



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

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## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

*Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter*

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

#### SPECIAL MEETING - REVISED

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

*Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.*

#### 2. ROLL CALL

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

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

#### 3. Calendar and Communications

*Councilor Sheets received a call from Rita Ceravolo with complaints regarding a contractor doing work on a subdivision down the road and noting that she was required to connect to public water rather than drilling another well. Town Manager Oefinger noted that Mrs. Ceravolo's well problems had nothing to do with the subdivision development, but the contractor graciously agreed to connect Mrs. Ceravolo to public water when her well went dry during a dry season. Mrs. Ceravolo was advised that it would be difficult to get a permit from the state to re-drill a well with public water available to the property. The Mayor asked the Town Manager to call Mrs. Ceravolo.*

*Councilor Sheets received a call from Mr. Dick Fitzgerald who submitted a letter regarding statements by Councilor O'Beirne regarding conflicts of interest on the Flanders Road Utilities Extension Committee.*

*Councilors Bond and Brown-Tracy arrived at 6:10 p.m.*

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

#### 4. Approval of Minutes

##### 2008-0104 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

##### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole of March 25, 2008 and April 1, 2008 are hereby accepted and approved.

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 8 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter  
Abstain: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

##### 2008-0100 Resolution Approving Budgets for FYE 2009

**Discussed**

*Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo asked for approval of four resolutions approving budgets for FYE 2009 and mill rates.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0101 Computation of Tax Rate for General Fund (FYE 2009)****Discussed**

*Councilor Sheets asked for an explanation of the different collection rates between the General Fund, Mumford Cove, and the Sewer District. Mr. Pandolfo indicated that those rates will be reviewed again before adoption of the final budget.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0102 Computation of Tax Rate for Mumford Cove (FYE 2009)****Discussed**

*Councilor Sheets disclosed that she lives in Mumford Cove.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0103 Computation of Tax Rate for Groton Sewer District (FYE 2009)**

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0098 FYE 2008 Fourth Quarter Transfers****Discussed**

*Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo explained the request for fourth quarter transfers from Contingency, which would result in a Contingency balance of \$261,584.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0095 CIP Project Reauthorization - High School Auditorium****Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that there were two CIP projects for the high school auditorium that were approved prior to approval of the Phase I school project. One project was previously extended; this is a request for extension of the second project. Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, noted that there is no state reimbursement associated with this project, but there was a rebate from CL&P for energy efficiency. Discussion followed on the availability of time-of-day metering.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0069 Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Ordinance****Discussed**

*Director of Finance Sal Pandolfo noted a qualified cost estimate was provided by the actuary showing what the benefit would be to establishing the trust fund. Mayor Watson noted that no one*

spoke at the public hearing on April 15th. Councilor Sheets noted that ICMA is already servicing the Town's deferred compensation plan and is taking this on at no additional charge.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2007-0072 Citizen Committee on Property Tax Relief - Update**

**Tabled**

*Mayor Watson asked that this item be tabled to another meeting.*

**2008-0088 Reconstruction of the Packer Road/Godfrey Road Intersection**

**Discussed**

*Director of Public Works Gary Schneider noted that a neighborhood meeting was held regarding road condition and traffic issues in the area of Packer and Godfrey Roads. The residents' suggestion was to provide a 'T' intersection at Packer and Godfrey Roads which will require a small parcel of land from the adjacent property owner. Mr. Dan Hall of 330 Godfrey Road offered the parcel to the Town at no charge. It was subsequently discovered that a portion of Mr. Hall's house and septic system are on Town property, so it is proposed that a parcel of excess right-of-way be transferred to Mr. Hall. Once the intersection improvements are complete, the Town will resurface Godfrey and Packer Roads and do some minor drainage improvements.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to refer the Godfrey Road/Packer Road realignment to the Planning Commission under CGS 8-24.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0091 Noank Town Dock Lighting**

**Recommended for a Resolution**

*A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, to recommend for resolution Alternatives 2 and 3. Director of Public Works Gary Schneider reviewed the specs for the lights and the status of the project. Councilor Sheets noted the CIP project did not include lighting. Mr. Schneider noted that he did not specifically mention lighting in the CIP project, but it is a normal amenity in a public parking area. Councilor Sheets expressed concern with the increase in lumens. She suggested there is a conflict between alternatives 2 and 3.*

*A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Sheets, to amend the motion to remove Alternative 3 and install the new lights with timers.*

*The motion to amend carried by the following vote:*

*In Favor: 8 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets, and Councilor Streeter  
Opposed: 1 - Councilor O'Beirne*

*Discussion followed on clarifying the wording of the resolution.*

*The motion as amended failed by the following vote:*

*In Favor: 0  
Opposed: 9 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets, and Councilor Streeter*

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Streeter, to recommend a resolution to install four 12' light poles and fixtures on timers.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

*The Committee of the Whole recessed at 6:50 p.m. for a special meeting of the Town Council. Councilor Brown-Tracy left the meeting. The Committee of the Whole meeting reconvened at 7:12 p.m.*

**2008-0075 Gravel Street Pump Station Lease - Update**

**Discussed**

*Councilor O'Beirne asked if Mr. Desmerais could review his plans and timetable. Mr. Desmerais noted that the site plan application has expired. He will be submitting a new application for the same four-story building, but with 12 units rather than 16. He will also be going back to the Historic District Commission on a few issues. The schedule is to drive the piles this fall and pour the foundation before winter. Councilor Streeter asked if fewer units reduces the required parking and Mr. Desmerais stated that the parking requirement went from 32 to 24. If the spaces at the pump station are lost to Town use in the future, the units would use parking at the Tift Building.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0106 Community Service Officer Job Description**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger explained that during budget deliberations, this new position was proposed to supplement supernumeraries. Director of Administrative Services Doug Ackerman noted this is an entry level position, part time, that will provide employment opportunities for individuals interested in the field of law enforcement. Community Service Officers will not carry guns or have arrest powers, and will be used seasonally and during special events. Police Chief Kelly Fogg anticipates employing two to four Community Service Officers.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0090 Pfizer Community Grants Program - Library Technology**

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0093 Council Goalsetting**

**Discussed**

*Mayor Watson asked the Council how they would like to develop goals. The consensus was to look at the last Council's goals and mark them up and then send them back to the Town Manager's Office for compilation. Councilor O'Beirne also suggested that Councilors individually look at the goals as a performance evaluation and report card.*

**2008-0105 Tercentennial Legacy Playground - Update**

**Discussed**

*Town Manager Oefinger noted that during fundraising and final design, staff decided that a final effort should be made to raise funds to install rubberized surface everywhere instead of just islands connected by woodchips. The Town would like to finish the project by the end of June. Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Town is in the process of fencing off the playground for safety reasons.*

**2008-0108 Pumpout Boat Program Update**

**Recommended for a Resolution**

*Town Manager Oefinger and staff met with a representative of DEP on the pumpout boat project. The Town submitted an application last fall, however a new non-profit has been selected to run an*

*expanded program. The state would like the Town to contribute the funds that have previously been contributed to the program toward matching funds. The boat would be returned to the state since the Town will no longer use it. The Town will approach the private pumpout company to make what will hopefully be long-term arrangements for Mouse Island pumpouts.*

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to Recommend for a Resolution that the pumpout boat be returned to the State of Connecticut.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0109 Statewide Tactical On-Scene Communications System (STOCS) Box Memorandum of Understanding**

**A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0110 Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant (Human Services) Revised**

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2008-0111 Connecticut Municipalities 2008 Special Funding Initiative Grant (Senior Center) Revised**

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m.*

*The motion carried unanimously.*