

**CITY OF GROTON  
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING  
MINUTES**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JUNE 4, 2018  
7:00 PM**

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor Hedrick called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and presided.

Clerk Patrick read the posting of the Notice of Meeting, Call of the Meeting and Warning to Electors. There were 70 electors present at the start of the meeting.

Mayor Hedrick read the following statement on the budget:

As required by Article VI, Section 2 (2) of the Charter, I submit to you the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 2019).

I am submitting a budget which includes a decrease of \$898,552 in comparison to FY 2018. The proposed budget would produce a decrease of .64 mill resulting in a mill rate of 4.58. For taxpayers, this would mean a tax decrease of \$64.00 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

This budget removes the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) from the General Fund into its own Enterprise Fund, which will no longer be funded with taxes.

This budget also follows the FY 18 budget with funding for capital projects. Contingency contains \$675,000 for undesignated capital projects. This will allow us to prioritize items from the CIP that have been held off over the past several years. You'll also find in this budget continued efforts to reserve funds for future purchases of vehicles.

The use of the undesignated fund balance will be \$400,000. This will leave a healthy reserve of 22.5%, slightly higher than FY 2018.

The City continues to be fiscally responsible.

Mayor Hedrick read the General Fund Anticipated Revenues and General Fund Proposed Appropriations.

**GENERAL FUND ANTICIPATED REVENUES**

Property taxes (at 4.58 mills), Interest and Lien Fees	\$5,141,295
Intergovernmental Revenues	4,959,202
Licenses and Permits	302,600
Interdepartmental Revenues	4,852,508
Miscellaneous Revenues	134,500
Operating Transfers In	15,000
Service Charge	195,000
Utilization of Fund Balance	400,000
Total General Fund Anticipated Revenues	<b>\$16,000,105</b>

**GENERAL FUND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS**

General Government	\$2,118,465
Police Department	5,044,138
Fire Department	3,066,277
Civil Preparedness	11,459
Public Works Department	3,090,891
Public Buildings	180,207

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Pollution Abatement	
Parks and Recreation Department	1,204,462
Non-Departmental	110,000
Debt Service	384,206
Contingency	790,000
Total General Fund Appropriations	<b>\$16,000,105</b>

He read a section of Robert's Rules of Order pertaining to debate on a motion that states the debate must be germane to the motion topic. Going off on irrelevant topics is not in order.

Mayor Hedrick read Item 1 and asked for a motion from the floor.

**Item 1.** To appropriate for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 the sum for the accounts and purposes set forth in the proposed annual budget as published in The Day on May 28, 2018 and in full on the City of Groton website at [www.cityofgroton.com](http://www.cityofgroton.com) and levy a tax and other incomes to cover the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, said tax to be collected July 1, 2018.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street moved Robert Tompkins, 100 Westwood Drive seconded a motion to approve Item 1.  
Mayor Hedrick asked if there was any discussion.

Jay Dempsey, 22 South Prospect Street spoke about the sewer use fees.  
Mayor Hedrick reminded him the sewer use fees is not part of the budget.  
There was discussion that the sewer use fees would be voted on by the City Council June 18, 2018 as part of the GU budget and there could be public comment. There was further discussion that the electric budget was not up for debate at this meeting.  
Mr. Dempsey said he feels the City has done nothing to combine and share services with the Town of Groton. He feels we are still creating new positions in the City even though we can't keep up with medical and pension costs. He noted increases in the Police pension, overall budget increases, that the City has not acted on the suggestion to combine dispatch and jail services with the TOG and that the 2017 CAFR was received by the City 3 days ago.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street respects that the sewer use fees are not up for discussion tonight. He said he supports the budget finding it to be fiscally responsible. He noted the services residents receive are second to none and at a reasonable rate. He urged others here tonight to vote in favor of the budget.

Jeff Nichols, 18 Chapman Street asked if this budget is passed and the sewer budget does not how does it impact this budget.

Mayor Hedrick said that this budget, when passed, will have no sewer funding in it.  
Mr. Nichols said if we are going to vote against the sewer budget we should vote against this budget.

Mayor Hedrick said the Council will vote on the budget but residents are welcome to come and speak. If people were told this vote tonight was about the budget that is incorrect. He said the sewer use fees were discussed at length and we have tried every possible way to get the word out publicly about the sewer use fees and letters were sent out.  
There was further discussion on the perceived lack of information.

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Jason Rusk, 85 Baker Avenue the decision to move the sewer fees out of the City budget to GU was done at previous meetings and voted on in March and April. He attended one of the meetings. The meeting in 2 weeks is not to put fees in the City budget but to approve the sewer GU budget.

Lian Obrey, 16/18 Spicer Avenue said once a budget is voted on it can't be changed and it is the responsibility of the residents to do their own research on issues and they can do that by going online or making phone calls. The information you get from a neighbor may not be accurate.

Jay Dempsey, 22 South Prospect Street said he doesn't think anyone in this room expected fees to increase by up to 100%.

There was discussion that there had been meetings and a public hearing that were well publicized and the fees were discussed at length.

Bryon Niemann, 76 Allen Street said he did attend a meeting when he got the letter and wasn't happy about it but he has also been attending the meetings where it was discussed or read up on them. He said most municipalities are charging these fees and the City is catching up. He said we as citizens need to stay informed about what is going on, if you want to know you need to look or ask.

Jay Dempsey, 30 South Prospect Street asked if an amended number for the budget could be moved.

Mayor Hedrick said it can't and read Article VI, Section 3 (b) from the City Charter as it applies to the approval of the budget.

City Clerk Patrick said they would need approximately 285 people to vote to change it.

Mayor Hedrick asked Jill Rusk, Carlton Smith, Ted Sargeant and Ron Gaudet to act as counters.

Mayor Hedrick called for a vote on the motion.

Motion carried

Yes	No
38	23

There were 9 people who did not vote or indicate they were abstaining.

Mayor Hedrick read Item 2 and asked for a motion from the floor.

**Item 2.** To approve the minutes of the following meetings:

City of Groton Annual Budget meeting minutes of June 5, 2017.

Juliette Parker, 520 F Shennecossett Road moved Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street seconded a motion to approve Item 2.

Mayor Hedrick asked if there was any discussion.

There being no discussion the motion carried with a majority.

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Mayor Hedrick read Item 3.

**Item 3.** To take any action on any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

There being no further action, Mayor Hedrick asked for a motion to adjourn.

**II. ADJOURNMENT**

Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street moved Gail Cueto, 98 Jupiter Point Road seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

**Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**