



Tuesday January 27, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Special COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - Action MINUTES

Mayor Jill Rusk, Deputy Mayor Stephen Sheffield, Councilor Jean-Claude Ambroise, Councilor Nicholas Johns, Councilor Christy McElroy, Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Paul Norris and City Clerk Dani Baycura

The following minutes meet all requirements under CT FOIA for public meetings and is not a transcript of the meeting. Please visit [Groton Municipal Television on YouTube](#) to view the meeting in further detail.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. Present: Mayor Rusk, Deputy Mayor Sheffield, Councilor McElroy, Councilor Piazza, and Councilor Johns. Councilor Ambroise at 6:32pm. Excused: Councilor Norris.

II. NEW BUSINESS OR REFERRAL

A. Groton Utilities

1. Bucket Truck Purchase

General Manager Robarge presented need to replace the 2007 bucket truck currently being used by Groton Utilities. With an opportunity to purchase a demo model, and the old one nearing its end of useful life, the council approved the \$260,000 purchase.

Motion to move to the Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Deputy Mayor Sheffield. Second: Councilor Piazza. Motion carried, 5-0-0.

2. Eversource Easement

Groton Utilities manager Mike Weber returned to continuing discussions regarding the proposed Eversource agreement. Councilors were assured maintenance responsibilities and access protocols would be followed and in line with the desires of GU. Director Gaudet informed council that if this was an appropriate instance to request compensation – monetary or otherwise – in exchange for this easement, the utility would have done so. This, however, he stated, is not one of those instances and a much more commonly agreed request between such utility companies. Some discussion ensued with all councilors' questions being satisfactorily addressed.

Motion to move to the Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Deputy Mayor Sheffield. Second: Councilor Piazza. Motion carried, 5-0-0.



B. Highway Budget Presentation

*Motion to move to Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Deputy Mayor Sheffield.
Second: Councilor Piazza. Motion carried, 5-0-0.*

C. Police Budget Presentation

*Motion to move to Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Councilor Ambroise
Second: Deputy Mayor Sheffield. Motion carried, 5-0-0.*

D. Parks and Recreation

1. Eastern Point Beach Rules and Regulations

*Motion to move to Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Councilor Piazza.
Second: Deputy Mayor Sheffield. Motion carried, 5-0-0.*

2. Eastern Point Beach User Fees

*Motion to move to Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Councilor Piazza.
Second: Deputy Mayor Sheffield. Motion carried, 5-0-0.*

E. Commission Appointment

1. Harbor Management Commission Alternate Member – W. Robarge

*Motion to move to Mayor and Council meeting February 2, 2026: Councilor Piazza. Second:
Councilor Ambroise. Motion carried, 5-0-0.*

F. Public Safety/Public Works Committee Update

1. Fire Department Staffing

Informing only; Councilor Ambroise updated council on meetings thus far as well as goals for upcoming meetings. He thanked the participating fire department members as well as Chief Tompkins for the robust discussions.

He stated the Public Safety/Public Works committee is recommending creation of 3 new firefighting positions for the City of Groton contingent on the SAFER grant applications. It is unclear when those monies will be awarded. Discussion closed with all council members voicing their support of increased staff in the name of safety.



III. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn: Councilor Piazza. Second: Deputy Mayor Sheffield. Motion carried, 5-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Dani Baycura
City Clerk