



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, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, and Cheryl Tilney

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

7:30 PM

Senior Center

ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

34 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Finlayson and Hellekson called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

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. Garagliano, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Svencer
Members Absent: Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Steere and Rep. Tilney

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Mayor Harry Watson, Town Councilors Deb Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne and Rita Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Mitchell, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf, Business Manager Hugh Hunter, members of the Board of Education, Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs, 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.

C. CALL OF THE MEETING

The Deputy Town Clerk read the Call of the Meeting.

2008-0054 Annual RTM Budget Meeting

RESOLUTION SETTING RTM BUDGET MEETING DATE ON THE 2008-2009 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

WHEREAS, Section 8.4.3 of the Groton Town Charter requires that the Town Council determine the date for the annual budget meeting of the Representative Town Meeting, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget Meeting of the Representative Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday April 29, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

at the Groton Senior Center, Newtown Road (Route #117), Groton, Connecticut.

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Jim Giblin, 29 Chesbro Avenue, the harbormaster for Noank, requested the support of the RTM for the sewage pumpout boat program in the Public Works account. He explained the program

and stated that the funds are a subsidy to a non-profit that is taking over the program.

Julie Maisch, 60 Colony Road, requested continued support for the Eastern Connecticut Symphony as approved by the Council. She explained that the funding is used to support the joint concert of the towns of Groton, New London and Waterford. She stated that their request has not increased in years. She mentioned that many residents support the Symphony and enjoy the cultural experience afforded by a local symphony.

Ed Ettinger, 174 Cedar Road, Mystic, asked the RTM to support the reductions made by the Council. He feels that the RTM should acknowledge that many residents of Groton have stated that taxes are too high and want the budget cut. He mentioned that several area towns have budget referendums that have been successful in restraining budget increases. He suggested that a hiring freeze be put in place to achieve employee reductions without layoffs and that some fleet vehicle replacements could be delayed.

Susan Townsley, 2 Fox Hill Road, Old Saybrook, spoke as a representative of Literacy Volunteers. She asked that support be continued for this funding, since it pays for tutor training. Tutors teach local adults and children from all area towns, including Groton, how to read, write and speak English. It is an invaluable service that helps families in our communities achieve the goal to be fluent in English.

Paul Bates, 47 Church Street, Noank, chairman of the Harbor Management Commission, asked for support of the sewage pumpout boat program. He explained the value of maintaining this program to preserve the water quality of the Mystic River and West Cove. He mentioned that a non-profit is taking over the program this year and expanding coverage to include the coastal area to the Thames River. He feels this is a worthwhile program that is important to the environment.

John Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, stated that the RTM should consider the current economic situation and the fact that a recession is inevitable. He feels residents are facing many challenges with their personal budgets due to daily increases in the price of gas and groceries. He mentioned that the Town budget has many "nice to have" items that could be eliminated or delayed.

Mick O'Beirne, 32 New London Road, Mystic, stated he is speaking as a private citizen and that all budget numbers cited are from the Board of Education (BOE) budget book. He acknowledged that only the BOE can decide what is eliminated from its budget. He suggested that the reductions to the BOE account could be achieved with the elimination of the eleven new fulltime employee positions that are proposed. He noted that the BOE would not have to eliminate any current programs unless it chose to. He explained why he supported the Council reductions to the BOE account. He offered to share his complete analysis with any member that is interested.

John Higgins, 28 Hartford Court, voiced his concerns about the reductions to the BOE budget. He feels that the school budget has borne the brunt of the reductions in the past. He stated that good schools are an important asset to a community and that they attract new families and businesses. He feels that Groton needs to provide an educational system that will produce young adults that are proud to be Groton graduates.

Stacey Noreika, 135 Judson Avenue, Mystic, urged the members to support a fully funded BOE budget and provide full day kindergarten for all students.

Stacey Noreika read a letter from Patricia Teskey, 8 Overlook Avenue, Mystic, who supports the BOE budget. Ms. Teskey's letter asked the RTM members to carefully examine the ramifications of the Council reductions to the BOE budget.

Nora Patterson, 363 Ridgewood Drive, Mystic, stated she is a special education tutor at the high school. She supports the BOE budget and wants to maintain a good school system. She feels that her children are examples of individuals who received a good education from the school system and they are continuing on to higher learning.

Nora Patterson read a letter from Lea Kennedy, 152 Cedar Road, Mystic, that requests the RTM to restore the BOE reductions made by the Council and to support the 4% increase for the BOE budget. Ms. Patterson stated that she agrees with the sentiments expressed by Ms. Kennedy.

Kevin Trejo, 536-L Shennecossett Road, spoke in favor of supporting the BOE budget. He feels that the community wants and deserves the best possible education for its children. He believes that all day kindergarten helps all children improve their emotional and social start in school. He supports all programs at the schools in order to provide a well-rounded education. He feels that it benefits the students and helps them attain acceptance into college.

Brian Shirvell, 290 High Street, a member of the BOE, stated that savings were realized in last year's BOE budget and will continue due to the consolidation and closings of several schools. He feels that the two new schools will provide future savings over the next 30 years, since significant renovations and costly maintenance of the older schools will be avoided.

Rita Volkman, 135 Dogwood Lane, Mystic, a member of the BOE, acknowledged that some taxpayers will not be able to afford the tax increase but feels that the community has a responsibility to educate its children. She thanked the Council and RTM members who attended the BOE budget sessions. She noted that good schools are necessary to maintain residential real estate values in any community.

Moderator Billing noted that she received two emails in support of the budget and six emails to reduce the budget. She identified the names and summarized the contents of the emails: Jonathan Kowalski, 98 New London Road, supports full funding of the BOE budget. He feels that class sizes are burgeoning and a lottery system for full day kindergarten slots is embarrassing. Lisa Kowalski, 98 New London Road, supports the 4% increase in the Education budget and wants increased funding for full day kindergarten. Lynne Marshall, 118 Pearl Street, asks that members keep Town cost increases in line with inflation.

Mike Messick, 232 Cedar Road, Mystic, asked that members rein in the budget and keep taxes from increasing by more than twice the annual inflation rate.

Bruce McDermott, Noank Road, would like to see the Town pare expenses, especially in the Police Department. He is disappointed that the new high school does not appear to have any alternative or solar energy features.

Edward Johnson, 87 Main Street, feels that the taxpayers are at the saturation point with property tax increases. He asked that the RTM support the recent recommendations by the Council and work to bring the budget under control.

Jane Pillar, 1260 River Road, would appreciate any effort the RTM can exert to reduce the proposed Town budget. She feels that there are luxury items that the Town could do without for the time being.

David Evans, 22 Atlantic Avenue, feels that residents cannot afford all the government that they are asked to pay for and wants the RTM to reduce the tax burden on the citizens. He stated that the Town budget should be held to the same standard as the BOE budget.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Moderator mentioned that the Groton Food Locker is in need of donations and suggested that members can bring donations to any of the budget sessions. In response to Rep. Newsome, she will email a list of items that are needed.

F. BUDGET UPDATE/DISCUSSION

Moderator Billing opened the floor to members for discussion.

Rep. Power inquired about the answer to a question that he raised at the April 9, 2008 regular meeting concerning the individual education cost per student statewide and in the Town's Education Reference Group (ERG). The Town Manager and Dr. Mitchell reported that information had been provided, but did not have the information at this meeting.

Rep. Fairbank, chairman of the RTM Education committee, pointed out to members that a graph located in the BOE budget in chapter 4, page 12 provides the information on the ERG.

Rep. Sebastian commented that he does not feel that the committees have made any significant reductions and that the RTM budget process will proceed in the same manner as it has in the past. He believes that residents are shouldering the burden of the tax increases. He mentioned that the Council did not reduce the Town Operations budget and feels that \$800,000 should be cut to equalize with the BOE reductions.

Rep. Cerf agreed with Rep. Sebastian's comments. She noted that she respects Town Operations but feels it is "gold-plated" and that reductions can be made, especially in light of the current economic climate. She complimented the RTM Public Works Committee for the recommended reductions resulting from its meetings.

Rep. Smuts stated that she supports account reductions across the board for the Town Operations budget.

Rep. Hubbard noted that she agrees with the comments made by Reps. Cerf and Sebastian.

Rep. Fairbank stated that he can support the Council's BOE reductions but noted that the reductions for the Town's budget affected only CIP and Reserve accounts. He agrees with previous speakers that the economy is entering a recession and therefore feels that the Town Operations budget needs similar reductions to equalize with the BOE reductions.

Rep. Power agreed with Rep. Fairbank. He reminded members that although the RTM committees may not recommend reductions, the entire RTM has the final authority to make changes and reductions. He stated that he is hopeful that the membership will make reductions in the Town Operations budget to equalize with the BOE budget.

Moderator Billing noted that the RTM Public Works Committee is recommending a \$250,000 reduction in that account, a sizable amount. She has heard a number of members say that they would be looking for some reductions in the Town Operations part of the budget. If a significant number of members are going to be seeking those reductions, she would like to invite the Town Manager, if he so chooses, to provide some direction about how they might do that. She asked for a "show of hands", explaining that this was not a vote nor a formal motion, but it would give "a sense of the RTM."

Based on the show of hands, Moderator Billing noted that there were a sizable number of members who indicated that they would be looking for reductions and for some guidance from the Town Manager.

Moderator Billing requested that Rep. Power assume control of the meeting as Moderator Pro Tempore to enable her to make a statement for the record as a representative from the floor.

Rep. Billing noted that she has participated in twelve reviews of the budget. She explained that her intent in speaking from the floor is to express her opinion for the record as a member, and not as Moderator. She stated that she supports the BOE and Town services but has concerns about the increase of property taxes. She has heard from more people lately than ever before regarding property tax increases. She believes that this budget contains the largest increase in local

taxpayer funding in her tenure. She feels that this year she can support the reduction in the BOE budget, but has difficulty approving a 4% increase to Town Operations. She stated that she will support reductions in Town Operation accounts. She mentioned specific concerns with the new positions in the Police Department account, an 11% increase in the Groton City Highway account, and a 13% increase to the Groton Long Point Police account. She urged all members to review the accounts carefully and suggested that some capital projects can be deferred or not supported at all. She feels that the current tax increase is significant. Her goal is to achieve a more reasonable budget for taxpayers. She would like to see a balanced budget that would allow the Town to continue services the best it can with yearly tax increases that people can afford. She remarked that the lack of State funding is a major cause of the predicament that most municipalities are facing.

Rep. Billing resumed her position as Moderator.

Rep. Cerf had the following suggestions for reductions to the budget: reduce contributions to Fleet Reserve fund from all accounts and eliminate the request for a fiber-optic network. She agreed with Moderator Billing's comments on the CIP accounts. She stated that she wants to preserve all current job positions of the BOE and Town.

Moderator Billing noted for new RTM members that a full explanation concerning contributions to the Fleet Reserve will be provided during the initial review of the accounts on Monday.

Rep. Steinfeld pointed out that the six CIP reductions made by the Council were BOE accounts.

A motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. to a time definite Monday, May 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Baril and so voted unanimously.

Budget Session - Monday May 5, 2008

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

29 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Barnhart, Beckwith, Bergeson, Finlayson, Garcia, Granatosky, Metayer, and Streeter called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steinfeld and Rep. Svencer

Members Absent: Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Steere, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Tilney

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, Parks & Recreation Director John Silsby, Parks & Recreation staff, Human Services Director Marjorie Fondulas, Groton Public Library Director Alan Benkert, Bill Memorial Library Director Hali Keeler, Mystic & Noank Library Director Lois Hiller, board members from the three libraries, Planning & Development Director Michael Murphy, Manager of Inspection Services Kevin Quinn, Economic/Development Specialist Barbara Strother, SEAT Representative Charles Kosloskey, Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

Moderator Billing reminded members of the "show of hands" taken at the previous meeting indicating that there was some interest in making some reductions to the budget. The Town Manager was invited to present a scenario in ways that they could do that. She noted that tonight he has that recommendation, and the Town Manager was recognized to present his explanation. Town Manager Oefinger provided several worksheets and a detailed explanation of the reductions that will reduce the Town Operations budget from the proposed 4.4% increase to a 2.0% increase. In response to several representatives, the Manager explained that he tried to propose a balanced

approach to the reductions. He mentioned that if the RTM were to continue with future budget reductions in the Town Operations budget, he would suggest a review of each function in order to determine what services the Town would no longer provide. He identified some items that could be eliminated in future budgets such as: vehicle maintenance to outside agencies, snow plowing for other agencies, and Groton Public Library hours on Sundays. He suggested that the review of each budget function should be started in the summer prior to the next budget season. He clarified that he is proposing several one-time reductions for the current budget year. He hopes that the RTM will follow his suggested recommendations to prevent haphazard reduction of accounts. Rep. Moukawsher, acting as the Democratic Floor Leader in the absence of Rep. Granatosky, requested a caucus for members to review the Manager's recommendations.

The Moderator recessed the meeting for caucus at 7:35 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development & Services Committee

Chairman Peruzzotti read the minutes from the meeting held on April 14, 2008. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Garagliano noted that she recalled the vote on the CIP Economic Assistance fund passed in committee as 10 in favor, 1 opposed.

Moderator stated that the minutes would reflect this.

The vote to accept the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

Account 1054 - Health/Service/Cultural Agencies

A motion for \$1,333,055 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

The vote on \$1,333,055 carried 28 in favor, 1 non-voting. (Non-voting: Rep. Collins).

Account 10650 - Mystic & Noank Library

A motion for \$206,700 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Harrell.

Rep. Power stated for the record that he would like the funding of this account equalized based on the percentage of use by the Towns of Groton and Stonington.

The percentage of patron usage by each town was discussed.

Moderator Billing reminded members about the letter sent last year to the Town of Stonington addressing RTM concerns about Stonington's funding of the Mystic & Noank Library.

The vote on \$206,700 carried 28 in favor, 1 opposed (Opposed: Rep. Billing).

Account 10651 - Bill Memorial Library

A motion for \$20,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$19,000 was made by Rep. Garagliano, seconded by Rep. Sebastian.

Rep. Garagliano feels that an eight percent increase is not acceptable.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$17,900 was made by Rep. Cooper, seconded by Rep. Loughlin.

Rep. Cooper feels that a 2.2% increase is acceptable.

Items discussed were the reason for the increase, justification of the increase, City of Groton contributions and equal percentage increases for the libraries.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Harrell, seconded by Rep. Smuts.

The vote on moving the question carried unanimously.

The vote on the Amendment of \$17,900 was defeated 1 in favor, 28 opposed. (In favor: Rep. Loughlin).

The vote on the Amendment of \$19,000 was defeated 9 in favor, 20 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bauer, Cerf, Cooper. Garagliano, Loughlin, McCarthy, Moukawsher, Newsome, Sebastian).

The vote on \$20,000 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Garagliano and Loughlin).

Account 1007 - Regional Agencies

A motion for \$103,779 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Svencer and so voted unanimously.

Account 1046 - Planning & Development Services

A motion for \$1,281,744 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Smuts.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,276,636 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

The vote on the Amendment of \$1,276,636 carried 26 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Collins, Smuts).

Capital Item - Flanders Road Utility Installation

A motion for \$100,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Ebbin. Rep. Cerf stated that she cannot support this committee recommendation. She feels that it is not a fiscally sound expenditure and will not significantly increase the grand list. Items discussed were future economic development in the area, the engineering study, the 2006 Strategic Plan of Development, the impact on the grand list, and a referendum to approve the final project.

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 was defeated 12 in favor, 17 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bartinik, Cerf, Collins, Cooper, Ebbin, Hellekson, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Newsome, Power, Prochaska and Billing).

The vote on \$100,000 carried 15 in favor, 12 opposed, 2 abstaining. (Opposed: Reps. Bartinik, Cerf, Collins, Cooper, Ebbin, Hellekson, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Newsome, Power, Prochaska and Billing. Abstaining: Reps. Luck and Sebastian,).

Capital Item - Economic Assistance Fund

A motion for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Evered.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Moukawsher, seconded by Rep. Collins. Rep. Moukawsher stated she is opposed to this appropriation since the RTM has no vote for the usage of these funds.

Rep. Ebbin agrees with Rep. Moukawsher and feels that the current \$151,000 account balance is sufficient.

Rep. Cerf supports contributions to this fund, stating that she believes it assists the Town in attracting new businesses to Groton. She stated she could support a \$0 figure this year only. Items discussed were the application and approval process, the balance, and usage of the account.

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 carried 24 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Evered,

Garagliano, Peruzzotti, Pratt and Steinfeld).

Account 1051 - Human Services

A motion for \$681,454 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$680,339 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher and so voted unanimously.

Account 7320 - Human Services Assistance Fund

A motion for \$21,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 1063 - Groton Public Library

A motion for \$1,915,132 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,913,283 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher and so voted unanimously.

Account 3310 - Connecticard

A motion for \$52,140 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Ebbin.

Items discussed were the composition of the account, justification of the expenditure, and the committee's discussion.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Garagliano, seconded by Rep. Hubbard and so voted unanimously.

The vote on \$52,140 carried unanimously.

Moderator Billing noted that due to the hour and the RTM rules, a consensus to stay and continue after 10:00 p.m. was needed.

A motion to recess at 10:00 p.m and postpone the remaining accounts until Thursday, May 8, 2008 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Ebbin.

Rep. Ambrose expressed his gratitude to the Town Manager for his recommendations to revise the Town Operations budget to a 2% increase.

Rep. Harrell stated it was her preference to stay and finish the accounts listed for this meeting. She feels it would be unfair to request the Director and Parks & Recreation staff to return on Thursday after waiting three hours this evening.

The vote to recess and postpone the Recreation accounts until Thursday prior to consideration of the Education account was defeated 8 in favor, 21 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Collins, Cooper, Ebbin, Garagliano, Loughlin, Newsome, Sebastian, Smuts).

The Representatives took a brief recess from 10:00 p.m. to 10:10 p.m. During the recess Reps. Ebbin, Hellekson and Garagliano left the meeting.

Recreation Committee

Chairman Power read the minutes from the meeting held on April 16, 2008. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Smuts.

Rep. Power amended his minutes to add discussion and vote on CIP 4-H Coastal Public Access Acquisition and Development.

The vote to accept the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

Account 1064 - Parks & Recreation

A motion for \$2,538,490 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,451,551 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Moukawsher, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Rep. Smuts agreed with the committee's discussion regarding the Director's salary. She feels that one quarter of his salary should be allocated to the Golf Course account.

In response to Rep. Cerf, the Town Manager clarified the rationale for the reduction to the Mystic Arts Cafe program.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,430,030 was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Peruzzotti explained that her rationale for this reduction is her agreement with the committee that the Golf Course fund could absorb one quarter of the Director's salary by increasing green fees by only 75 cents.

The Manager explained the change in allocation of the Director's salary that was started in 2006.

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,430,030 was defeated 8 in favor, 18 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bartinik, Cerf, Fairbank, Hubbard, Peruzzotti, Power, Smuts, Steinfeld).

Further discussion ensued about the reduction to the Mystic Arts Cafe program.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,453,551 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Massett. Rep. Cerf stated that she wants \$2000 restored for the Mystic Arts Cafe program.

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,453,551 was defeated 2 in favor, 24 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cerf and Luck).

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,451,551 carried unanimously.

Account 2010 - Shennecossett Golf Course

A motion for \$1,181,622 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Items discussed were the Par Four Restaurant lease, the customer service line item, the need for a fourth quarter transfer of \$20,000, and the condition and maintenance of the clubhouse that houses the restaurant, pro-shop and storage.

In response to Rep. Collins, the Manager explained that the Golf Course and Water Pollution Control Authority are not General Fund accounts and that these two accounts pay for their own contributions to the Computer and Fleet Funds.

Moderator Billing commented that during her tenure as a Town Councilor, she had been persuaded by a study that the Golf Course is an asset of the Town and that it is appropriate to use General Fund monies to support it.

The vote on \$1,181,622 carried 25 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Luck)

Account 3260 - Community Events

Chairman Power reported that there is no funding in the budget this year for this account.

Capital Item - Esker Point Beach Improvement

A motion for \$60,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, and was seconded.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Ambrose. Items discussed were the need for a shelter at the beach, the desire to make reductions in the

budget based on Town "needs" versus "wants", CIP modifications made by the Council, the use of grant money, and LoCIP funds.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$35,000 was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Massett.

The Manager clarified that only \$35,000 is coming from Capital Reserve and that \$25,000 is from a State LIS grant that has already been requested.

Reps. Loughlin and Massett agreed to modify the amendment to reflect this funding.

Rep. Cerf objected to the motion.

The Moderator stated that the representatives could vote against this motion if they objected.

The vote on the Amendment of \$35,000 was defeated 6 in favor, 19 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Evered, Loughlin, Massett, Pratt, Prochaska, and Steinford. Abstaining: Rep. Smuts).

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 carried 17 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Collins, Driscoll, Evered, Harrell, Massett, McCarthy, Peruzzotti, Pratt, and Steinford).

Capital Item - Trail Improvement Program

A motion for \$65,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Harrell.

Rep. Smuts left prior to the vote on this account.

The Manager explained the specific improvements that would be completed on the Lily Lane trail.

The vote on \$65,000 carried 24 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Billing).

Capital Item - Park Improvement Plan

A motion for \$15,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Rep. Power stated that the rationale for the reduction in this account was eliminating the parking lot improvements at Poquonnock Plains Park.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$60,000 was made by Rep. Evered, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

Rep. Collins noted that a restoration of funding would require a two-thirds vote since the Council approved \$15,000.

The vote on the Amendment of \$60,000 was defeated 4 in favor, 21 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cooper, Evered, Moukawsher, Pratt).

The vote on \$15,000 carried unanimously.

Capital Item - Open Space Acquisition and Development

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Collins.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Cerf stated she will not support the amendment. She feels it is very important to have money set aside to preserve open space in the Town when it becomes available. She noted that land surrounding the watershed which may become available is of particular value to save as Town open space.

Rep. Peruzzotti believes that the Town cannot afford open space at this time since it would remove land from the taxable grand list.

Rep. Collins will not support the \$0 figure. He favors open space and feels it is important to have

an account for the initial deposit for acquisition of new open space.

Rep. Cerf noted that the account was used as a deposit for the Merritt open space property.

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 carried 14 in favor, 11 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Cerf, Collins, Cooper, Driscoll, Evered, Harrell, Loughlin, Luck, McCarthy and Sebastian).

Capital Item - Golf Course Improvement Plan

A motion for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Eric Morrison, Shennecossett Golf Course Superintendent explained the scope of this project and stated that phase one has been started.

The vote on \$50,000 carried 24 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Luck).

Capital Item - Coastal Public Access Acquisition & Development

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Power noted that this is funded by an LSI Fund grant and that no Town money is involved.

The vote on \$25,000 carried unanimously.

A motion to adjourn at 11:10 p.m. to a time definite Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Budget Session - Thursday May 8, 2008

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

30 members were present, and a quorum was declared. (Reps. Cerf and Luck arrived later.)

The Moderator reported that Reps. Beckwith, Finlayson, Garcia, Metayer, Prochaska, and Streeter called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartnik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steinfeld and Rep. Svencer

Members Absent: Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Collins, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Steere, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Tilney

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Mitchell, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf, Business Manager Hugh Hunter, Chairman of the Board of Education Beverly Washington, members of the Board of Education, Town Councilors Kathryn Brown-Tracy, Deborah Monteiro and Frank O'Beirne, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

Communications

The Moderator informed members of a Tercentennial Playground fundraiser that is planned for May 24 to help raise funds for the "finishing touches" to the park.

Moderator Billing announced that the Regular RTM meeting for May 14, 2008 has been cancelled and that the budget session will start at 7:30 p.m. She noted that she is considering rearranging the schedule of accounts for next week's budget sessions and is asking members to think about this change before this session adjourns.

The Moderator introduced Beverly Washington, Chairman of the Board of Education. She clarified that Ms. Washington is an ex-officio member of the RTM and may participate in discussion.

2008-0069

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Trust Ordinance

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on June 11, 2008. The motion carried.

2008-0098 FYE 2008 Fourth Quarter Transfers

FYE 2008 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee. The motion carried.

2008-0095 CIP Project Reauthorization - High School Auditorium

CIP PROJECT REAUTHORIZATION - HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee. The motion carried.

Education Committee

Chairman Fairbank read the minutes of the meetings held on April 17, 21 and 24, 2008. (Minutes are on file.)

Rep. Fairbank disclosed for the record that his wife is a part-time kindergarten school aide for the Groton school system.

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

Rep. Cerf arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Republican Floor Leader Kevin Power requested a recess for a Republican caucus.

The Moderator recessed the meeting for caucus at 7:40 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:20 p.m.

Account 1080 Education

A motion for \$71,925,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Smuts.

The Moderator reminded the members that this motion would require a two-thirds vote to restore monies above the Council approved figure.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$71,400,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Sebastian stated that his rationale is to maintain equality of a 2% increase for the Education and Town Operations budgets. He feels that the current economic climate requires close scrutiny of the budget to eliminate any waste. One of his key points is that the BOE provides no measurable objectives to the Superintendent of Schools or staff.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$71,750,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Bauer.

Rep. Granatosky stated that the rationale in caucus was to maintain fiscal responsibility and fairness for both budgets. She suggested support for a 2.5% increase in the Education account and reductions in CIP accounts.

Items discussed were the continued increases to the pupil expenditure above that of the ERG, class size, Councilor O'Beirne's comments on reductions to the BOE budget, all-day kindergarten, energy efficiency of the new schools, the Yardstick program, proposed positions at the elementary and middle schools, teacher and Superintendent salaries and the disposal of surplus items recently discovered in dumpsters.

Rep. Harrell requested a roll call vote.

The Moderator reiterated that a two-thirds vote is needed to restore funds.

The vote on the Amendment of \$71,750,000 was defeated 14 in favor, 15 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Ambroise, Bauer, Cooper, Driscoll, Ebbin, Fairbank, Granatosky, Harrell, Loughlin, McCarthy, Moukawsher, Smuts, Steinford, Svencer. Opposed: Reps. Baril, Barnhart, Bartinik, Briggs, Cerf, Evered, Garagliano, Hubbard, Massett, Newsome, Peruzzotti, Power, Pratt, Sebastian, Billing.)

Rep. Luck arrived at 8:55 p.m immediately after this roll call vote.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$71,700,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Bauer.

Rep. Sebastian stated he will oppose the amendment as he feels that both budgets should be held to the same standard.

The vote on the Amendment of \$71,700,000 was defeated by 14 in favor, 16 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Ambroise, Bauer, Driscoll, Ebbin, Fairbank, Granatosky, Harrell, Loughlin, Luck, McCarthy, Moukawsher, Smuts, Steinfeld, Svencer. Opposed: Reps. Baril, Barnhart, Bartinik, Briggs, Cerf, Cooper, Evered, Garagliano, Hubbard, Massett, Newsome, Peruzzotti, Power, Pratt, Sebastian, Billing.)

Democratic Floor Leader Patrice Granatosky requested a recess for a caucus.

The Moderator recessed the meeting for caucus at 8:55 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:10 p.m.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$71,500,000 was made by Rep. Driscoll, seconded by Rep. McCarthy.

Rep. Sebastian expressed his sentiments concerning equality of the budgets.

The Moderator mentioned that review sessions of the Town Operations budget have not been completed.

Rep. Ebbin feels strongly about supporting the BOE budget.

Rep. Power feels that a compromise is needed to approve this account. He stated that the current figure on the floor is less than one-tenth of one percent more than the Council's figure and provides a \$40,000 restoration. He acknowledged that he will support and concede to the current figure on the floor.

Rep. Massett stated that 63% of the BOE budget is salaries that are governed by negotiated union contracts. She strongly suggested that the Town Council should "bite the bullet" in regard to the next BOE contract and enter into binding arbitration to attempt to control the growth of the salary portion of the BOE budget.

Rep. Cerf agreed with Rep. Massett's comments.

The vote on the Amendment of \$71,500,000 carried 25 in favor, 5 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Ambroise, Barnhart, Bartinik, Bauer, Briggs, Cerf, Driscoll, Ebbin, Evered, Fairbank, Granatosky, Harrell, Hubbard, Loughlin, Luck, Massett, McCarthy, Moukawsher, Newsome, Peruzzotti, Power, Pratt, Smuts, Svencer, Billing. Opposed: Reps. Baril, Cooper, Garagliano, Sebastian, Steinfeld).

Capital Item - Fitch High School

A motion for \$20,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - West Side Middle School

A motion for \$230,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$40,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

Rep. Sebastian stated that his figure would pay only for the engineering study.

Items discussed were Phase II school design, the cost of \$10,000 to update the engineering study done two years ago, and recurrent problems involving the wet conditions of the field.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$220,000 was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep.

Ebbin.

Rep. Loughlin's amendment reflects his concern over moving the entrance area into the school. Items discussed were entrance area security, installation of security cameras, safety environment of the school, timetable of the project, the scope of the project and the impact of Phase II school design recommendations.

The vote on the Amendment of \$220,000 was defeated 15 in favor, 15 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Ambroise, Baril, Cerf, Cooper, Driscoll, Ebbin, Evered, Granatosky, Harrell, Loughlin, Luck, Pratt, Smuts, Steinfeld and Billing. Opposed: Reps. Barnhart, Bartinik, Bauer, Briggs, Fairbank, Garagliano, Hubbard, Massett, McCarthy, Moukawsher, Newsome, Peruzzotti, Power, Sebastian and Svencer).

The vote on the Amendment of \$40,000 was defeated 6 in favor, 24 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Briggs, Cooper, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Power and Sebastian).

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$225,000 was made by Rep. Loughlin.

The Moderator ruled that this motion was frivolous.

Rep. Sebastian contested the ruling of the Moderator.

The Moderator explained that this type of ruling is permissible but that the RTM can vote to overrule her decision.

Rep. Garagliano challenged the ruling.

A MOTION TO APPEAL the Decision of the Moderator was made by Rep. Loughlin, seconded by Rep. Sebastian.

The vote to uphold the ruling of the Moderator carried 21 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bartinik, Briggs, Cooper, Ebbin, Evered, Garagliano, Loughlin, Peruzzotti and Sebastian).

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Granatosky.

The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Newsome).

The vote on \$230,000 carried 25 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Power, Sebastian).

Capital Item - Charles Barnum School

A motion for \$500,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Items discussed were previous modifications made, necessity of this project, Phase II school design plans, the scope of and cost for parking lot improvements, and safety issues.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Hubbard.

The vote on moving the question carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Garagliano and Newsome).

The vote on \$500,000 carried 28 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer and Sebastian).

Capital Item - Pleasant Valley School

A motion for \$30,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Harrell, seconded by Rep. Sebastian. Rep. Harrell does not support this type of expenditure at this time.

Items discussed were the lack of storage, furniture re-use, storage issues, other vacant school re-use and maintenance costs.

Rep. Sebastian requested confirmation that this money is for a study only. It does not fix or demolish "the storage shed."

Mr. Greenleaf explained the cost and complexity of determining the efficiency of using vacant schools for storage.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Ebbin, seconded by Rep. Bauer. The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Newsome).

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 was defeated 12 in favor 18 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Barnhart, Bauer, Briggs, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Granatosky, Harrell, Hubbard, Power, Pratt and Sebastian).

The vote on \$30,000 carried 22 in favor, 8 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Cerf, Cooper, Harrell, Hubbard, Power, Pratt and Sebastian).

Capital Item - Educational Technologies - Video Furnace

A motion for \$73,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Sebastian. Rep. Cerf stated that her rationale is that she feels this is "nice to have" but is not necessary. She would prefer to see monies spent on all-day kindergarten.

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 was defeated 7 in favor, 23 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Cerf, Cooper, Evered, Hubbard and Sebastian).

The vote on \$73,000 carried 25 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Evered, Hubbard and Sebastian).

Capital Item - Educational Technologies - 21st Century Classroom

A motion for \$172,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

Rep. Fairbank feels this is a " nice to have" item versus a needed item.

Rep. Luck believes it is needed and that this type of technology is essential to produce graduates that are computer literate.

Rep. Cerf is opposed to funding for this item. She understands the desire for this type of technology but feels that students are too passive and need to be more physically active.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$86,000 was made by Rep. Newsome, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Newsome stated that his rationale is to test the use of this technology at the high school level and not at the elementary school level. Rep. Newsome wanted assurance from Dr. Mitchell that this money if approved would be used at the high school otherwise he would withdraw his motion. Dr. Mitchell stated that the plan is to expend a portion of these funds in the high school and in other classrooms where it would be most effective.

Items discussed were the new elementary schools, placement of the new technology if fully funded, teacher training, and veteran teachers utilizing the technology in their classrooms.

Rep. Evered agreed with Rep. Cerf and will oppose this as she feels it is too expensive.

The vote on the Amendment of \$86,000 carried 17 in favor, 13 opposed. (Opposed: Reps.

Ambroise, Baril, Bartinik, Briggs, Evered, Fairbank, Harrell, Granatosky, Loughlin, McCarthy, Pratt, Sebastian and Smuts).

Capital Item - Educational Technologies - Remediation Software

A motion for \$30,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

Moderator Billing noted that a two-thirds vote is necessary to restore funds over the Council's approved figure.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Hubbard. Items discussed were the rationale for placing this item in a CIP account, benefits of the software, access to the program, and the accountability for improvement on test scores.

Rep. Cerf supports this software as she believes that this will assist children who are unable to grasp a concept the first time.

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 was defeated 1 in favor, 29 opposed. (In favor: Rep. Luck).

The vote on the figure of \$30,000 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Luck).

Capital Item - Educational Technologies - Attendance/Gradebook Application

A motion for \$140,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Peruzzotti.

The Moderator noted that a two-thirds vote is necessary to restore funds above the Council's approved figure.

Items discussed were the selection and evaluation of the new proposed software, age and deficiency of the current software and reduction in the number of servers needed.

Rep. Newsome stated that he would like more information on the software and recommendations by other towns that use this software prior to supporting this request.

MOTION TO POSTPONE voting on this account to Monday, May 12 was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Cooper.

Rep. Moukawsher will not support postponing. She believes that some trust needs to be placed in the judgment of the technology department.

The vote on postponing was defeated 10 in favor, 20 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bartinik, Cooper, Ebbin, Evered, Garagliano, Granatosky, Luck, Newsome, Sebastian and Smuts).

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Fairbank and seconded.

The vote on moving the question carried 25 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Loughlin, Moukawsher, Newsome, Power and Sebastian).

The vote on \$140,000 carried 21 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Cooper, Evered, Hubbard, Luck, Newsome, Peruzzotti, Power and Sebastian. Abstaining: Rep. Ambroise).

Capital Item - Educational Technologies - Wireless Network

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Educational Technologies - Parent Notification

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

The vote on \$0 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. McCarthy).

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The Moderator announced that no decision has been made concerning adjustments to the schedule of accounts for the remaining sessions. A communication will be issued if any changes are made.

Notice of Intent to Rescind

Rep. Granatosky stated that she is providing "Notice of Intent to Rescind" on Monday, May 12, 2008, an action concerning Flanders Road Utility Installation - Capital Improvement Project. She announced her intention is to move to rescind the action taken at the session on May 5, 2008. The Town Clerk clarified the difference between a motion to reconsider and a motion to rescind. She noted that it is necessary for her to review the parliamentary rules concerning a motion to rescind and that the Town Clerk's office will do what is necessary.

A motion to adjourn at 11:00 p.m. to a time definite Monday, May 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Budget Session - Monday May 12, 2008

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

29 members were present, and a quorum was declared. (Rep. Ebbin arrived during Moderator's communications).

The Moderator reported that Reps. Ambroise, Bergeson, Finlayson, Garcia, Metayer, Pratt, and Steinford called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Power, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Streeter and Rep. Svencer

Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Steere, Rep. Steinford and Rep. Tilney

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, Manager of Information Technology Brian Hancock, Manager of Emergency Communications Joseph Sastre, Manager of Labor Relations/Risk Management Joyce Sauchuk, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Tax Collector Nancy Dytko, Treasurer Cindy Landry, Purchasing Agent John Piacenza, Police Chief Kelly Fogg, Registrars of Voters David Rose and Vicki Rossman, Town Councilors Heather Bond, Deborah Monteiro and James Streeter, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

Communications

Moderator reminded members that the regular RTM meeting scheduled for May 14, 2008 has been cancelled. She recommended that accounts 1076 Debt Service, 1077 Contributions to Other Funds, 2060 Mumford Cove and 4010 Groton Sewer District be moved to the budget session scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008 and that accounts 5010 Capital Reserve Fund, 1075 Capital Reserve (contribution), and 1074 Contingency be moved to Monday, May 19, 2008. She noted that members may still need to attend on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 if all accounts scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008 are not completed that evening.

By consensus of members it was decided to change the start time to 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. for the budget session scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

The Moderator informed members that a Notice for Intent to Rescind action on the CIP Flanders Road Utility Installation had been mailed.

2008-0125

RTM Members' Conduct and Decorum during Debate

RTM MEMBERS' CONDUCT AND DECORUM DURING DEBATE

This matter was Referred to the RTM Rules & Procedures Committee. The motion carried.

Moderator Billing addressed the members, reminding them to keep discussion respectful and

focused on the issues. She stated that she was contacted by a number of members concerning the tenor of a member's comments at the May 8, 2008 budget session. There was concern that a line of common courtesy was crossed and that disparaging comments were directed at individuals. She reminded all members that comments should be confined to the merit of the pending questions and that comments of a critical nature should never become personal or name individuals. She noted that each member has the right to express his or her opinion on an issue, but that all members, elected officials and Town staff have the right to be treated with respect. The Moderator suggested that it diminishes regard for the RTM when the rules of courtesy are not observed. To prevent problems in the future, Moderator Billing made a referral asking the Rules and Procedures Committee to develop language for the RTM rules about decorum and debate.

Finance Committee

Chairman Grantosky read the minutes of the meetings held on April 21 and April 23, 2008 concerning accounts on tonight's session. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

The Moderator noted that the minutes for the subdivision accounts will be read and accepted on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

Account 1026 - Ambulance Services

A motion for \$120,451 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$112,951 was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Power stated that he values the service of Mystic River Ambulance but wants funding from the Town of Stonington proportional to the use and service rendered. He feels this situation is similiar to the inequity in the Mystic-Noank Library account.

Rep. Sebastian will oppose the reduction as he feels it penalizes the volunteers that serve with Mystic River Ambulance.

Rep. Bauer disclosed that a family member is a volunteer for Mystic River Ambulance service.

Items discussed were the number of service calls by Mystic River Ambulance for the Towns of Groton and Stonington, population comparison, past funding of the account by the Town of Stonington, and new revenue sources being pursued by Mystic River Ambulance to help offset increases.

The vote on the Amendment of \$112,951 was defeated 4 in favor, 25 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bartinik, Garagliano, Power and Billing).

Rep. Power stated that he will support the figure on the floor but felt it was necessary to identify the inequity.

The vote on \$120,451 carried unanimously.

Account 1001 - Legislative Policy

A motion for \$60,060 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Items discussed were costs charged in this account for Permanent School Building Committee, Phase II School Design Committee and RTM, professional dues, public notifications, citizen information, advertising and Council attendance at the National League of Cities week in Washington D.C.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$46,040 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep.

Power.

Rep. Sebastian stated his rationale is to reduce Town Council transportation allowance.

The Town Manager pointed out that most of the Council appropriation is used for dues to NLC and CCM.

The vote on the Amendment of \$46,040 was defeated 2 in favor, 27 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cerf and Sebastian).

The vote on \$60,060 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Sebastian).

Account 1003 - Voter Registration

A motion for \$122,006 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Rep. Massett disclosed that her husband Stephen Massett is a Deputy Registrar of Voters.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$121,888 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Items discussed were separate local and State computer systems, redundancy of data entry, voter list errors, canvassing costs and new tables and chairs at polling places.

The vote on the Amendment of \$121,888 carried 26 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Granatosky, Harrell and Luck).

Account 1004 - Probate

A motion for \$19,120 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 1005 - Town Clerk

A motion for \$405,195 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$404,724 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Beckwith, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Items discussed were the computer replacement fund, including details and development, decreasing the contribution and the balance in that fund.

Rep. Garagliano stated that she will not support the reduction to this account. Her rationale is that this account is not supported by the General Fund. She noted that this department generates a surplus after expenses that is returned each year to the General Fund.

The Town Clerk acknowledged that monies collected from conveyance tax, licenses etc. are revenue that is deposited into the General Fund. She is a supporter of information technology but accepts the Manager's recommendation without any reservation.

Rep. Hellekson expressed her confusion about the controversy on the computer replacement fund in light of the Manager's proposed 15% reduction "across the board" for the proposed budget.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$403,635 was made by Rep. Cooper and was seconded. Rep. Cooper stated that his rationale is that a deeper cut in the contribution to the computer replacement fund could be tolerated in this account.

The vote on the Amendment of \$403,635 was defeated 4 in favor, 25 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin and Sebastian).

The vote on the Amendment of \$404,724 carried 22 in favor, 7 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Cerf, Garagliano, Granatosky, Harrell, Luck and Sebastian).

Account 1006 - Legal Services

A motion for \$357,500 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

The vote on \$357,500 carried 28 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Barnhart).

Account 1010 - Executive Management

A motion for \$387,668 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$387,091 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

In response to Rep. Loughlin, the Moderator explained that this is not a frivolous amendment since the amended figure is a proposed revision from the Town Manager in response to the request made by the RTM. The RTM's request had asked for suggested reductions to achieve a 2% increase in the Town Operations budget.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$378,506 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Power. Rep. Cerf's rationale is to reduce contributions to the computer replacement fund and professional development.

The Town Manager reviewed the definition of professional development.

The vote on the Amendment of \$378,506 was defeated 2 in favor, 27 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cerf and Sebastian).

The vote on the Amendment of \$387,091 carried 25 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Baril, Granatosky, Harrell and Luck).

Account 1013 - Finance Administration

A motion for \$1,432,273 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,430,487 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Beckwith, seconded by Rep. Evered.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,420,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Sebastian's rationale was that the reductions suggested by the Manager are painless reductions. He feels deeper cuts are needed and should start with personnel.

Members discussed the impact on all departments if the mail courier position were eliminated.

The vote on the Amendment of \$1,420,000 was defeated 11 in favor, 18 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bartinik, Bauer, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power, Sebastian and Smuts).

The vote on the Amendment of \$1,430,487 carried 19 in favor, 10 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Bartinik, Cerf, Granatosky, Hubbard, Luck, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Sebastian and Smuts).

The Moderator announced a recess at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

Account 2120 - Revaluation Fund

A motion for \$52,400 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 1014 - Administrative Services

A motion for \$2,899,305 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,896,494 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,775,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Sebastian's rationale is that he would like to see reductions that would achieve tax relief for taxpayers to offset the budget increase from debt service. He understands that no change can be made to the debt service account.

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,775,000 was defeated 13 in favor, 15 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Barnhart, Bartnik, Bauer, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Harrell, Hubbard, Loughlin, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Prochaska, Sebastian. Abstaining: Rep. Luck).

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,800,000 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

Rep. Cerf's amendment would make an additional reduction to the computer replacement fund.

The Manager stated that he is baffled with the additional reductions being sought by the RTM. He provided the revisions to the proposed budget to comply with the RTM request on April 29, 2008. Now members are seeking reductions to lessen the impact of debt service which is an expense that results from voter approval at referendum for specific projects. He noted that the Information Technology Department oversees the computers for all departments and that the three departments in this account are as close to "bare bones" as they can be.

Rep. Granatosky reiterated that this account contains three functions: Emergency Services, Information Technology and Human Resources.

Items discussed were overtime and staffing levels for Emergency Communications, the State impact on the budget, keeping Town Operations to a 2% increase, the need to reduce personnel, forcing departments to make do with less, the RTM responsibilities in regard to the budget, and members' responsibility to their constituents.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Harrell, seconded by Rep. Hubbard. The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ebbin and Garagliano).

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,800,000 was defeated 10 in favor, 19 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bartnik, Cerf, Cooper, Hellekson, Hubbard, Luck, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power, Sebastian).

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,896,494 carried 20 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bartnik, Baril, Cerf, Granatosky, Harrell, Hellekson, Peruzzotti and Sebastian).

Account 6050 - Computer Replacement Fund

A motion for \$85,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Items discussed were ink jet versus laser printers, software licenses, and the City of Groton participation.

The vote on \$85,000 carried 26 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Baril and Hellekson. Abstaining: Rep. Smuts).

Capital Item - CAD/RMS Software Implementation

A motion for \$85,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Ebbin.

Items discussed were data conversion, scanning systems and the definition and qualifications for a CIP.

The Manager noted that he could provide more information on the process for determining what qualifies as a CIP.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$80,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Power.

Rep. Sebastian's rationale is that \$5,000 would not be missed in this account.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$50,000 was made by Rep. Cerf and was seconded. Rep. Cerf feels the previous figures are too much for this technology and wants an integrated plan.

POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Garagliano concerning Rep. Cerf's justification prior to the motion to amend.

Moderator Billing stated that Rep. Cerf's discussion prior to the motion was acceptable.

Items mentioned were trusting staff, completion of the project, data conversion costs, and scanning versus digitizing.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Fairbank and was seconded. The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Garagliano and Luck).

The vote on the Amendment of \$50,000 was defeated 8 in favor, 20 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Power, Prohaska and Sebastian. Abstaining: Rep. Luck).

The vote on the Amendment of \$80,000 was defeated 11 in favor, 17 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Bartinik, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Evered, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power, Sebastian and Streeter. Abstaining: Rep. Luck).

The vote on \$85,000 carried 18 in favor, 10 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Reps. Bartinik, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power, Sebastian and Billing. Abstaining: Rep. Luck).

Capital Item - Email Archiving

A motion for \$103,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Smuts.

The vote on \$103,000 carried 29 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Sebastian).

Capital Item - Emergency Equipment

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

The vote on \$0 carried 27 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril and Massett).

Account 1070 - Insurance & Claims

A motion for \$586,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$562,000 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

The vote on the Amendment of \$562,000 carried 27 in favor 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Granatosky and Collins).

Account 1071 - Self Funded Plans

A motion for \$5,761,382 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Driscoll.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$5,490,066 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

In response to Rep. Cerf, Mr. Ackerman stated that this is a reduction, not a deferment. He acknowledged that this account is adjusted each year based on health claims.

In response to Rep. Beckwith, Mr. Ackerman will provide specific information regarding the number of claims for Police Heart and Hypertension.

The vote on the Amendment of \$5,490,066 carried 27 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Granatosky and Helleckson).

Motion to Rescind

The Moderator noted that a Notice of Intent to Rescind an action taken at the session on May 5, 2008 on CIP Flanders Road Utility Installation was sent to all members.

MOTION TO RESCIND the action taken May 5, 2008 on CIP Flanders Road Utility Installation was moved by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Cerf.

The Moderator clarified the difference between reconsider and rescind. She noted that by providing notice, only a majority vote is needed to rescind. She verified that the vote on May 5, 2008 carried 15 in favor, 12 opposed, 2 abstentions.

Rep. Garagliano will not support the motion to rescind. She feels strongly that this project aids in growing the grand list by encouraging light manufacturing and new small business start-up. This area already has some businesses that are not able to expand without the services of sewer and water. She urged members not to rescind and not to set this type of precedent.

The Moderator recognized Councilor Bond as an ex-officio member of the RTM to address the members about the Flanders Road Utility Installation Project.

POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Moukawsher that discussion should remain on the question to rescind.

Moderator Billing felt that members may need to know more about the scope of the project in order to decide whether they are in favor of or opposed to the motion to rescind.

Councilor Bond provided history and background information concerning this project. She noted that diversification in Groton has been recommended. She explained that this funding will pay for a detailed cost estimate prior to the referendum to approve the project. She mentioned that while attending the National League of Cities Conference, the Council was able to discuss in detail and receive help on the funding application to the Department of the Interior.

Items discussed were the remaining areas available for light industrial growth and the potential increase to the grand list if water and sewer lines are extended.

Rep. Granatosky stated she is opposed to spending taxpayer money on this CIP account.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Harrell.

POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Power. He feels that Rep. Granatosky took the opportunity to express her feelings and then moved the question.

After being advised by the Town Clerk the Moderator noted that Rep. Granatosky was not out of order. She mentioned to members that they could oppose the motion if they want to continue discussion.

The vote on moving the question was defeated 13 in favor, 16 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Baril, Barnhart, Beckwith, Collins, Driscoll, Ebbin, Granatosky, Harrell, Hellekson, Loughlin, Luck, Prochaska and Streeter).

The Moderator clarified that if the motion to rescind carries, then the action taken on May 5, 2008 is erased, and that a new figure could be moved.

Rep. Evered does not support the motion to rescind. She is in favor of development that will assist in revitalizing the tax base.

Councilor Streeter was recognized by the Moderator. He feels this type of growth will benefit Groton. He believes that it helps reduce the tax burden on residents. Councilor Streeter urged members not to rescind.

Rep. Cerf agrees with the idea of incubator space for small business but feels that a better business plan is needed. She is opposed for the cost of this project to be borne by taxpayers. She would like to see matching State funds.

Rep. Ebbin feels the project is too expensive, that it will increase debt service, and will profit only one or two property owners.

Rep. Smuts will not support rescinding. She is hopeful that the federal grant application for \$7,000,000 will be approved. She feels it is imperative to grow the grand list and not be shortsighted.

Councilor Bond reiterated that these funds are for a detailed cost estimate prior to the referendum and can be broken up in three phases. She noted that eleven acres of Town owned land would then be available to sell or lease for development.

The Town Manager commented that this would definitely be money well spent to develop and provide space for light manufacturing and new small businesses.

Rep. Garagliano urged members not to rescind.

MOTION TO POSTPONE the vote on rescinding in order to have a presentation on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 was made by Rep. Cooper, seconded by Rep. Bauer.

The vote on postponing was defeated 3 in favor, 26 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bauer, Cooper and Sebastian).

The vote on the Motion to Rescind was defeated by roll call 9 in favor, 19 opposed, 1 abstention. (In favor: Reps. Cerf, Collins, Ebbin, Granatosky, Harrell, Hellekson, Hubbard, Moukawsher, and Power. Opposed: Reps. Baril, Barnhart, Bartinik, Bauer, Beckwith, Cooper, Driscoll, Evered, Fairbank, Garagliano, Loughlin, Massett, Peruzzotti, Prochaska, Sebastian, Smuts, Streeter, Svencer and Billing. Abstaining: Rep. Luck).

The Moderator declared adjournment at 10:40 p.m. to a time definite Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Session - Wednesday May 14, 2008

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. 28 members were present, and a quorum was declared. (Rep. Ambroise and Cerf arrived later). The Moderator reported that Reps. Bartinik, Beckwith, Bergeson, Finlayson, Garcia, Hubbard, Metayer, Power and Steinford called to say they are unable to attend this meeting. The Moderator thanked members for their attendance at the extremely long budget sessions this year.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Massett, Rep. Moukawsher, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Prochaska, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Tilney

Members Absent: Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Hellekson, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Power, Rep. Steere and Rep. Steinford

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Town Police Chief Kelly Fogg, Deputy Police Chief Michael Crowley, City Mayor Dennis Popp, City Finance Director Anthony Timpano, Groton Long Point Representatives Edward Bogdan and Roger Chericoni, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

Public Safety Committee

Chairman Pratt read the minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2008. (Minutes are on file.) A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Pratt, seconded by Rep. Fairbank. Rep. Smuts noted for the record that Rep. Beckwith was in attendance.

The minutes were unanimously accepted as amended.

Account 1024 - Public Safety

A motion for \$6,559,609 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Pratt, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$6,509,363 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Evered, seconded by Rep. Sebastian. Rep. Cerf arrived at this time.

Items discussed were the addition of two new patrol officers, drug task force policing, community policing, in-school patrol officers, routine overtime, replacement overtime and gel batteries to save fuel.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$6,443,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Sebastian feels the 4.9% increase is too much and wants to reduce it to 3%. He does not want Fort Hill policing cut.

Discussion continued about the DARE program, staffing levels, change in projected court fine revenue, new officer training costs, the amount of officer training time to become certified, part-time supernumerary officers and vacancies.

Police Chief Kelly Fogg expressed concern over maintaining supervisory levels, noting that thirty-six officers in the department have less than five years experience. He noted that nationally, generational differences are affecting police departments. He mentioned that the younger generation values time off more than working overtime. He confirmed that some communities have instituted required overtime.

Rep. Smuts stated she will not support the second amendment. She will support the Manager's revised figure. She feels it is important to have faith in the Chief's decision for staffing, and to improve morale in the department. She stated that in light of the current economic climate she does not endorse cuts in public safety, and in her opinion this is a top priority.

Rep. Garagliano will not support the second amendment. She feels it is a cut in the wrong place.

Rep. Ebbin requested information evaluating the DARE program in preventing drug use at the high school level.

Rep. Sebastian compared staffing of the City and Town Police Departments and feels that the Town Police Department needs to be cut.

The vote on the Amendment of \$6,443,000 was defeated 10 in favor, 17 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Barnhart, Briggs, Cerf, Cooper, Fairbank, Luck, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Sebastian and Billing).

The vote on the Amendment of \$6,509,363 carried 22 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Cooper, Granatosky, Peruzzotti, Sebastian).

Finance Committee

Chairman Granatosky read the minutes of the meetings held on April 21 and April 23, 2008 in regard to City of Groton accounts. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Pratt.

Rep. Sebastian noted for the record that he did not use the word "consolidation" and that his comments were about the cost if the Town of Groton were policing the City and Groton Long Point.

The vote to accept the minutes as amended carried unanimously.

Account 10900 - City of Groton Police

A motion for \$2,346,171 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,299,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian and was seconded. Rep. Sebastian stated that the police account is 49% of the City of Groton Budget. He feels that a 1% reduction to the City of Groton Police is in order.

Rep. Fairbank stated he will support Rep. Sebastian's amendment. He acknowledged that after reviewing this account he had been considering a larger reduction but will support this amendment.

Items discussed were the City's vehicle replacement schedule, trade-in value, outfitting vehicles with the necessary special equipment, percentage of increase and decrease in City and Town Police budget and clothing allowance per union contract settlement.

Rep. Garagliano mentioned that she is a City resident. She feels that this year each and every department is being cut and that it is only fair that a small reduction be made in this account. She believes that the City could absorb this reduction.

The Manager and City Mayor each noted a correction to page 187 in the budget book that the printed figure of 5.4% should be 4.5%.

Rep. Granatosky commented that action taken on the Town Public Safety account allowed a 4.1% increase and if this amendment passes it would not be an equitable reduction.

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,299,000 carried 18 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril,

Bauer, Collins, Driscoll, Ebbin, Granatosky, Harrell, Massett and Streeter).

Account 10901 - City of Groton Highway

A motion for \$2,107,435 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

The Moderator mentioned a Town Attorney opinion that the RTM cannot reduce the account below the number approved by the Council. She noted that comments can be entered for the record.

Items discussed were the 2003 opinion letter concerning the special charter provision agreement between the Town and City, past practice for voting on this account, inclusion of a dump truck purchase in this account and requesting a joint discussion with the Town Council concerning the approval of this account.

Rep. Ambroise arrived during discussion at 8:15 p.m.

The vote on \$2,107,435 carried 20 in favor, 8 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Briggs, Cooper, Ebbin, Loughlin, Peruzzotti and Smuts).

Account 10902 - City of Groton School Crossing Guards

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Finance Committee

Chairman Grantsky read the minutes of the meetings held on April 21 and April 23, 2008 in regard to Groton Long Point (GLP) accounts. (Minutes are on file.)

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

Account 10910 - Groton Long Point Police

A motion for \$230,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Collins.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$208,000 was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Fairbank's rationale is that the Town, City and Board of Education have been asked to "tighten the belt," so it is only fair that a reduction be made to this account to have equity across the board.

Rep. Garagliano will support the amendment because she feels the increases for the GLP accounts are too much and agrees with Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Sebastian stated that he feels that the GLP Police account has been sufficiently reduced over the years. The Moderator interrupted Rep. Sebastian, requesting that he omit the names of individuals.

Items discussed were funding the Groton Long Point Police Department, number of patrol officers, increased summer patrol coverage, special services provided during the winter, costs of doing their own investigations and detective work, and professional development cost.

Edward Bogdan, President of the Groton Long Point Association (GLPA), addressed the concerns and questions raised by members. He suggested that he would prefer a reduction in the highway request as he feels it could be absorbed.

Rep. Granatosky will support the amended figure. She feels that if the Town provided patrol coverage, the quality would differ, but believes that GLPA residents are willing to pay the extra mill rate to have extra services provided.

Discussion continued about the cost of \$230,000 for two officers, the percentage of year round residents, and specific patrol coverage that is provided.

Rep. Cerf stated that 10% of taxes paid to Groton are from about 600 properties at GLP. She believes that GLP could be a target for crime since many homes are empty during the winter.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$211,640 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Evered.

POINT OF ORDER was raised by Rep. Fairbank that the rationale was given prior to moving the figure.

Moderator Billing noted that it is not out of order to state the rationale and then move a figure.

Rep. Granatosky does not believe that the Town should provide services to citizens commensurate with their ability to pay. She noted that reductions are being made to many accounts and equity must be maintained. She mentioned that Rep. Sebastian had asked for no more than a 2% increase in the budget. She cited the fact that the Manager complied by providing a suggested list of across the board reductions that would accomplish this.

Discussion ensued about cost savings to the Town by not doing GLP investigations, differences of the daily impact of traffic between the City of Groton and GLP, and the choice of GLPA to have their own police and highway department.

Rep. Garagliano stated that she will support the first amendment on the floor because she feels it is an equitable reduction in line with the other across the board reductions in a tight budget year.

In response to Rep. Evered, Mr. Bogdan provided the crime statistics for 2007-2008.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Harrell.

The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Sebastian).

The vote on the Amendment of \$211,640 was defeated 4 in favor, 24 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Baril, Cerf, Pratt and Billing).

Rep. Sebastian urged members to oppose the amended figure on the floor. He does not feel it is an equitable reduction to the GLP account.

The vote on the Amendment of \$208,000 carried 22 in favor, 6 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambrose, Cerf, Evered, Massett, Pratt and Sebastian).

Account 10911 - Groton Long Point Highway

A motion for \$207,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Harrell.

Rep. Bauer commented that she will abstain since the RTM cannot make adjustments to the account and agrees with sentiment expressed earlier by Rep. Smuts.

Members discussed the situation of not being able to change the highway accounts for Groton Long Point and City of Groton.

The Moderator noted that the Manager will ask for a decision from the Town Attorney concerning this issue for next year.

In response to Rep. Loughlin, the Moderator noted that if all members abstained, it could jeopardize the entire budget. She does not advise abstaining but members can go on record as being opposed.

Rep. Garagliano stated that she believes per Robert Rules that it is illegal to abstain in order to

defeat a question.

Rep. Sebastian read a paragraph from the GLP Charter in regard to the approval of this account.

Rep. Ambrose disagreed with Rep. Sebastian.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Ambrose, seconded by Rep. Streeter.
The vote on moving the question carried 26 in favor, 2 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf and Ebbin).

The vote on \$207,000 carried 19 in favor, 6 opposed, 3 abstentions. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Bauer, Briggs, Harrell, Loughlin, Massett. Abstaining: Reps. Cooper, Ebbin and Smuts).

Moderator declared a recess.

Account 1092 - Fire Districts PILOT

A motion for \$246,012 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 1076 - Debt Service

A motion for \$5,389,370 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 1077 - Contributions to Other Funds

A motion for \$145,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$100,000 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Ebbin.

The vote on the Amendment of \$100,000 carried unanimously.

Account 2060 - Mumford Cove

A motion for \$10,743 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 4010 - Groton Sewer District

A motion for \$1,020,485 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Harrell and so voted unanimously.

The Moderator declared adjournment at 9:26 p.m. to a time definite Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Budget Session - Monday May 19, 2008

Moderator Natalie Billing called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

32 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

The Moderator reported that Reps. Bartinik, Bergeson, Finlayson, Garcia, Metayer and Smuts called to say they are unable to attend this meeting.

Members Present: Moderator Billing, Rep. Ambrose, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Beckwith, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Cooper, Rep. Driscoll, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Evered, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garagliano, 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. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer and Rep. Tilney
Members Absent: Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bergeson, Rep. Briggs, Rep. Finlayson, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Smuts and Rep. Steere

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Public Works Director Gary Schneider, Assistant Director Carl Almquist, Assistant Director John Carrington, Finance Director Sal Pandolfo, Administrative Services Director Doug Ackerman,

Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

Public Works Committee

Chairman Collins read the minutes of the meetings held on April 7, 14 and 30, 2008. (Minutes are on file.)

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Power corrected the identification of CIP 10A.

Reps. Ebbin and Cerf each made a comment concerning the figure approved by the committee on CIP Thames Street Rehabilitation.

The Moderator stated that clarification will be provided when that account is on the floor.

The vote to accept the minutes as corrected was unanimous.

The Moderator recommended that Public Works CIP accounts be acted on first this evening. She explained that this would allow the Finance Director the necessary time to calculate the numbers for Capital Reserve and Capital Reserve (contribution) so the RTM can complete its budget session. It was agreed by consensus.

Capital Item - Pavement Management Program

A motion for \$475,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$375,000 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Moukawsher.

Rep. Sebastian feels that residents are slaves to high taxes and that spending must be reduced.

The Moderator recognized both the Town Manager and Public Works Director to share additional information about the Pavement Management Plan that was contracted to MACTEC, an engineering firm, a number of years ago.

Items discussed were the scope of the plan; the update completed in 2007; inclusion of the City of Groton and Groton Long Point in the management program; routine maintenance of roads to avoid more expensive repairs or complete replacement.

In response to Rep. Moukawsher, the Manager stated that Connecticut State Statutes do not allow future repair funds from developers to be collected as part of the planning approval process.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$575,000 was made by Rep. Garagliano and was seconded. Rep. Garagliano's rationale is that roads need to be properly maintained to protect the Town from liability. She will not support the other figures on the floor.

Items discussed were delaying portions of the program, impact of delays, re-adjusting the priority of the schedule, and the increasing cost of asphalt.

Rep. Ebbin noted that the committee figure included paving of Gungywamp Road but recommended cutting \$100,000 by delaying the paving in Bel-Aire.

Rep. Granatosky agreed with Rep. Ebbin and will support the committee figure.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Fairbank, seconded by Rep. Baril.

The vote on moving the question carried 24 in favor, 8 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Cerf, Ebbin, Evered, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Power, Sebastian and Billing).

The vote on the Amendment of \$575,000 carried 20 in favor, 12 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Bauer, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Evered, Granatosky, Harrell, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power and Sebastian).

Capital Item - Traffic Signal Replacement & Update

A motion for \$35,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$25,000 was made by Rep. Ebbin, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Rep. Ebbin stated that her rationale is based on replacing only five lights at a cost of \$5,000 per light. She requested clarification about the fire district ownership of two other lights included in the project.

Items discussed were the number of traffic lights, ownership of the lights, and cost savings from installation of LED.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Sebastian, seconded by Rep. Hubbard. Rep. Sebastian's rationale is that he is opposes approving an expenditure without precise information in regard to the project.

Items discussed were the condition of the traffic lights; preparation, verification and submittal of paperwork to the State Traffic Commission; the complexity of the intersection at the Main Gate of the Naval Base; the exact number of lights involved in this project.

Rep. Cerf expressed her distress over staff not having sufficient information on the request made by committee over a month ago to verify the number of lights. She has also requested an inventory of all town vehicles and stated she still has not received it.

The Moderator cautioned Rep. Cerf to stay on the topic on the floor.

The Director of Public Works, Gary Schneider, apologized for the confusion but is attempting to verify who is responsible for each light before expending any Town monies.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Luck, seconded by Rep. Massett. The vote on moving the question carried 27 in favor, 5 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti and Power).

The vote on the Amendment of \$0 was defeated 8 in favor, 24 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Ambrose, Cerf, Cooper, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power and Sebastian).

Items discussed were the validity and age of the State generated list of lights, safety issues at some of the intersections and what happens to any unused appropriated monies.

(Rep. Beckwith stepped out of the room briefly).

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$15,000 was made by Rep. Evered, seconded by Rep. Sebastian.

The vote on the Amendment of \$15,000 was defeated 8 in favor, 23 opposed, 1 non-voting. (In favor: Reps. Cerf, Ebbin, Evered, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Power, Prochaska and Sebastian. Non-voting: Rep. Beckwith).

The vote on the Amendment of \$25,000 was defeated 13 in favor, 19 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Bauer, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Evered, Granatosky, Harrell, Hellekson, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Power, Prochaska and Sebastian).

Rep. Sebastian is opposed to the figure of \$35,000 because the Town does not have a clear and concise plan.

Rep. Massett clarified that the Town is in the process of verifying ownership of the lights and noted that any unused monies would return to the Capital Reserve account.

Rep. Garagliano supports the figure of \$35,000. She trusts Town Staff to do the necessary work and to do it properly. She stated she is distressed by the tone of voice and insulting remarks directed toward staff.

Rep. Beckwith stated she will support the figure of \$35,000.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Granatosky, and was seconded. The vote on moving the question carried 29 in favor, 3 opposed. (Opposed: Reps Cerf, Moukawsher and Power).

The vote on \$35,000 carried 23 in favor, 9 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power and Sebastian).

Republican Floor Leader Kevin Power requested a recess for a Republican caucus. The Moderator recessed the meeting for caucus at 8:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:00 p.m.

Capital Item - Bridge Reconstruction

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Replacement of Defective Roadside Barrier Systems

A motion for \$50,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Thames Street Rehabilitation

Moderator Billing explained that the CIP project contains the full \$6,345,000 figure. She stated that this item will go before the voters at referendum. She confirmed that the RTM is not voting on the entire \$6,345,000 figure, and that \$45,000 is being added to this fund for planning purposes. The Town Council will act on the entire project first and refer it to the RTM for approval prior to the referendum. She stated that the committee only acted on the \$45,000 figure.

A motion for \$45,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

In response to Rep. Ebbin, the Town Manager acknowledged that the RTM vote does have meaning. He confirmed that the issue raised at the May 14, 2008 session concerning the RTM's vote on the City of Groton and Groton Long Point highway accounts, as well as some CIP accounts, will be reviewed with the Town Attorney. He encouraged the RTM to vote favorably.

The vote on \$45,000 carried 30 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. (Opposed: Rep. Sebastian, Abstaining: Rep. Ebbin).

Capital Item - Local Drainage Improvements/New Installations

A motion for \$80,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - New Sidewalk Construction - Route 215

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - New Sidewalk Construction - Route 1

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$0 was made by Rep. Evered, seconded by Rep. Sebastian.

Rep. Evered believes that this project could be postponed.

Rep. Granatosky supports the committee figure. She feels this project is a high priority public safety issue due to the location and the amount of use. It was mentioned that an incident involving a motorized wheelchair occurred due to the conditions of the existing walkway.

Rep. Evered withdrew her motion and Rep. Sebastian agreed to withdraw his second.

The vote on \$25,000 carried unanimously.

Capital Item - Poquonnock Road Sidewalk - Kolnaski School

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Peruzzotti.

Items discussed were why this sidewalk was not included in the school building project, the number of school children designated as "walkers" to the school, environmental impact to Birch Plain Creek, and the amount of general foot traffic in that area.

Rep. Luck stated she would like to support the \$0 figure. She mentioned she is familiar with the area for the new sidewalk. She mentioned that she serves on the City Conservation Commission. She believes that no children walk to the new school. Rep. Luck feels that making the connection between the school and the Electric Boat property would address public safety concerns along a road with heavy vehicular traffic.

The Town Manager mentioned that the Town Planning Commission had asked for a good faith agreement in the approved site plan that a sidewalk be constructed due to safety concerns for the large number of people who walk this roadway.

Rep. Granatosky stated that due to the public safety issue, she opposes the \$0 figure. This is her rationale for moving a new figure.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$45,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Collins.

In response to Rep. Ambroise, the Town Manager stated that the Planning Commission did not set a specific timetable to install the sidewalk but the Town was asked to pursue this project in good faith.

MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION was made by Rep. Steinfeld, seconded by Rep. Baril. The vote on moving the question carried 28 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti and Power).

The vote on the Amendment of \$45,000 carried 24 in favor, 8 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Hellekson, Hubbard, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power and Sebastian).

Capital Item - Spicer House - Parks & Rec Office

A motion for \$25,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Capital Item - Golf Course Facilities

A motion for \$110,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Rep. Cerf expressed concerns about rising fuel costs for the golf course clubhouse and restaurant lease.

The vote on \$110,000 carried 31 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Steinfeld).

Capital Item - Hurricane/Disaster Projects

A motion for \$0 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$35,000 was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Svencer.

Mr. Schneider explained that the current structure was built in accordance with the 1952 building code and it does not meet existing level 3 hurricane standards.

Rep. Ebbin stated she will oppose the amended figure. She feels that the selected location is too windy. She believes that a regional approach should be investigated to promote cost sharing and to select a protected location. She noted that the City highway building may be a better choice.

The vote on the Amendment of \$35,000 carried 22 in favor, 10 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Ambroise, Ebbin, Evered, Granatosky, Harrell, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Prochaska, Sebastian and Billing).

Capital Item - Sewer Line Infrastructure Repairs-WPCF

A motion for \$260,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

The Moderator noted that this is funded by user fees.

The vote on \$260,000 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Sebastian).

Capital Item - Mechanical/Electrical Equipment Replacement-WPCF

A motion for \$685,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Harrell.

The Moderator clarified that this is funded by user fees.

In response to Rep. Cerf, it was stated that the increase amounts to \$2.00 per residence.

The vote on \$685,000 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Sebastian).

Capital Item - Facility Repairs/Improvements-WPCF

A motion for \$100,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

The Moderator noted that this is funded by user fees.

The vote on \$100,000 carried 31 in favor, 1 opposed. (Opposed: Rep. Sebastian).

Capital Item - Remediation of Town Land

A motion for \$45,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Cerf and so voted unanimously.

Account 1035 - Public Works

A motion for \$7,771,340 as approved by committee was made by Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$7,747,710 as revised by the Town Manager was made by Rep. Power, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Rep. Cerf stated that she would like the Town to be proactive in conserving fuel by reducing temperatures, monitoring thermostats, investigating the use of green initiatives in future construction, and using solar panels if appropriate to conserve energy.

Rep. Massett agreed with Rep. Cerf, but remarked that her comments did not pertain to the budget session and would be more appropriately addressed at a later date.

Items discussed were the status of the pump-out boat, the fuel consortium, the cost for temporary relocation of the Senior Center to the former Noank School, and allocation of that cost.

The vote on the Amendment of \$7,747,710 carried 26 in favor, 6 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Collins, Granatosky, Harrell, Pratt and Steinfeld).

Account 2020 - Sewer Operating Fund

A motion for \$5,583,911 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 2030 - Solid Waste Fund

A motion for \$2,714,320 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 6040 - Fleet Reserve Fund

A motion for \$2,268,017 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Collins, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,861,017 was made by Rep. Cerf, seconded by Rep. Sebastian.

Rep. Cerf's rationale is to further reduce the contributions to this account and save money because she feels there will be cost overruns next year.

The Manager stated that the Town has different types of vehicles for various uses. He suggested that an in-depth explanation of why the Town has different vehicles could be scheduled for the future.

The Moderator noted reasons why some sport utility vehicles are needed.

The vote on the Amendment of \$1,861,017 was defeated 3 in favor, 29 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Sebastian).

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$2,190,017 was made by Rep. Peruzzotti, seconded by Rep. Ebbin.

The vote on the Amendment of \$2,190,017 was defeated 11 in favor, 21 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Hubbard, Loughlin, Massett, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power, Prochaska and Sebastian).

The vote on \$2,268,017 carried 28 in favor, 4 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Baril, Cooper, Hubbard and Sebastian).

The Moderator declared a brief recess to allow the Finance Director to calculate the figures for the Capital Reserve accounts.

Finance Committee

Account 5010 - Capital Reserve Fund

A motion for \$3,402,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Account 1075 - Capital Reserve (contribution)

A motion for \$1,250,000 was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Fairbank.

Moderator Billing explained to new members how the figure is derived.

The Town Manager provided information about the development, purpose, and use of this fund. He expressed his concern about annual reductions to this fund and the impact on existing and future CIP projects. He feels the figure of \$1,250,000 is very low and is not what he would recommend.

In response to Rep. Cerf, it was noted that the calculation of the final tax rate and associated increase in taxes is not available at this meeting.

Rep. Cerf stated she will oppose the number on the floor, as she feels that the budget has not been cut enough to reduce taxes.

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,600,000 was made by Rep. Pratt and was seconded.

The Moderator stated that this represents the Council figure.

Rep. Beckwith stated that she will support the amended figure. She feels it is essential to plan for the future.

Rep. Sebastian feels that the time spent by the RTM reducing the budget will have no consequence with the amended figure now on the floor. He believes that the Manager's "across the board" reductions were easy cuts and that next year the Town will be cutting people.

In response to Rep. Massett, the Town Manager replied that he has not yet said that people will be cut next year. He did add that if the economic downturn continues and interpretations of the economy remain the same, he believes that personnel reductions will happen. He stated that normal construction costs increase at an average of about 6-10% each year.

Rep. Power stated that he will not support the amended figure. He feels it would negate the efforts of the RTM during these budget sessions to effect a reduction in the budget. He noted that some CIP projects may never be done.

The vote on the Amendment of \$1,600,000 was defeated 10 in favor, 22 opposed. (In favor: Reps. Beckwith, Collins, Fairbank, Garagliano, Massett, Pratt, Prochaska, Steinford, Streeter and Svencer).

MOTION TO AMEND the figure to \$1,500,000 was made by Rep. Streeter, seconded by Rep. Pratt.

Rep. Streeter stated that she placed the figure on the floor as a compromise.

Rep. Beckwith agreed with Rep. Power about CIP projects but she feels it is important to plan ahead to avoid a larger figure in FYE 2010.

The vote on the Amendment of \$1,500,000 carried 19 in favor, 13 opposed. (Opposed: Reps. Cerf, Cooper, Ebbin, Granatosky, Hellekson, Hubbard, Loughlin, Moukawsher, Peruzzotti, Power, Sebastian, Tilney and Billing).

Account 1074 - Contingency

A motion for \$350,000 as approved by committee was made by Rep. Granatosky, was seconded and so voted unanimously.

Rep. Cerf read a public apology to the staff and board members of the Bill Memorial Library for her comments made during the budget session.

Rep. Luck invited members who are interested in participating in the Annual July 4th Parade to contact her.

H. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. was made by Rep. Svencer, seconded by Rep. Fairbank and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk