



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Town Council

**Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson**

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Tuesday, September 6, 2011

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

*The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.*

Members Present: Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.*

*The Town Clerk called for nominations for Chairman Pro Tem. Councilor Watson was nominated by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro. There being no further nominations, the vote carried unanimously.*

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Lee Vincent.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

##### 2011-0169 Proclamation for Gates at Fort Griswold

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Kolnaski.*

##### 2011-0173 Proclamation Recognizing September as Leukemia Lymphoma & Myeloma Awareness Month

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER AS LEUKEMIA LYMPHOMA & MYELOMA AWARENESS MONTH

**Read**

*The proclamation was read by Councilor Monteiro.*

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Lee Vincent, 1 New London Road, Mystic, commended the Town for thinking ahead and authorizing additional hours for the transfer station to be open. He also thanked the Public Works Department and CL&P for speedy responses to a fallen sign, a hanging tree limb, and repairs to a power line.*

*Mary Kelly, 40 Plant Street, President of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF), gave a summary of GAF's activities this year. She highlighted medical care and the high adoption rate for Groton's animals. Ms. Kelly announced that there will be a wine tasting fund raiser on September 17, 2011, at the Shennecossett Yacht Club.*

*James Roy, 233 River Road, Mystic, stated that a group of local residents would like to erect a life-size statue of John Kelley as a memorial to a man who has had a profound influence on the community as a runner, coach, and teacher. Mr. Roy remarked that the former site of the John*

*Mason statue would be a perfect location, as the Kelley homestead was located near the site. There would be no cost to the Town for this memorial.*

*Donald Wood, 298 Meridian Street, stated that while brochures for the Essex Steam Train continue to be placed at the Groton Public Library, he still does not have permission to leave his business card there. He remarked that the Senior Center should be made into a community center or privatized so that all taxpayers won't have to bear the expense for one group of citizens. Mr. Wood also stated that zoning for signage in front of businesses needs to be consistent.*

## V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Councilor Monteiro stated that the local response to Hurricane Irene was exceptional. She thanked Groton Utilities and the Public Works Department for getting people back on line as soon as possible.*

*In response to Councilor Johnson, the Town Manager will look into the equality of zoning regulations throughout Town regarding signage.*

### 2011-0177 John Kelley Memorial

#### JOHN KELLEY MEMORIAL

*Chairman Pro Tem Watson stated that John Kelley was inducted into the Distance Runners Hall of Fame. He requested a referral to the Community & Cultural Development Committee to discuss the proposed memorial.*

*It was later decided that this item should be referred to the Committee of the Whole.*

## VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

### a. Approval of Minutes

#### 2011-0172 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

#### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 23, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

### b. Administrative Items

#### 2011-0171 Special Trust Fund Contributions

#### RESOLUTION ACCEPTING SPECIAL TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Various Donations - \$166.08 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$6.25 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

### c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

#### 2011-0167 Supportive Housing Program Grant

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

#### 2011-0170 Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) Grant

**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.**

### Passed The Consent Calendar

**A motion was made by Councilor Monteiro, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

The motion carried unanimously

## VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

### a. Town Councilors

*Councilor Kolnaski attended the 100th Anniversary ceremony for the gates at Fort Griswold.*

*Councilor Flax attended the Noank Reuse Task Force meeting. The committee discussed the survey and plans to have a report to the Town Council by the third week in October.*

*Councilor O'Beirne commended various companies and personnel for their efficiency during the storm. Atta-boys' were sounded for Aquarion; Groton Utilities; Carl Almquist and Waste Water Treatment Plant personnel; Stacey Leitch and Transfer Station personnel; the Police Department; Public Works; and Joe Sastre and Emergency Communications personnel.*

*Chairman Pro Tem Watson also thanked Town Manager Mark Oefinger for being a good leader, and noted that the Town Manager was available every time he tried to call.*

### b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

*The Town Clerk stated that the next RTM meeting will be on September 14, 2011, at the Senior Center.*

### c. Clerk of the Council

*The Town Clerk noted that those who have sustained damage from the storm are urged to contact 211, where personnel will gather information and relay it to FEMA. She stated that property damage reports are available at the Town Clerk's office for damage that may be the Town's responsibility.*

*A new statewide electronic death registry system will be implemented. Town Clerk staff will participate in a train the trainer session for this system, where one person attends the classes then they relay the information to the rest of the staff. The Town Clerk noted that she will be attending the Town Clerks' Conference November 15-16, 2011.*

### d. Town Manager

*The Town Manager stated that the Town has a very dedicated staff, and almost every department was involved in some way during Hurricane Irene. He will give a thorough review of the storm at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He commended the three local newspapers (The Day, Groton Patch, and Mystic River Press) for keeping residents informed before, during and after the storm through both print and electronic means. The Town Manager noted that the Town will be getting a call from Fitch on September 8, 2011, to gather bond rating information. Mr. Oefinger stated that a GASP Coalition family dinner will be held on September 26, 2011, and the Taste of Mystic will take place September 9-11, 2011.*

### e. Town Attorney

*No report.*

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

*No meeting, no report.*

### b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

*No meeting, no report.*

### c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

*No meeting, no report.*

### d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne**

*No meeting, no report.*

**f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax**

*No meeting, no report.*

**g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro**

*No meeting, no report.*

**h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson**

*No meeting, no report.*

**i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter**

*Chairman Pro Tem Watson stated that resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*None.*

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

**2011-0167 Supportive Housing Program Grant**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TVCCA/HUD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM GRANT**

WHEREAS, homelessness is being addressed on several fronts by numerous programs but remains an ongoing problem for Groton and neighboring communities, and

WHEREAS, homeless persons with disabilities and homeless families in which at least one member is disabled require extensive counseling, support and case management services, and

WHEREAS, the Supportive Housing Program, operated by TVCCA as the grantee of record with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides funding to enable agencies and municipalities to provide counseling, support and case management services via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to enter into an agreement with Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. to accept grant funding in the amount of \$9,000 (or such an amount to be specified) to conduct a Supportive Housing Program in Groton for the period of February 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012 and to utilize said funding to supplant a portion of the salaries and related fringe benefits of selected Groton Human Services staff, who shall provide counseling, support and case management services to the specified Groton client population via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network.

**A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2011-0170 Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) Grant**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT FROM THE STATEWIDE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS (OSET)**

WHEREAS, funds were appropriated in the FYE 2010 Capital Improvement Program to replace the Voice Logging Recorder at the Emergency Communications Center, and

WHEREAS, recent bid proposals received for the project exceed the \$25,000 budgeted, and

WHEREAS, the Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications (OSET) offers funding to

local 911 centers for a variety of purposes including Capital Improvement Projects, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton is eligible for up to \$20,372 for this project and the \$25,000 budgeted will satisfy OSET's match requirement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designated agent may apply for an OSET grant of up to \$20,372 to supplement existing funds for the purchase of a Voice Logging Recorder.

**A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Since Comcast is no longer in favor of the Town becoming a public access television provider, Councilor O'Beirne requested a referral to discuss whether to proceed further. He also noted that \$3,000 has already been spent by the Town Attorney. The Town Manager stated he will check to see if the current referral is still open.*

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*

*Lori Watrous, Office Assistant*