems; and

WHEREAS, this municipality is gravely concerned with the disruption to this community caused by the aforesaid traffic congestion, air pollution, wasteful expenditures, and growth control problems; and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council believes that comprehensive intermodal transportation planning is necessary to resolve the aforesaid problems and that involvement at the local, state and regional levels is necessary to the preparation and implementation of such planning; and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council believes that passenger train service is a necessary part of any comprehensive intermodal transportation system, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the Town Council of Groton, Connecticut that:

1. It is and shall continue to be the policy of this municipality to take all actions necessary to support the commencement and/or/expansion of passenger train service in and to this municipality and other areas of Connecticut.

2. This municipality supports the efforts of The Central Corridor Rail Coalition and The Palmer Rail Coalition to achieve the commencement and/or expansion of passenger rail service to the aforesaid areas.

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

Mayor Somers stated that this railroad line would serve as a connection to many colleges. There are 47 municipalities supporting this coalition.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0231

Amended Agreement Regarding Fitch High School Baseball Field - Update

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GROTON, BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE BRISTOL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL CLUB, INC.

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2011, the Board of Education, along with the Town of Groton and Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc., entered into an Agreement to allow certain improvements to be made to the Fitch High School baseball field, and to authorize the Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc. to utilize said field for its New England Collegiate Baseball home games and for uses ancillary thereto; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education, Town of Groton and Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc. mutually desire to enter into a new Agreement to replace, supersede and render null and void the original Agreement dated July 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new Agreement between the parties has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney, and on October 2, 2012, the Town Council Committee of the Whole, along with the Town Attorney and Town Manager, met in executive session to discuss said new Agreement; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to accept and execute on behalf of the Town of Groton the proposed new Agreement between the Board of Education, Town of Groton and Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc. to replace, supersede and render null and void the original Agreement between said parties dated July 1, 2011.

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

Mayor Somers stated that this agreement is a new start for the Town and the baseball club. She noted that the agreement is for 20 years and is a positive step. The club has a new president who has a well-thought-out plan and who is committed to the success of the team. A decision has been made that the disputed amount of \$143,000 will not be able to be recouped; the Town has agreed to absorb this cost.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0275

Reallocation of FYE 2013 CIP Funds to Mary Morrisson Asbestos Floor Tile Removal Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$110,000 WITHIN THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FROM THE PROJECT TO REPLACE BOILERS AT S. B. BUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO THE PROJECT TO REPLACE ASBESTOS FLOOR TILE AT MARY MORRISSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, \$265,000 was approved in the FYE 2012 and FYE 2013 capital improvement budgets for a project to replace defective asbestos containing floor tile at Mary Morrisson Elementary

School, and

WHEREAS, the cost to replace the tile exceeds the allocation by approximately \$101,975, and

WHEREAS, \$270,000 was approved in the FYE 2013 capital improvement budget to replace the boilers at S. B. Butler Elementary School, and

WHEREAS, the project at S. B. Butler is 98% complete with a surplus of at least \$130,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the reallocation of \$110,000 from the S. B. Butler boiler replacement project (#5G) to the Mary Morrisson floor tile replacement project (#5B).

Refer to RTM under Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on October 10, 2012.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf's last day will be October 13, 2012. His service and dedication throughout the years have been appreciated. There will be a retirement ceremony on October 11, 2012, in the cafeteria at Fitch Senior High School.

Councilor Peruzzotti requested that the Town Manager provide quarterly updates on the status of the Town budget.

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider setting the date for a Public Hearing to discuss Sandy Hollow Road curbing was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas and so voted unanimously.

2012-0283

Setting Public Hearing on Sandy Hollow Road Curbing

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER CURBING OF SANDY HOLLOW ROAD, A DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

WHEREAS, on January 19, 1999, by resolution, the Town Council designated Sandy Hollow Road as a Scenic Road according to Town ordinances, Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, residents of Sandy Hollow Road have asked the Town Council to consider installing additional curbing on the road, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the curbing of Sandy Hollow Road on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Johnson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant