



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 Natalie B. Billing, Representatives Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joe Baril, Nancy E. Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Nancy E. Beckwith, Joyce F. Bergeson, Laurie Kim Briggs, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Warren T. Cooper, Nancy S. Driscoll, Syma Ebbin, June Evered, Peter Fairbank, Melissa M. Finlayson, Irene B. Garagliano, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Wendy L. Hellekson, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, James Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Jackie Massett, Carole McCarthy, Richard Metayer, Betsy Moukawsher, Scott Newsome, Deborah Peruzzotti, Kevin Power, Betty A. Prochaska, Don Pratt, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Patti Thunberg and Cheryl Tilney

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL BY TOWN CLERK

*Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox called the meeting to order at 7:33p.m.
38 members were present, and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg and Rep. Tilney
Members Absent: Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Metayer and Rep. Newsome

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Mayor Harry Watson, 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. ORGANIZATION OF TWENTY-SIXTH RTM

1. Administration of oath to all Representatives by Town Clerk

Town Clerk Tarbox administered the oath of office to the 38 members present.

2. Election of Moderator

*The Town Clerk called for nominations for the office of Moderator.
The name of Natalie Billing was placed in nomination by Rep. Granatosky.
The name of Lori Bartinik was placed in nomination by Rep. Power.
There being no further nominations, the Town Clerk declared nominations closed.
The vote for the office Moderator was 24 for Rep. Billing, 14 for Rep. Bartinik. (Voting for Rep. Billing were Reps. Ambroise, Baril, Bauer, Billing, Cerf, Collins, Cooper, Driscoll, Ebbin, Evered, Fairbank, Finlayson, Garcia, Granatosky, Harrell, Hellekson, Loughlin, Luck, McCarthy, Moukawsher, Pratt, Smuts, Svencer, and Tilney. Voting for Rep. Bartinik were Reps. Barnhart, Bartinik, Beckwith, Briggs, Garagliano, Hubbard, Massett, Peruzzotti, Power, Prochaska, Sebastian, Steere, Streeter, and Thunberg.)
Rep. Power requested that the election of Moderator be accepted by acclamation.*

3. Oath of Office and presentation of gavel to Moderator

Town Clerk Tarbox administered the oath of office and presented the gavel to Moderator Natalie Billing.

4. Brief recess to allow Moderator to review correspondence, etc.

A brief recess was taken and the meeting resumed at 7:45 p.m.

Moderator Billing thanked the members for the vote of confidence and noted that she is pleased to serve as Moderator. She invited members to stay for the orientation session immediately following the regular meeting.

D. ADOPTION OF RULES

2007-0250 Adoption of Rules

RESOLUTION APPROVING ADOPTION OF RULES & PROCEDURES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH RTM

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-fifth RTM are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-sixth RTM elected November 6, 2007.

A motion was made by Rep. Bauer, seconded by Rep. Fairbank, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2007

A motion that the minutes be adopted was made by Rep. Garcia, seconded by Rep. Svencer. Rep. Loughlin requested that the shortfall amount of \$25,000 for Mystic-Noank Library be stated. Rep. Ebbin requested that her report for the Shellfish Task Force indicate that the Shellfish Commission will be sending a letter to the Town Manager. The vote on the minutes as corrected carried 33 in favor, 5 abstentions (Abstaining: Reps. Beckwith, Driscoll, Garagliano, Luck and Prochaska).

F. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

None.

G. APPOINTMENT OF RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

2007-0251 Appointment of Rules & Procedures Committee

RESOLUTION APPOINTING RULES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE TO PREPARE RULES FOR THE TWENTY-SIXTH RTM

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Moderator hereby appoints the following as a temporary Rules & Procedures Committee to review and recommend Rules and Procedures for the Twenty-sixth RTM:

1. Kevin B. Power, Chair
2. Syma A. Ebbin
3. June I. Evered
4. Patrice M. Granatosky
5. Jennifer Upchurch-Smuts

A motion was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

H. ADOPTION OF 2008 MEETING SCHEDULE

2007-0249 2008 RTM Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2008 RTM MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEREAS, Freedom of Information Statutes require filing a calendar-year schedule of meetings with the Town Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the Representative Town Meeting has met regularly on the second Wednesday of each month,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Representative Town Meeting hereby approves the meeting schedule for 2008 as follows:

Wednesday, January 9, 2008

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Wednesday, April 9, 2008
Wednesday, May 14, 2008
Wednesday, June 11, 2008
Wednesday, July 9, 2008
Wednesday, August 13, 2008
Wednesday, September 10, 2008
Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Wednesday, December 10, 2008 and
Wednesday, January 14, 2009

All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Groton Senior Center on Newtown Road (Route 117).

A motion was made by Rep. Garcia, seconded by Rep. Baril, that this matter be Adopted.

The Moderator mentioned that the RTM budget meetings are held during the month of May and that a schedule will be sent out in April. She noted that there are several meetings each week.

The motion carried unanimously

Rep. Pratt left at this time.

I. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

J. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

The Manager reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2007 is approximately \$9.6 million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$2,145,407. Mr. Oefinger noted that the increase of \$84,232 is due to the balance remaining from the \$500,000 appropriation for the Catherine Kolnaski School project approved in October.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager provided additional details on the school construction projects, Fort Hill Sewer Rehabilitation and Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade.

The Manager mentioned that the recent bond sale was successful.

Mr. Oefinger announced a very tentative construction schedule for the Senior Center addition and the animal shelter.

The Town Manager asked members to save the dates of January 12, 2008 and January 26, 2008 for the elementary school dedication ceremonies.

The Manager noted that the Human Services Department is in need of volunteers to assist with the Holiday Distribution programs on November 16, 2007 and December 14, 2007.

The Town Manager announced that the Town has been selected to receive the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FYE 2008 Budget and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the FYE 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

These awards have been achieved since FYE 1995 and FYE 1994 respectively. Mr. Oefinger recognized the diligent work of Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, his staff and the Town Department Heads for repeatedly earning these awards.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

The Moderator announced that Rep. Granatosky will be the Democratic Floor Leader and that Rep. Power will be the Republican Floor leader.

She mentioned that Rep. Power will be the chair for the temporary Rules & Procedures Committee.

The Moderator noted that she will be conferring with the Floor Leaders to appoint members to the standing committees.

In response to Rep. Collins' questions about Pleasant Valley School, the Moderator suggested that he e-mail them and she will forward them to the appropriate Board of Education staff.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Rep. Garcia, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk