



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Representatives Jeff Armstrong, Joe Baril, Tom Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Wayne Chiapperini, Michael Collins, Joe delaCruz, Luanne DeMatto, Susan Dowling, Shirley Dunbar-Rose, George Edwards Jr, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Barbara Hoelck, David Miner, Nancy Mitchell, Deborah Monteiro, Matt Morton, Scott Newsome, John Nugent, Nora Patterson, Darcy Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Rita Schmidt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, George Swift, Patti Thunberg, Cheryl Tilney, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, and Elizabeth Weil.

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Shirley Dunbar-Rose called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
26 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Chiapperini, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Dowling, Rep. Dunbar-Rose, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Miner, Rep. Mitchell, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. M. Morton, Rep. Nugent, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Schmidt, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Tilney, Rep. Vivirito and Rep. Weil

Members Absent: Rep. Armstrong, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. delaCruz, Rep. Edwards, Jr., Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hoelck, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Swift, Rep. Thunberg and Rep. Walker, Sr.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Manager of Labor Relations Joyce Sauchuk, Administrative Services Director Douglas Ackerman, Planning & Development Director Michael Murphy, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Rep. Pratt.

C. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Jane Pillar, 1260 River Road, Mystic, spoke both as a resident and an agent of the Old Mystic Community Association of their opposition to any change by the Town to Ordinance #159 regarding buses.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 2005

A motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2005 was made by Rep. Schmidt, seconded by Rep. Miner.

Rep. Power requested a correction under Other Business to strike the reference to the No Child Left Behind Act.

The minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

Rep. Vivirito left at this time.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator reported that Reps. Collins, Streeter, and Thunberg called to say they would be absent.

2005-0205

Road Acceptance

ACCEPTANCE OF OXFORD COURT IN WAY SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, at its June 28, 2005 meeting, voted to recommend the acceptance of Oxford Court in Way Subdivision, now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts Oxford Court in Way Subdivision.

This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on August 10, 2005. The motion carried.

2005-0198

Adoption of Ordinance for Fort Hill Homes Sewer Rehabilitation Project

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$6,381,200 FOR FORT HILL HOMES SEWER REHABILITATION PROJECT 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 SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$6,381,200) is appropriated for rehabilitation of the Fort Hill Homes sanitary sewer system. The project shall include installation of approximately 19,700 linear feet of cured-in-place lining of existing 8-inch to 18-inch sewer pipe, cementious lining of approximately 104 existing concrete manholes, and approximately 19 new concrete manholes; and replacement with new 6-inch PVC pipe and/or installation of cured-in-place lining of approximately 32,400 linear feet of existing 4-inch lateral pipes. The Town Council may reduce or modify the scope of the project and the entire appropriation may be spent on the project as so reduced or modified. The appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, easement acquisition, site improvements, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

Section 2. That the Town issue bonds or notes or obligations in an amount not to exceed SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$6,381,200) to finance the appropriation for the project. The amount of bonds or notes or obligations authorized to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-259 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town of Groton. The Town does hereby covenant and agree with the holders of the bonds or notes or obligations and all notes and interim funding obligations issued in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of such bonds or notes or obligations that in each year while any such bonds or notes or obligations are outstanding, it will levy and collect ad valorem taxes upon all taxable properties within the Town, other than properties within the City of Groton, in an amount sufficient, with such other funds of the Town as shall be available for such purpose, to pay the interest and principal on the bonds or notes or obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes or interim funding obligations from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations for the project. The amount of the notes or obligations outstanding at any time shall not exceed SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$6,381,200). The notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-264 and 7-378 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes or obligations shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town, payable as provided in Section 2. 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 Sections 7-264 or 7-378, and the Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 22a-479(c) with respect to any obligations.

Section 4. That the Town Council shall determine the amount of bonds, notes or obligations authorized by Section 2 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance shall determine the amount of any temporary notes or interim funding obligations authorized by Section

3 to be sold. The Town Manager and the Director of Finance of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes or obligations by their manual or facsimile signatures. The law firm of Day, Berry & Howard LLP is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds or notes or obligations. 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 or obligations; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations; to sell the bonds or notes or obligations at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes or obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes or obligations.

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 or obligations 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 or obligations 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 or obligations.

Section 7. That the Town Manager, on behalf of the Town, is authorized to apply for and accept state grants to finance the project and state loans to finance the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by the State. The Town Manager, the Director of Finance and the Water Pollution Control Authority are authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-479 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, or to any other present or future legislation, or to implement such grant or loan agreements.

Section 8. That the Water Pollution Control Authority is authorized to construct the sewer project; to approve design and construction expenditures and any easement acquisition costs incurred for the sewer project; and to contract with engineers, contractors and others on behalf of the Town for said sewer project. All such authority is subject to the provisions of Section 1.

Section 9. That the Town Manager, the Director of Finance, the Water Pollution Control Authority 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 or obligations 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 and obligations to finance said appropriation have been approved by the voters at referendum in accordance with Section 8.12 of the Town Charter, and notice of passage has been published in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter.

Refer to RTM.

This matter was Referred to the RTM Public Works Committee, due back on August 10, 2005. The motion carried.

Presentation by Finance Department on Health and Retirement Benefits

Joyce Sauchuk, Manager of Labor Relations, presented a brief overview of the Town of Groton retirement benefits as they relate to the budget and the impact on the budget from collective bargaining agreements.

Sal Pandolfo, Director of Finance, reviewed the recent changes issued by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) entitled "Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions". He also reviewed the status of the health and pension funds.

Mr. Pandolfo responded to Rep. Sebastian's questions stating that last year's estimated budget amount for employee health insurance was not enough for actual claims; therefore a loss was reported for that year.

Rep. Smuts stated that the costs associated with one or two premature babies would be more than enough for the Town to exceed its estimated health insurance budget figure in any one year.

In response to Rep. Dowling, Ms. Sauchuk and Mr. Pandolfo explained that the health and retirement assumptions are based on a five-year actuarial process to average out any one-year loss.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

No report due to the closing of the fiscal year.

2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Mark Oefinger provided information on the current status of the Base Realignment Commission (BRAC). He stated that the BRAC issue is an influencing factor on the current bond rating discussions for new notes.

Mr. Oefinger, in response to Ms. Pillar, stated that discussions concerning River Road have taken place with the Police Chief and will be on the agenda for the next Traffic Authority meeting.

The Town Manager announced that on September 12 at 7:00 p.m., a presentation on the Metro Patterns Report will be held at the Senior Center.

Lee Vincent announced that the State Bill extending the additional local conveyance tax was recently signed by the Governor. This will generate additional revenue for the current budget year since the Town estimated conservatively based on the reduced rate.

Rep. Chiapperini passed along favorable comments about the permit process that he had received from a resident who is building a house in Town. He mentioned in particular the professional staff of the Building Inspection and Planning Departments: Kevin Quinn, Greg Hanover and Paul Duarte.

Rep. Chiapperini presented several pictures of other Navy vessels that have been named "U.S.S. Groton" to be put on display in the Town. The Town Clerk thanked Rep. Chiapperini.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town Council - Rep. Cerf

No meeting, no report.

2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

3. Town Council/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson

No meeting, no report.

4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner

Rep. Miner stated there was nothing significant to report from their last meeting.

5. P.B.F.D. Consolidation Review Committee - Reps. Steinfeld & Svencer

No meeting, no report.

6. Economic Development Strategic Planning Steering Ctee - Reps. Dowling & Mitchell

Rep. Dowling reported no meeting and that the next meeting is scheduled for August 10th.

7. Shellfish Task Force - Rep. Svencer

Lee Vincent reported that studies have led the Town to pinpoint a broken sewer line in the western edge of Fort Hill Homes and identify a source of water infiltration into the sewer system at the south end of the boardwalk which may be the sources of contamination of the Poquonnock River. He stated that one final test is needed to complete the study but that specific storm conditions are necessary. The next meeting will be scheduled after the final test is completed.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**1. FINANCE****a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Schmidt**

No meeting, no report.

2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt**

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Newsome**

No meeting, no report.

4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman DeMatto**

No meeting, no report.

5. RECREATION**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Power**

No meeting, no report.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito**

No meeting, no report.

7. PUBLIC WORKS**a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins**

In the absence of Chairman Collins, committee member Rep. Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on June 23, 2005. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Schmidt and so voted unanimously.

2005-0133 Acceptance of Parcel of Land at Brookview Estates Subdivision**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A PARCEL OF LAND AT BROOKVIEW ESTATES SUBDIVISION**

WHEREAS, the plans for the Brookview Estates subdivision included a parcel designated for the future location of a sewer pumping station, and

WHEREAS, the deed for the conveyance of the parcel to the Town was signed in 1990 but not recorded in Land Records, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission on April 12, 2005, recommended that the Town formally accept this parcel, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts the parcel of the Brookview Estates Subdivision indicated on the map labeled Brookview Court, and that this matter be referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0134 Acceptance of Open Space at Brookview Estates Subdivision

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OPEN SPACE AT BROOKVIEW ESTATES SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the original subdivision named Brookview Estates was approved in 1988, and

WHEREAS, a deed for an open space parcel was signed in 1990 but was not recorded in Land Records, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission on April 12, 2005, recommended acceptance of the open space parcel, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts the open space designated on a map labeled Brookview Court, and that this matter be referred to the Representative Town meeting.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. DeMatto, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0185 Road Acceptance

ACCEPTANCE OF CAPSTAN AVENUE EXTENSION IN THE CHRISOS SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, at its meeting on May 24, 2005, the Planning Commission recommended the acceptance of Capstan Avenue Extension in the Chrissos Subdivision, now therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby accepts Capstan Avenue Extension in the Chrissos Subdivision.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Pratt, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. RULES & PROCEDURES

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Weil

No meeting, no report.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager responded to Rep. Chiapperini's question concerning the direction that the Town will take in the future to budget for health insurance and retiree insurance costs. He stated that a program similar to the retirement pension fund needs to be established.

The Moderator suggested that if members have additional questions, they should contact Mr. Oefinger directly and he could report next month.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. was made by Rep. Miner, seconded by Rep. Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk