



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

Moderator Rita Schmidt

Representatives Joe Baril, Tom Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Debra Jenkins, Carole McCarthy, Kevin McMahon, Richard Metayer, David Miner, Deborah Monteiro, James Moulding, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Deborah Peruzzotti, Joy Plunket, Robert Post, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Mary-Ellen Schefers, Eleanor Scussel, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Patti Thunberg, Cheryl Tilney, Kevin Trejo, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, and John Wheeler.

Wednesday, June 14, 2006

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Rita Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.
32 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Schmidt, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Jenkins, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Miner, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. Moulding, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Plunket, Rep. Power, Rep. Scussel, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Tilney, Rep. Trejo, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Wheeler, Jr.

Members Absent: Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Garcia, Rep. McMahon, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Post, Rep. Pratt and Rep. Schefers

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, 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. Svencer.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Regular Meeting May 10, 2006

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Trejo, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.

2. Annual Budget Meeting

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Smuts. Rep. Sebastian requested that on page 14 the minutes reflect that he reviewed all of the Board of Education goals and not one of them is a measurable goal that affects the performance of the children.

Rep. Trejo stated for the record that he was not sworn in as a member until May 3, 2006.

The vote on the minutes as corrected carried unanimously.

3. Special Meeting May 25, 2006

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Jenkins, seconded by Rep. Walker. The vote carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Scussel.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator announced that Rep. Post is unable to attend this meeting. She also reported that a copy of the existing Bus Ordinance and the proposed amendment to the ordinance was distributed prior to the meeting.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2005 is approximately \$8.6 million ; the General Contingency balance will be \$0 if the RTM approves the Fourth Quarter Transfers that are on the agenda for this evening; the Capital Reserve balance is \$3,493,138.

The Town Manager recommended that members review the financial reports attached to the Town Manager's newsletter. He stated that these reports provide information that shows how the mill rate is determined.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager noted that no State legislative action has occurred concerning property tax reform.

He reported that a Child Car Seat Safety Installation and Inspection Program will be taking place this weekend.

The Manager announced the death of Walt Conley, a retired Town of Groton police officer and a very active community resident.

The status of several items was reviewed by the Manager. These included reinstating the boat pump-out program by July 1, 2006, and an update on the bid status for the Water Pollution Control Facility Project.

He reminded members that the Fourth of July Parade will start at 10:00 a.m. at Poquonnock Plains Park and end at Drozdyk Drive.

In response to Rep. Cerf, the Town Manager stated that a bill approving a five-year phasing in of revaluations is still awaiting the signature of the Governor.

In response to Rep. Walker, the Manager explained that the Town is responsible for road maintenance in connection with improvements that are being considered and developed with the Thames Street streetscape project. He stated that further engineering evaluations are being conducted. He noted that this project will have to be presented to both the Council and RTM for approval since it would involve bonding. He reiterated that the entire community would be voting on this project since bonding is involved.

Rep. Baril noted that the Child Car Seat Safety Program is being held June 17th from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Fort Hill Community Policing Station and that the Poquonnock Bridge Neighborhood Association is providing refreshments.

A discussion ensued about the boat pump-out program including the DEP requirement that contractors use only the Town's boat, the cost of bare-boat insurance, and whether recent testing has shown any increase in contamination without this service being provided.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

1. Town Council - Rep. Monteiro

Rep. Monteiro reviewed the meetings of the Committee of the Whole of May 9, May 23 and June 13, 2006 and the Council meetings of May 16, May 23 and June 6, 2006 as well as the public hearing on the Bus Ordinance held on June 6.

2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Cerf

Rep. Cerf reported that no meeting had taken place, but an interim report had been distributed by Barbara Strother. She reminded members that a public hearing to consider a regional plan of conservation and development due to the expected impact of the Utopia development is being held on June 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Annex.

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

Rep. Patterson reported that the next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2006.

4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner

Rep. Miner provided an extensive review of the progress made since his last report in April. This included information about the neighborhood presentations that were done during the month of May, the hazardous materials inspection at Fitch High School and the fact that the three projects (the two elementary schools and the renovations to Fitch High School) have gone out to bid. He announced that Phase II funding was approved by the Council and RTM.

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

No meeting, no report.

6. Economic Development Strategic Planning Steering Ctee - Reps. Fairbank and Peruzzotti

Rep. Fairbank stated that a meeting was held on May 22, 2006. He noted that comments on the Strategic Report received after the March 30 deadline were reviewed. He reported that the major concern is the possible future use of the Mystic Education Center/Mystic Oral School property. There was discussion of the fact that the Town needs to be proactive in talking with the State for possible acquisition of the property. This would enable the Town to have control over future development of that site.

He reported that other topics discussed were the "Floating Zone" concept; Economic Development Corporation; the role of the Conservation Commission in town land acquisition efforts; balancing future economic growth and open space acquisition; support for regional roadways and potential East/West highway; categorizing the specific projects into short, medium and long-term categories.

He noted that this is the last scheduled meeting of the committee and a finalized plan is forthcoming.

7. Shellfish Task Force - Rep. Ebbin

No meeting, no report.

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

Chairman Granatosky read the minutes of the meeting held on June 14, 2006. (Minutes are attached.)

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Jenkins, seconded by Rep. Walker and so voted unanimously.

2006-0119 FYE 2006 Fourth Quarter Transfers**RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2006 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for supplemental appropriations to Adopted Budgets and transfers from the Contingency function during the year and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter also provides for the transfer of funds from one departmental function to another departmental function during the last three months of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, transfers and a supplemental appropriation are necessary and represent unforeseen or unexpected expenditures at the time the FYE 2006 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$38,560 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund department/function and referred to the RTM for approval:

Public Works/Public Buildings (#10352-5220) @ \$38,560;

for funding of a significant increase in the cost of electricity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that \$34,805 be transferred from the Insurance and Claims function (#1070) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Public Works/Public Buildings (#10352-5220) @ \$15,440;
for funding of significant increase in cost of electricity.
Public Works/Street Lighting (#10357-5220) @ \$19,365;
for funding of a significant increase in the cost of electricity; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a supplemental appropriation of \$189,000 from the Fleet Reserve Fund Balance (#604) to the following cost centers/accounts and referred to the RTM for approval:

Fleet Reserve Fund/Vehicle Maintenance (60401-5310) @ \$25,000;
for a number of unexpected significant repairs to vehicles.
Fleet Reserve Fund/Vehicle Fuel (60402-5220 @ \$164,000;
for funding a significant rise in unleaded and diesel fuel cost.

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

In response to Rep. Cerf, the Town Manager explained the process of transferring money from one account to another to cover shortfalls after the contingency funds are exhausted. He stated that all these transfers are due to the unexpected rise in fuel costs.

The motion carried unanimously

2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

No meeting, no report.

3. EDUCATION

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

Rep. Patterson noted that the committee has requested a meeting with Dr. Mitchell and the Board of Education (BOE) to start preliminary discussions concerning next year's school budget prior to deliberations next spring.

4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

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

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 Pratt

No meeting, no report.

7. PUBLIC WORKS

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

No meeting, no report.

8. RULES & PROCEDURES

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

*Chairman Stein read the minutes of the meeting held on June 5, 2006. (Minutes are attached.)
A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Scussel, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.*

2006-0138

Reception of Communications from RTM Members

RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM RTM MEMBERS

Deleted from Referral List - No further action

The chairman stated that the committee clarified several items. Members may sign up for Citizens'

Petitions to speak on any item not on that meeting agenda. Communications can be sent out by the Town Clerk if received on the Monday of the week before a regular RTM meeting; otherwise a copy should be provided to the Moderator who will read it under Communications at the meeting. An RTM member can only speak on the agenda item being discussed; a Point of Order will be called if a discussion evolves to other items not related to the agenda item.

Rep. Steere commented that members can speak about other topics not on the agenda under Other Business.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator announced that unless some new business comes before the RTM the July meeting will be cancelled.

Rep. Smuts noted that additional reasons for a joint meeting of the BOE and RTM Education Committee are to discuss educational services more thoroughly and what is in the BOE budget. The reasoning is to have more time to understand and obtain more information outside of the constraints of budget deliberations each Spring. She encouraged other committees to do the same.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Miner and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk