



TOWN OF GREENWICH

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Peter J. Tesei
First Selectman

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Thursday, December 22, 2016
10:00 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on December 8, 2016
3. **First Selectman's Updates – Peter J. Tesei**
4. **Old Business**
5. **New Business**
 - a. The appointment of officers of the Board of Education, pursuant to C.G.S. sec. 10-218.
 - b. Request to change the name of the Department of Social Services: Dr. Alan Barry.
6. **Appointments and Nominations**
7. **Executive Session**
 - a. Pending Litigation
8. **Adjourn**

Peter J. Tesei
First Selectman

This certificate received on file

On DEC 20 2016

At 12:40pm

Town Clerk



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Board of Social Services
Barbara Nolan, Chairman
Steve Gross, Vice-Chairman
Abbott Jones, Secretary
Alan Gunzburg
Jeffrey Medina
Natalie Queen
Winston Robinson

Department of Social Services Name Change Request

The Department of Social Services Board is requesting to change the name of the Department of Social Services to the Department of Human Services.

The reason for the request is that the Department has transitioned from functioning as a casework agency that assisted clients with attaining entitlements/benefits and financial assistance to a case management services setting with staff working in partnership with clients to support their efforts to become more self-sufficient. This is a significant shift from providing traditional social (welfare) services to one that works directly with clients and community agencies to implement programs that focus on developing and improving clients' skills set. The department's strategic planning involves education and employment opportunities for clients.

In considering this change of name, the Board felt that it implies more inclusivity and better reflects the work the department does for clients and the community. Also, board members felt that it would be better understood by the public and eliminate confusion with the State Department of Social Services.

There has also been a trend in neighboring communities to change the name of the Department of Social Services to the Department of Human Services.

History of Name Changes

1820 – Town Meeting voted that Selectmen were to be empowered to hire a house for the Town poor and all the Town poor were to be provided for and kept in one place.

1825 – Board of Relief was appointed.

1909 – In a special Town Meeting the Department of Charities was created that would provide for care of the poor. Commissioner of Charities appointed.

1933 – Department of Charities name changed to Department of Public Welfare and the Commissioner of Charities' name was changed to the Commissioner of Public Welfare.

1939 – Town Reorganization Act formed the Board of Public Welfare that appointed the Commissioner, eliminating the election of the Commissioner.

1968 – By special Act of the Representative Town Meeting the Department of Public Welfare name changed to Department of Social Services.

2016 - Department of Social Services is requesting a name change to Department of Human Services.

Department Mission Statement: "To enhance the quality of life of Greenwich residents through support in meeting basic human needs and promoting services that foster self-sufficiency."

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