

Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 6:00 PM Town Hall Annex – Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Rich Moravsik, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Present at the meeting were Public Safety Committee members Rich Moravsik, Chair, Dean Antipas, Joe de la Cruz, and Harry Watson. Chairman Moravsik declared a quorum. Also present were Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, as well as Alan Ackley, and Ronald Yuhas, President and Vice President, respectively, of the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District Board of Directors.

3. **CALENDAR & COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

2015-0052 Poquonnock Bridge Fire District Issues

Chairman Moravsik began what promises to be a series of meetings on this referral by eliciting from Mr. Ackley and Mr. Yuhas background information on the fire district. This Q&A discussion took up the entire meeting and is summarized as follows:

- a. the district was organized in 1943, and in 2003 voted to come within the purview of General Statutes §§ 7-324 and -329;
- b. the population of the district is about 9,000 to 12,000;
- c. as it was hard to accurately differentiate with the information at hand what proportion of the taxable properties within the district residential, commercial, and industrial, Mary Gardner, Groton Town Assessor, will be consulted;

d. properties exempt from taxation preliminarily include:

State of Connecticut	Town of Groton	Other Public	Private
Bluff Point S.P., Depot Road	Town Hall, 45 Fort Hill Road	City of Groton – Pequot Outpatient Medical, 52 Hazelnut Hill Road (land only)	Pequot Outpatient Medical, 52 Hazelnut Hill Road (building only)
Haley Farm S.P., Brook Street (Noank)	Human Services, 2 Fort Hill Road	City of Groton – water tower, 95 New London Road	Various churches
Groton-New London Airport, Tower Avenue	Fitch High School, 101 Groton Long Point Road	City of Groton – reservoir, 1240 Poquonnock Road & 18 North Road	Various land conservancies
Grasso Technical School, 189 Fort Hill Road	Claude Chester Elementary School, 1 Harry Day Drive	City of Groton – filtration plant, 1268 Poquonnock Road	Various cemeteries
I-95 right-of-way	Catherine Kolnaski Elementary School		Various non-profits
	Mary Morrison Elementary School, 154 Toll Gate Road		
	Fitch Middle School (formerly), 61 Fort Hill Road		
	Copp Property, 821 Gold Star Highway		
	Sutton Park, 185 Fort Hill Road		
	Merritt Property, Groton Long Point Road		
	Transfer Station, 685 Flanders Road		
	Poquonnock Plains Park, 150 Fort Hill Road		
	Jabez Smith Homestead, 259 North Road		
	Groton Public Library/Senior Center/Vets Memorial, 52 Newtown Road		

	Police Station/Public Works/Town Hall Annex, 68 Groton Long Point Road		
	Pequot Village, 11 Village Lane		
	Sewage Disposal, 170 Gary Court		
	Sparkle Lake Conservation, 155 Thomas Road		

a complete list is available at the Town Assessor's Office;

- e. district personnel consist of 2 clerical workers, 16 firefighters, a fire chief, and a deputy fire chief;
- f. Mr. Ackley will forward the committee a list of the major equipment owned by the district;
- g. the district presently operates one facility at 373 Long Hill Road and at present has no plans for any other;
- h. records as of 2012 show 1273 medical calls, 56 rescue calls, and 97 fire calls (structural and other), for a total of 1,426 calls that year; the overwhelming number of medical calls as opposed to fire calls is typical of all the local fire districts;
- i. Mr. Yugas will forward the committee information regarding the district's alarm boxes;
- j. the district pays about \$100,000 annually to rent hydrants from Groton Utilities; Mr. Yugas will forward the committee further information;
- k. the district received tax revenues of \$3,470,771 in 2014; Mr. Yugas will forward the committee information on revenue over the last 5 years;
- l. Mr. Yugas will forward the committee information regarding the district's expenditures;
- m. Mr. Yugas will forward the committee information regarding the district's mill rate;
- n. the district, as all fire districts do, receives a certain amount of PILOT money from the Town of Groton, some from the State of Connecticut and

some from the town itself; the formulas used to determine the amounts are not immediately apparent, and Chairman Moravsik told the committee he would ask Mark Oefinger about those.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned, and the next meeting of the committee was tentatively scheduled for April 22.