

TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH
SPECIAL FINANCIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

December 1, 2015

A Special Financial Town Meeting was held within and for the Town of East Greenwich in the County of Kent and State of Rhode Island at the East Greenwich High School Auditorium on Tuesday, the first day of December, A.D. 2015 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening.

The following people served as checkers of the voting list:

Grazina Kulawas	Patricia Coughlin
Robert Vespia	Mary Moos
Rae Holland Long	Donald Long

Number of eligible voters and numbers voting:

Active:	10,064
Inactive:	139
Total:	11,082

Number of voters in attendance – 29

(Quorum needed for meeting – 250)

Town Clerk – Leigh A. Botello, CMC
Town Moderator – Arthur C. Barton, III
Stenographer – Carole Malaga, Merandi Court Reporting

The following persons represented the Town and Resource Persons:

Board of Canvassers:

Norrene D. McGeary
John Laliberty

Town Council:

Michael B. Isaacs, President
Suzanne M. Cienki, Vice President
Mark Schwager
William Stone

Resource Persons (non-resident indicated with a [*]):

Town: Thomas E. Coyle, III, Town Manager*
Leigh A. Botello, CMC, Town Clerk*
Joseph Duarte, Public Works Director*
Michael Pacillo, Superintendent*
Kristen Benoit, Finance Director*
Richard Denice, Town Sergeant
Wendy Schmidle, IT Director
Peter A. Clarkin, Town Solicitor*

The Town Moderator, Arthur C. Barton, III, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. The East Greenwich Police Color Guard and the East Greenwich Fire Department Color Guard presented the colors together with the Kentish Guards Fife and Drum Corp who played an introductory march. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was recited by the assembly and the National Anthem was played by the Kentish Guards Fife and Drum. The East Greenwich Police Color Guard and the East Greenwich Fire Department Color Guard posted the colors.

Mr. Barton gave some opening remarks and thanked all those in attendance. He waived the reading of the Warning for the 2015 Special Financial Town Meeting. He turned the floor over to Mr. Isaacs, President of the Town Council, to begin the presentation.

Michael B. Isaacs, Town Council President, thanked the Kentish Guards and the Police and Fire Color Guards for their participation. He introduced the members of the Town Council, Town Manager, Town Solicitor, Department Heads and Mike Pacillo, the Superintendent at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Using a PowerPoint presentation, President Isaacs explained that the purpose of the meeting was to authorize the issuance of \$6,000,000 in bonds for necessary repairs and upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant. He explained how the plant's discharges are regulated by DEM and have not met nitrogen level requirements in 2015. Attempts to meet the requirements produced minimal results. The consulting firm of Tighe and Bond was hired to analyze the plant and recommend necessary corrective actions. They identified several infrastructure improvements that must be made to ensure compliance. If improvements are not made, the Town will be non-compliant, water quality in the cove will degrade, RIDEM could issue violations and require the Town to make repairs at an accelerated rate in addition to daily fines of \$25,000. He further explained that authorization is required now to obtain the most favorable financing through the RI Infrastructure Bank. Bonds will be general obligation bonds paid for by sewer users. The timing of the sale of bonds was noted and that the debt service would not appear in the sewer budget until fiscal year 2019.

A short video was played which featured Mr. Pacillo at the plant explaining what improvements would be made.

Ian Catlow, an engineer with Tighe and Bond, gave a slideshow presentation explaining some of the technical details that led to the project. A timeline on the plant's performance history and its layout was shown. He gave specific examples and details of performance problems related to filters, clarifier, rotating biological contactors, and the influent screen. The recommended plan consisted of replacing the rotating biological contactors, repairing the secondary mixer, the wastewater control valve, the influent screen, the secondary clarifier and making changes to the recycle pump station piping for an estimated cost of \$5,140,000.

At approximately 7:00pm, the meeting was opened up to questions from the audience. Topics of discussion were: how is the water cleaned, future standards and requirements, lifetime of components, return on investment, roofing options, effects on the Cove, debt service payments, costs per household, calculation of fees, possible efficiencies and cost savings and renewable energy sources.

Ms. Botello confirmed the final count was 29. At 7:30pm, Mr. Barton declared that in the absence of a quorum, the warrant article passes. The meeting was adjourned.

Leigh A. Botello, CMC
Town Clerk

APPROVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL March 14, 2016