

# CITY OF GROTON PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
6:30 P.M.

Mayor Galbraith called the public hearing to order at 6:30 p.m.

## I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Marian Galbraith, Deputy Mayor Keith Hedrick, Councilors Andrew Ilvento, Jill Rusk, Conrad Heede and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

Excused: Councilor Lawrence Gerrish and Finance Director Ron Yuhas.  
Councilor Stephen Sheffield arrived at 6:31 p.m.

Mayor Galbraith read her budget message noting the budget increase of 3.9% due largely to personnel related costs. She said there will not be an increase in the mill rate. There is \$400,000.00 set aside in contingency for highway expenditures that was done before the discussion with the Town Council where a \$66,000.00 cut was accepted on the basis that all departments would be cut 5%. She said the Police budget was instead cut by a little over \$173,000.00 which would result in a decrease in 2 police officer positions and the Town department cuts were not accurate. She said the Council may decide to make some adjustments with the \$400,000.00.

Mayor Galbraith said there is \$175,000.00 in contingency for undesignated capital projects that will allow them to prioritize items from the CIP that have been held off for the past 2 years. She said they have been able to use grant in aid funds for some parks & recreation projects. She said there is also an effort to reserve funds for future vehicle purchases.

Mayor Galbraith said the undesignated fund balance will be \$400,000.00 leaving a healthy reserve of 19.6% as they move closer to the amount recommended for the general fund of 20-25%.

Clerk Patrick read the notice of Public Hearing that appeared in The Day April 10, 2017.

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jamal Beckford, 74 Pleasant Street said he was dismayed to hear about the cut to the police budget. He said there is an item on the Mayor & Council agenda to

purchase a new vehicle and thought in the interest of public safety if they could put those funds toward a position rather than a vehicle.

Mayor Galbraith said encumbered funds can't be used for payroll only for purchases. She said they would have to designate funds out of contingency for personnel. She said purchasing the vehicle this year might take pressure off next years budget.

Mayor Galbraith asked if anyone else wished to speak. There being no further comments she closed the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Rusk seconded a motion to adjourn.  
Motion carried.

**Mayor Galbraith adjourned the public hearing at 6:39 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**