

Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 6:00 PM Town Hall Annex – Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Rich Moravsik, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present at the meeting were Public Safety Committee members Rich Moravsik, Chair, Dean Antipas, Joe de la Cruz, and Harry Watson. Chairman Moravsik declared a quorum. Also present were Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, as well as Alan Ackley, and Ronald Yuhas, President and Vice President, respectively, of the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District Board of Directors.

3. CALENDAR & COMMUNICATIONS

Committee members discussed the frequency and scheduling of meetings, including the suggestion that committee meetings be scheduled just ahead of Town Council meetings if possible.

Chairman Moravsik has been in contact with Mike (Chris?) Regan regarding his renovation project. Mr. Regan expressed concern over the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District mill rate and wants to come before the Town Council to discuss the possibility of a tax abatement or forbearance.

4. NEW BUSINESS

2015-0052 Poquonnock Bridge Fire District Issues

Committee members and guests discussed medical calls, specifically the recent performance of Groton Ambulance. According to Mr. Yuhas, as of a June 30, 2013 report the performance of Groton Ambulance appeared up to par. According to Mr. Ackley, however, there seem to be an increasing number of no-shows by the corps, leading to, at least in one instance, one woman's very long wait while she suffered a stroke. Committee member Watson thought the problem could at least partially stem from what is relayed to emergency dispatch, but no one present is sure what the

problem could be. The Poquonnock Bridge Fire District is looking into this as a genuine decline in the level of service provided by the ambulance corps affects the district's own operations. Logs from Town dispatch, the district, and the corps will be compared. If there is, in fact, evidence of a decline in service, then the committee will invite Groton Ambulance to provide more information. There was also a discussion about bringing these concerns, should they be borne out, to the physician at Lawrence & Memorial that manages this service.

Committee members and guests briefly discussed the history of the PILOT formula. The committee agreed to refer the matter to the Finance Committee.

Committee members and guests discussed two smoke episodes at Burger King related to cleaning out grease in the hoods.

2015-0161 Town Fire Marshal and Town Fire Inspector Position(s)

Committee members and guests discussed the Town Council referral the question of whether the Town should hire its own Fire Marshal, and possibly a Fire Inspector as well, in place of the fire marshals or those serving as fire marshals throughout the fire districts serving the Town.

It was moved and seconded that Chairman Moravsik and committee member Antipas compose a letter, for Town Council approval, to the fire districts eliciting opinions, comments, and information concerning the wisdom of the foregoing proposal. The committee voted unanimously in favor.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.