



# 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 Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri**

---

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018**

**6:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

---

**REGULAR MEETING - REVISED**

---

*Mayor Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.*

**I. ROLL CALL**

*Also present were Town Manager John Burt, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, and Board of Education Chair Kim Watson.*

*Members Present: Mayor Granatosky, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri*  
*Members Absent: Councilor Atwater and Councilor Parker*

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Bruce Flax.*

**III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

*None.*

**Recess for:**

*Mayor Granatosky recessed the meeting in order to conduct the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m.*

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the call to the Public Hearing that had been published in The Day newspaper on January 30, 2018.*

**2018-0021 Public Hearing on an Ordinance Amending Various Ordinances to Increase Fines**

**PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 1-7, 7-31, 10-101, 10-140, 10-184, 11-56 AND 11-81 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:**

Sections 1-7, 7-31, 10-101, 10-140, 10-184, 11-56 and 11-81 of the Town of Groton Code of Ordinances are amended as follows:

**1. Sec. 1-7. - General penalty.**

(a) Whenever in this Code or any other ordinance of the town, or rule or regulation promulgated by any officer thereof under authority vested in him by law or ordinance, any act is prohibited or is declared to be unlawful or an offense, or the doing of any act is required, or the failure to do any act is declared to be unlawful, where no specific penalty is provided, the violation of such ordinance, rule or regulation shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$250.00. Each day any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense.

(b) The imposition of any punishment under this Code shall not prevent the enforced abatement of any lawful condition by the town.

(c) Any condition caused or permitted to exist in violation of any of the provisions of this Code,

officially designated as such and each day that such condition continues shall be regarded as a new and separate offense.

2. Sec. 7-31. - Notice of violation; fines.

Whenever any police officer finds any vehicle in violation of section 7-30, he shall attach to such vehicle a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of the law, which notice shall indicate the nature of the violation. If such owner or operator appears at police headquarters, or responds via mail, within seven days of the time when such notice was attached, he may pay to the police department the sum of \$50.00 which shall be in full satisfaction of such violation. If such owner does not appear, nor respond via mail, within seven days, but does appear, or respond via mail within 14 days of the time such notice was attached, he may pay to the police department the sum of \$100.00 which shall be in full satisfaction of such violation. If such owner or operator does not appear at police headquarters, nor respond via mail, in response to such notice within 14 days and does not pay the sum of \$50.00 or \$ 100.00, as the case may be, then the police department shall cause such owner or operator to be prosecuted for such violation in the court having jurisdiction of such violations.

3. Sec. 10-101. - Permit-Required for persons over 16.

It shall be unlawful for any person over the age of 16 to solicit orders of purchase for future delivery of any goods, wares or merchandise including magazines and other printed matter, from door to door or on any street or highway within the town without first obtaining from the chief of police a solicitor's permit to do so and paying the chief of police the fee therefor, the amount of which shall be established by the Town Council by Resolution from time to time.

4. Sec. 10-140. - Violations/penalties

(a) Any person, partnership or corporation who is found to have violated this article shall be fined a definite sum not exceeding \$250.00 for each such violation.

(b) Each violation of this chapter shall be considered a separate offense, and any violation continuing more than one day of time shall be considered a separate offense for each day of violation.

(c) Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to limit any remedy the town may have for the enforcement of this chapter.

5. Sec. 10-184. - Violation and penalty.

Every person, except those persons who are specifically exempt by this article, whether acting as individuals, owner, employee of the owner, operator or employee of the operator, or acting as a participant or worker in any way, who gives a massage or conducts a massage establishment without first obtaining a permit and paying a permit fee to the Town of Groton or shall violate any of the provisions of this article or of the rules and regulations established by the chief of police or the director of health pursuant to this article shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$250.00. Each violation of this chapter shall be considered a separate offense, and any violation continuing more than one day of time shall be considered a separate offense for each day of violation. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to limit any remedy the town may have for the enforcement of this article.

6. Sec. 11-56. - Ticketing of violators; penalties.

Whenever any police officer finds any vehicles in violation of any parking regulation or

restriction, he shall attach to such vehicle a notice to the owner or operator that such vehicle has been parked in violation of law, which notice shall indicate the nature of the violation.

- (1) If such owner or operator appears at police headquarters, or responds via mail, within seven days of the time when such notice was attached, he may pay to the police department the sum of \$20.00 which shall be in full satisfaction of such violation.
- (2) If such owner or operator does not appear, nor respond via mail, within seven days but does appear or respond via mail within 14 days of the time such notice was attached, he may pay to the police department the sum of \$40.00 which shall be in full satisfaction of such violation.
- (3) If such owner or operator does not appear at police headquarters, nor respond via mail, in response to such notice within 14 days and does not pay the sum of \$20.00 or \$40.00, as the case may be, the police department shall cause such owner or operator to be prosecuted for such violation in the court having jurisdiction of such violations.

7. Sec. 11-81. - Bus motor vehicles in livery service.

(a) Legislative finding. The operation of motor vehicles of the bus type in livery service for the purpose of conducting commercial tours on any of the enumerated public streets or highways, which streets or highways are narrow, without adequate sidewalks, and frequently congested, endangers the safety of pedestrians and other travelers on such streets or highways, especially children and the elderly, and constitutes a noisome, unreasonable and unnecessary invasion of the property and privacy rights of residents and property owners.

(b) Definitions. The term "motor vehicle of the bus type in livery service" means and includes every motor vehicle with a seating capacity of ten or more passengers which is used for the transportation of passengers for hire with the exceptions noted in C.G.S. § 13b-101.

(c) Acts prohibited. No person shall operate a motor vehicle of the bus type in livery service on any of the following public streets or highways:

- Academy Lane
- Bank Street
- Burrows Street
- Clift Street
- Eldridge Street
- Elm Street (Mystic)
- Fort Rachel Place
- Front Street
- Gravel Street
- Grove Avenue
- High Street (Noank)
- High Street, Mystic from Noank Road (Route #215) north to Cow Hill
- Road/Allyn Street connector
- Library Street
- Military Highway between Grove Avenue and Crystal Lake Road
- Palmer Court (Noank)
- Park Place
- Pearl Street (Mystic)
- Pearl Street (Noank)
- Riverview Avenue (Noank)
- Starr Street
- Ward Avenue

## West Mystic Avenue

(d) Penalty. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be fined not more than \$250.00 for each offense.

8. Each section of this Ordinance shall be effective on \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

*No speakers had requested a hearing.*

*Councilor Zeppieri stated that he is opposed to the very restrictive time period for people to pay their fines. He stated that there are a lot of reasons why people cannot pay their fines within seven days. He stated that he is opposed to the restriction to livery traffic on specific streets.*

*Town Manager John Burt stated that the Police Chief is considering extending the dates for paying fines. He stated that the Council will have updated language to review when this item is on the Committee of the Whole agenda.*

*Mayor Granatosky stated that the Council will have the opportunity to discuss this Ordinance again prior to a final vote.*

*In response to Councilor Obrey, Chief Fusaro stated that the parking tickets will have mailing envelopes similar to what they currently use.*

*Mayor Granatosky closed the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m.*

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Bruce Flax, 632 Noank Road, commented on the City Public Works budget item that was on the agenda. He referenced a section of the agenda that lists this item as having been recommended for a Resolution on December 12, 2017. He stated that what is disturbing to him is that this item has not been in front of the camera until now. He stated that since this is the first public discussion, and it is the same day for the vote, he would like the current Council to understand why the money had been withheld by the prior Council. He stated that prior Councils tried to determine what was actually needed to maintain the roads in the City. He stated that they thought the City spent too much. The City disagreed and an arbitrator had, twice, found in favor of the City. He stated that in 2017, the Council had met with the last arbitrator. The arbitrator suggested that the Town hire an independent person to go through the Public Works budgets for the City and the Town to see how money is spent and to see the standards used, etc. He stated that the previous Council's intent was to see this report first and then decide about the money. He stated that they were looking for a unbiased opinion to look at this issue. He made the request for the Council to reconsider releasing the money. He stated that he had issue with the Council's action of amending the November 14, 2017 Committee of the Whole minutes. He asked if the Council intends to review all past minutes and make corrections or amendments.*

*Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, spoke about the recent Board of Education budget hearing. She did not attend the hearing, but stated that this year she will be advocating for the minimum budget requirement funding for the Board of Education budget. She urged the Town Council to support the minimum budget requirement this years.*

*Dean Antipas, 164 Payer Lane, Mystic, stated that he has never seen an incoming Council amend minutes and he does not remember correcting any minutes. He stated his opinion and expressed his hope in that this does not continue.*

*Portia Bordelon, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, stated that she is actively following the Board of Education budget process. She stated that the amount that is budgeted for insurance is more than what is budgeted to educating the students. She encourages the Town Council to carefully look through this budget.*

**V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*Councilor Zeppieri responded to Ms. Kotowski and Ms. Bordelon in saying that he is sympathetic to their comments and he encouraged them to be specific in advising the Town Council where they should cut the budget.*

*Councilor Obrey, stated that the approval of the November 14, 2017 was very unusual to her. She stated that these were the minutes of the previous Council. She stated that she had raised this issue.*

*Mayor Granatosky stated that the Board of Education publishes their agendas on the Town website. She stated that she posts the weekly meeting calendar on her Facebook page.*

**VI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Mayor Granatosky accepted a motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2018 meeting from Councilor Zeppieri, seconded by Councilor Moravsik and so carried unanimously.*

*Mayor Granatosky accepted a motion to accept item 2018-0011 from Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Zeppieri. Councilor Obrey thanked Lisa Hilton for including the Groton Rotary denotation. Mayor Granatosky thanked all of the citizens for their generous donations to the various funds. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mayor Granatosky stated that Councilor Atwater requested to keep 2017-0297 Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut, Inc. as an active referral.*

*Councilor Schmidt stated that any item that is deleted may be reintroduced if needed.*

**a. Approval of Minutes****2018-0023 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of January 2, 2018 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items****2018-0011 Special Trust Fund Contributions****RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

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

Joseph Kane - \$1,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Diving Services - \$1,500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Debra Willner - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Thames Valley Communications - \$5,000.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving  
 Mark Bassler - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Stephen & Marsha Dietrich - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Joseph Wallace - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$1,250.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Barbara Nagy - \$250.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Anonymous - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Fairview-Odd Fellow Home - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Groton Rotary/Liberty Bank - \$4,044.90 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Mallory Musante - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Joanne Stearns - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Anonymous - \$80.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Mary & Christine Dickson - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Hali Keeler - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Mystic Woman's Club - \$1,174.23 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Eleanor Ralls - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$420.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
CSEA Retirees Council Chapter 416 - \$200.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

- 2016-0043 Use of Recycling Building on Flanders Road for Fire Training**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0203 Establishment of an Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0204 Review of Town Services and Operations**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0205 Citizen's Academy**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0206 Build-a-Budget**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0207 Review of Scenic Road Ordinance**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0244 Charter Revision - Update**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0001 Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0002 Republican Town Committee Appointments (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0003 Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0004 Revised Position Descriptions (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0005 Pending Litigation (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0006 Labor Negotiations (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0007 Property Acquisition/Sale (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0008 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0009 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

- 2017-0010 Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0011 Meeting with State Legislators (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0012 Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2017 Standing Referral)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0071 Town Council/Board of Education Joint Task Force on Shared Services - Update**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0105 Fuel Charges for Outside Agencies**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0108 Employee Vacation/Sick Day Balances**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0139 FYE 2017 Budget - State Reductions**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0186 Elimination of FYE 2019 Funding for Groton Long Point Police Department**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0187 Elimination of FYE 2019 Funding for City of Groton and Groton Long Point Streetlights**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0205 Board of Education/City of Groton Liaisons**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0218 Proposed Charter Revision - Draft Report**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0284 Office of Planning and Development Services - Overview of Initiatives**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0297 Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut, Inc.**
- 2017-0300 Review of Town Council Appointment Policy**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2018-0014 Economic Development Commission Annual Report Presentation**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0090 City Highway Budget - FYE 2017**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0094 Vergennes Court Project - Update**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0299 Liberty Bank Grant**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2017-0303 FYE 2017 CAFR**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2018-0013 Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy Presentation**  
This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.
- 2018-0017 Nautilus Dock Funding - Connecticut Port Authority Assistance Agreement and Gifting of Grant Funds to Submarine Base New London**

- 2018-0018** This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.  
**Board of Education/Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association Collective Bargaining Agreement**  
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2018-0019** Agreement with the University of Connecticut for Undersea Supply Chain Consortium  
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2018-0020** Filling of Financial Assistant I Position  
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

*Mayor Granatosky stated that Councilor Atwater made the request to keep item 201-0297 Odd Fellow Home of Connecticut, Inc. active.*

The motion carried unanimously

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Moravsik stated that he had received a letter from Mr. Richard Voyer regarding the conversion of the Merritt property with the Boulder Heights property. He stated that he received a letter from the Bryants from Noank with a request for a tract of land that abuts their property. He reported that he attended a SEAT, Groton Sail, and Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee meeting.*

*Councilor Franco stated that she attended the Economic Development Commission meeting. She attended the Board of Education budget hearing and stated that the health insurance is a major issue right now.*

*Councilor Heede stated that he attended a Personnel and Appointments Committee meeting.*

*Councilor Obrey stated that she attended the Economic Development Commission meeting. She stated that the EDC is going to continue with a very aggressive survey of current business in town to find out what is working and any needs. She reported hearing from several people about the different Fire District budgets. She suggested that the Council invite the Fire Districts to attend a meeting to share their budgets and plan future plans. She requested an update on the Town and City Little League project.*

*Councilor Schmidt stated that she attended the Legal Committee and the Personnel and Appointments Committee meetings. She stated that she attended the Eastern Connecticut Tourism meeting on February 1, 2018. She reported that they plan to continue with their social media spots, Mystic Country Moments. She reported on a call that she received from Alice Foley, Park Place in Mystic, with a complaint with snow plowing on her street.*

*Councilor Zeppieri reported that he attended the CCM Workshop on municipal budgeting.*

*In response to Councilor Moravsik's question about Southeastern Connecticut tourism, Councilor Schmidt stated that the district is now called Eastern Connecticut, which includes Southeastern. She stated that the Welcome Center on I-95 is controlled by the State and they are definitely not opening up, along with doing away with the porta-potties that were stationed at the Welcome Centers.*

*Mayor Granatosky read communication from Councilor Parker. Ms. Parker attended the Grand*



*Opening Planet Fitness, the Martin Luther King, Jr. service at St. John's Christian Church, the CCM budget training; she volunteered at the Groton Senior Center Super Bowl, and she attended the Sacred Heart School pancake breakfast to honor Scouts Sunday. Mayor Granatosky attended the pancake breakfast also. Ms. Granatosky stated that she met with the new Connecticut Municipal CMEEC, Connecticut Municipal Electricity Energy Cooperative, representative, Mr. Kowalski. She stated that Mr. Kowalski asked if we had concerns. She stated that she has his contact information. Ms. Granatosky reported that she attended a Little League meeting, a Town Hall with State Reps. de la Cruz and Conley, and two constituent concerns. She referred the sidewalk issue to the Town Manager.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukwasher stated that the RTM will next meet on February 14th, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. She stated that there is a Republican vacancy in district 4 due to the resignation from Susan Marquardt. She stated that Ms. Marquardt serves on the Zoning Commission.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that she had received the same communication as the Town Council from Mr. Voyer and Alice Foley. She reported that she has physically reorganized the space in the Land Records department. She stated that the search space is more accessible for anyone who is handicapped.*

**d. Town Manager**

*Town Manager John Burt reported that he had received the request for property that abuts the Noank Community Garden to build a garage. He stated that he agrees that the Council should approach the Noank Community Garden Committee. Mayor Granatosky received approval from the Council to move forward with this project.*

*Mr. Burt stated that he received a letter from the Bill Memorial Library Board of Trustees with a request for a property swap between the Groton Heights School and the Library playground. He stated that he and the Planning Department staff are reviewing the options.*

*Mr. Burt announced that the Parks and Recreation Department is conducting a survey for name ideas for the Community Center. It plans to present the results to the Town Council for discussion.*

*Mr. Burt stated that a public hearing for the Merritt Property conversion was not noticed properly. He recommends that the Town Council hold another public hearing. He stated that this will not effect anything with the project. Mayor Granatosky stated that they had received a letter of concern that there was not a proper public hearing regarding the swap between the Boulder Court property and the Merritt property. She stated that the public hearing will be conducted, not for the purpose of changing a vote, but just to clean everything up and make sure everything is done properly.*

**e. Department Heads**

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Heede**

*Chairman Heede read the report from the February 5, 2018 meeting. He stated that he enjoyed meeting the members of the Boards and Commissions during the interview process. He stated that they all have a lot of experience and excitement for what they do. He stated that he appreciates that they took the time to come out and talk to the Committee. He stated that the Personnel and Appointments Committee will be meeting on the third Tuesday of every month in order to speed up the process.*

**b. Temporary Rules and Procedures**

*No meeting, no report.*

c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Granatosky

*No report.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2016-0090 City Highway Budget - FYE 2017**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF FUNDS TO THE CITY OF GROTON**

WHEREAS the FYE2017 Town of Groton Adopted budget included a \$738,501 appropriation for City Highway maintenance pending arbitration (#10905), and

WHEREAS the City Highway FYE2017 budget ending June 30, 2017 reflects an unexpended balance of \$141,855, and

WHEREAS the City of Groton has requested the release of \$596,646 which is the \$738,501 less the unexpended balance of \$141,855, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the release of \$596,646 to the City of Groton for funds appropriated in FYE2017 budget for City highway maintenance pending arbitration.

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

*Councilor Moravsik stated that the Council should hold off on approving the funding until they have the results from the consultant that was hired by the City and the Town. He stated that we would be making an assumption if we just hand over the money. He stated that he was on the original Highway Task Force. He stated that there had been concerns between the Town and the City on certain items. He stated that this was the reason why the money was held up. He agrees that the money should be given to the City, but after we hear from the consultant.*

*Town Manager John Burt stated that the Committee has picked the preferred vendor, and now they are negotiation a contract.*

*Councilor Moravsik stated that while we are still in the process of hiring the consultant, we should just keep it on hold.*

*Councilor Schmidt stated that she thinks this is unfair to withhold this indefinitely because the City has already spent that funding. She stated that it would be a definite hardship for the City to continue without having the reimbursement.*

*Councilor Zeppieri stated that he agrees with Councilor Schmidt.*

*Councilor Heede stated that we need to get the City and the Town on the same page. He stated that he is looking forward to having this whole issue resolved. Adding to Councilor Schmidt's statement, he stated that the money has already been spent, it is less than the original request, and he thinks this is the right thing to do.*

*Councilor Zeppieri stated that the Council received a letter from Mayor Hedrick dated in June of last year. He stated that this has already been held in abeyance for a long time.*

*Mayor Granatosky stated that she is encouraged that we have been having regular meetings with Mr. Burt representing the Town and Mayor Hedrick from the City.*

*Councilor Obrey stated that arbitration was done to answer the questions, and the arbiter ruled twice in favor of the City. She stated that because of this we should release the money.*

*Councilor Franco stated that the consultant will take six months to process, therefor there will not*

*be any recommendations for the next budget cycle.*

*Councilor Zeppieri made a motion to Move the Question, seconded by Councilor Schmidt. The motion carried 5 in favor, with Mayor Granatosky and Councilor Obrey opposing.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2017-0094**

**Vergennes Court Project - Update**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A LETTER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FORMALLY CLOSE OUT THE VERGENNES COURT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town had applied through the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for a grant to reduce traffic accidents on local roads, and

WHEREAS, the Town was notified of the award of the grant to be applied to a project to close the intersection of Vergennes Court with Route 1, and

WHEREAS, the project would have created a cul-de-sac at the intersection of Route 1, eliminating the vehicle connection with Route 1, and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department held a Public Information Meeting on March 22, 2017 at the Groton Senior Center, 102 Newtown Road (Route 117) where over 50 residents attended and voiced their opposition to the project to dead-end Vergennes Court at Route 1, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council did request the Department to look at additional street lighting, traffic markings, and cross walk signage in this area, and

WHEREAS, the Department reported back to the Town Council on January 9, 2018

- Additional street lighting - each utility pole has a street light on it
- Traffic markings - the State this fall refreshed the markings in the area
- Install cross walk signage - there is existing signage in both directions

and

WHEREAS, there are no other viable alternatives that can be accomplished with the grant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council directs the Town Manager to forward a letter to the Department of Transportation to formally close-out the project.

**A motion was made by Councilor Franco, seconded by Councilor Heede, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Mayor Granatosky stated that this is the Town Council meeting. The work is completed in the Committee of the Whole meeting, where all items have been discussed in great detail.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2017-0299**

**Liberty Bank Grant**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH LIBERTY BANK FOR THE GRANT FOR FOUNDATIONS IN PERSONAL FINANCE, COMPLETE GUIDE TO MONEY, A FINANCIAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center would like to apply for grant funds in the amount of \$3,500 from Liberty Bank Foundation, and

WHEREAS, the funds would be used to offer a Financial Peace, Complete Guide to Money

program through the purchase of the turn-key curriculum that teaches students the value of saving, spending, and giving to guide to the path of financial literacy, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center and Liberty Bank encourage education for people to take control of their finances, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager John Burt or his designee is authorized to apply for the Liberty Bank Foundation Grant in the amount of \$3,500 to support the program at the Groton Senior Center.

**A motion was made by Councilor Heede, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2017-0303**

**FYE 2017 CAFR**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2017 AUDIT REPORT**

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town of Groton's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Auditor's Reports and Management Letter.

**A motion was made by Councilor Obrey, seconded by Councilor Heede, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher mentioned that this information is on the Town website and in the Town Clerk's office.*

*Councilor Obrey stated that the end summary was probably the best part to read.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2018-0013**

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy Presentation**

**RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) POLICY**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2018-0017**

**Nautilus Dock Funding - Connecticut Port Authority Assistance Agreement and Gifting of Grant Funds to Submarine Base New London**

**RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE CTPA ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT AND ISSUE A LETTER OF OFFER OF GRANT FUNDS TO SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON (SUBASENLON) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FLOATING DOCK**

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Port Authority recently approved the Town's Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program grant application to build a floating dock attached to the Nautilus pier, and

WHEREAS, the State Bond Commission approved the funding, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Port Authority requires the execution of an Assistance Agreement to transfer the \$730,000 grant funds to the Town, and

WHEREAS, the design and construction of appropriate public dock facilities attached to the existing USS Nautilus Mooring Pier would permit water taxi service at that location, and

WHEREAS, water taxi service would allow the Submarine Force Library and Museum to serve as a key component of the Thames River Heritage Park, increasing visitation and visibility of the museum, and

WHEREAS, the Navy is willing to accept a gift of the grant funds to be used for the design and construction of the floating dock upon receipt of a Letter of Offer, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Town Council hereby endorses the acceptance of Connecticut Port Authority grant funding and the gifting of the funds to SUBASENLON for the design and construction of the floating dock.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2018-0018**

**Board of Education/Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association Collective Bargaining Agreement**

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND GROTON SCHOOLS CUSTODIAN AND MAINTENANCE ASSOCIATION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Groton Board of Education and the Groton Schools Custodian and Maintenance Association reached a tentative agreement on a successor collective bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Board of Education does not have exclusive authority over the Town's pension plan and does not have authority to bargain over and/or approve modifications to the terms and conditions of the pension plan, and

WHEREAS, the ultimate authority to approve changes to the Town's pension plan rests with the Town, and

WHEREAS, the parties have reached specific tentative agreements on subsection i., 6. of Article IV - Selection, Appointment and Layoff which are cost neutral, and

WHEREAS, approval of the tentative agreements on subsection i., 6. of Article IV - Selection, Appointment and Layoff are recommended by the Town's negotiators, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Groton Town Council hereby approves the parties' tentative agreement on subsection i., 6. of Article IV - Selection, Appointment and Layoff.

**A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Obrey, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Councilor Zeppieri stated that in his observation this agreement authorizes someone who has more seniority to displace someone who has less seniority when a position is dissolved. He stated his concern as that the agreement measures the retention of personnel working for the Town on seniority not on their value to the Town in the type of work that they have been historically doing. He stated that this contract has already been negotiated. He asked the Council to advise our negotiators in the future, that we would be more interested in merit retention of employees instead of seniority.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2018-0019**

**Agreement with the University of Connecticut for Undersea Supply Chain Consortium**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF**

CONNECTICUT REGARDING UNDERSEA SUPPLY CHAIN CONSORTIUM GRANT FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has supported and participated in the Thames River Innovation Place (TRIP) initiative with numerous partners including but not limited to the City of Groton, City of New London, and numerous non-profit and private entities, and

WHEREAS, TRIP's targeted efforts achieved grant funding for planning and project implementation from CT Next Innovation Places totaling nearly \$1,000,000 to grow the region and attract the talent high-growth enterprises need, and

WHEREAS, Town staff serves on the TRIP Board and is the project leader for the Undersea Supply Chain Consortium project involving direct coordination with the University of Connecticut (UConn) School of Engineering regarding the Consortium's implementation, and

WHEREAS, the Consortium project received state grant funding through TRIP that is slated to flow through the Town of Groton to UConn for implementation at the UConn Avery Point Campus including hiring of UConn staff for the project, and

WHEREAS, a legal agreement has been developed by Groton legal staff and reviewed by UConn establishing a relationship for grant funding to be received by Groton and then reallocated to UConn for such Consortium project related activities, and

WHEREAS, approval of this agreement will allow grant funds to be distributed in a timely manner for Consortium project implementation which will lead to subsequent state funding for TRIP, and, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the proposed agreement between the Town of Groton and UConn involving state CT Next Innovation grant funds for the Undersea Supply Chain Consortium project.

A motion was made by Councilor Franco, seconded by Councilor Obrey, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

**Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon: 2016-0256 for the Merritt Property Conversion**

*Councilor Heede made a motion to suspend Town Council Rule 7 (b) in order and allow the Council to reconsider item 2016-0256 for the Merritt Property Conversion. The motion was seconded by Councilor Franco. The motion carried unanimously.*

**MOTION TO RECONSIDER**

*Councilor Obrey made a motion to reconsider the vote on 2016-0256 from November 1, 2016 for the Merrit Property Conversion in order to conduct a Public Hearing required by State Statute. The motion was seconded by Council Moravsik and so approved unanimously.*

*Councilor Obrey stated that she is glad to have this opportunity to look at this project again. She stated that when the Council voted on this before, they needed more information.*

*Councilor Zeppieri stated that this stems from the letter from Mr. Voyer. He credited Mr. Voyer and stated that we are obligated by State Statute to have a public hearing. He stated that there had been a hearing sometime in the past, but it was not adequately noticed.*

*Town Manager John Burt stated that there had been a public hearing but it had not be properly noticed. He stated that going through the proper process at this time will not halt anything at the State level; this should not put the project behind schedule. He stated that this is the recommendation of the Town Attorney.*

**2018-0046 Public Hearing on the Conversion of the Merritt Property****PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CONVERSION OF THE MERRITT PROPERTY**

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing per State Statute 7-131n for the conversion of the Merritt Property to a non-park or open space use on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at a meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. immediately following the Public Hearing on the propose Tax Increment Finance Policy and to direct the Town Clerk to publish the notice thereof.

**A motion was made by Councilor Heede, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.**

*Town Manager John Burt stated that the Planning Department will make a presentation at the hearing.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon:**

*Councilor Obrey made a motion pursuant to Town Council Rules Sec. 7(b), to suspend the Council's rules and allow the Council to consider an Executive Session with the Town Manager to discuss Employee Performance without previous action by the Committee of the Whole. The motion was seconded by Councilor Franco and so carried unanimously.*

**2018-0027 Employee Performance Goals****Motion for Excutive Session**

*Councilor Obrey made a motion that the members of the Town Council and Town Manager John Burt go into Executive Session pursuant to General Statutes Sec. 1-200(6) (A) concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee and in regards to the Town Manager. Councilor Heede seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Mayor Granatosky announced that the Town Council was back in session of the regular meeting at 9:31 p.m.*

Members Present: Mayor Granatosky, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri

Members Absent: Councilor Atwater

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Schmidt moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Parker and so voted unanimously in favor.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher  
Groton Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*