



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Dean Antipas, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Bruce S. Flax, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, and Paulann H. Sheets

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro and Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.
Members Absent: Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2009-0236 Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2010

Discussed

Sal Pandolfo, Director of Finance, explained that this referral involves permanent and temporary financing for projects approved by the voters (Phase I schools, Senior Center, and Animal Shelter). Mr. Pandolfo reviewed long and short term financing by project, interest and principal payments, a comparison of the current debt limit to statutory limit and Town Council policy, and current and proposed bonds. This item, if approved by the Committee of the Whole, is on the Town Council agenda for later in the evening. Mr. Pandolfo explained how FYE 2011 Project General Fund Expenditures were calculated.

A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0244 Renaming of Groton-New London Airport

Discussed

Mayor Watson noted the recent editorial on this issue by Jim Streeter. Mayor Watson and Councilor Flax attended the Groton Business Association (GBA) meeting where this issue was discussed and the GBA unanimously recommended a name change for the airport but did not recommend a specific name. The New London City Council has recommended against changing the name of the airport. A number of Councilors noted that they have received negative comments about changing the name. Councilor O'Beirne suggested sending a letter to DOT, with a copy to the GBA and Mystic Chamber, indicating that the Council does not want the name of the airport changed.

Councilor Sheets arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Sheets
Members Absent: Councilor Schmidt

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

noted that he had received a telephone call from the Airport Manager, Catherine Young, suggesting a name change which he did not receive favorably, but he did not realize that the suggestion was under consideration by the GBA. Mayor Watson noted that he will raise the issue at the Council of Governments meeting on October 21st.

The motion carried unanimously

2009-0012 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2009 Standing Referral)

Discussed

A joint meeting with the Board of Education is scheduled for tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. The Town Manager solicited topics for discussion. Councilor O'Beirne asked for an explanation from the Superintendent of Schools about the current thinking on grade configuration.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.