Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Meeting
January 8, 2015
10:00 a.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:14 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
   a. Attendance:
      i. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei – Present
      ii. Selectman Drew Marzullo – Present

   The First Selectman requested a moment of silence at 10:15 a.m. in honor of
   Selectman David N. Theis, who passed away untimely on December 23, 2014.

2. Approval of Minutes
   a. Minutes of Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 12-17-2014 were
      reviewed and approved as presented without objection.

3. First Selectman’s Update
   a. There will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on January 22,
      2015 at 7:30 p.m. regarding Town Charter revision. The presentation will be
      made by the Town’s Law Department.
   b. There will be a public hearing regarding the 2015-2016 Capital Improvement
      Plan on January 26, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Cone Conference Room.

4. Old Business

   There were no items of Old Business before the Board of Selectmen.

5. New Business
   a. Reflections on the life of Selectman David N. Theis
      i. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei
         1. David Noble Theis was a Greenwich native, a product of the
            Greenwich Public School system, and a proud resident of Cos Cob.
            Dave was a genuinely good and decent man who cared deeply
            about the welfare of others. He was passionately patriotic and
            proud of his Country, State and the Town of Greenwich he served
            so faithfully. Dave left a lasting contribution to this community
            through his involvement with numerous organizations supporting
            youth development and athletics, our first responders, our military,
            and a host of other charitable causes. Over the past five years Dave
            was best known in our Town as a “Selectman” or more
            appropriately emphasized for Dave – a “select” man. Select defined
            as being choice, special, prime, excellent, rare, superior, first-class,
            first-rate, top-notch. We know Dave fit the definition to a tee and I
            am blessed to have the privilege of serving alongside him on this
            Board. Dave was more than just an esteemed colleague, he was a
            dear friend, someone to lend a willing ear, someone for whom I
could depend on always to be loyal, genuine and forthcoming. Dave would often say to me, “don’t worry, I’ve got your back.” This was more than just a trite statement it was what he did. Dave was part of my family; my kids gravitated toward him because he treated them as he would treat any human being: with a true interest in them and what they were doing and their development. It is no wonder that when election time came around and I would be driving in the car and they would see our joint campaign signs, and I asked them; so if you could vote who would you vote for? With enthusiasm from the back seat roars of “Dave Theis” and I say great and who else and again a resounding reply “Dave Theis.” Dave was a humble man, devoted to family, friends, community and our Country. Dave had a frequent comment that he shared with me: “nobody does it better.” In closing, I would like to borrow these words from my dear friend Dave in saying that “nobody did it better” than you. I will always remember you and the special relationship we shared in our service to our beloved Town. God Bless you and rest in peace.

ii. Selectman Drew Marzullo

1. Dave was a true gentleman and kind. He was humble and a patriot. And Dave was funny. To say Dave left this world too soon, without warning is an understatement. It is never easy loosing someone you love. Especially when that person like Dave was still very much full of life, energy and possessed a zeal that was palpable. Dave's reported death came with disbelief and is still very shocking. It has been the honor of a lifetime serving alongside Selectman Dave Theis. I am lucky to have been able to call him my friend. I am proud of our Board and proud of its accomplishments and I am very proud for three terms those accomplishments were achieved with a mutual respect and admiration we had for one another. A little more than two weeks ago Greenwich lost one of the good guys. To know Dave was to like him. And while Dave's lasting impact is still very much unknown, I do hope he knew how many people loved him and how many lives he positively touched and affected. Yes, his legacy will of course be celebrated in our insulated world of local politics, but also embraced and celebrated well beyond the walls of Greenwich Town Hall. As open as I am about my personal life I have not talked much publicly about Reynold and I adopting our beautiful son Richard. Dave always asked about Richard and inquired frequently about updates on the adoption process which was not easy at times and very emotional and taxing. Dave’s support was unwavering. His encouragement helped. His big smile soothed. And I want to once again say thank you. There are so many fond memories of Dave and so many stories to tell about an amazing man and the life he lived. I look forward to doing what I can, making sure in my own little way that Dave's voice somehow in various forms continues to be heard. To Kerin, Ginny and Dave's family the Town mourns with you. Your strength has been remarkable and our hearts weep alongside of yours. I will end my remarks with yet another remembrance. I met Dave six years ago at the St. Catherine’s feast. We did not know each other. We
only knew that our political parties nominated us to represent the Republican and Democratic side as Selectman. We would be opponents running against each other. Dave came up to me introduced himself and told me he knew my late father and what a great man he was. And then he said to me let's have some fun. No matter what happens let's have fun. From the very day Dave and I got elected in 2009 until our very last Board meeting in December, Peter, Dave, and I had some fun. We might not have always gotten it right but it was not without trying. We might not have always agreed but not once did we make it personal. Not once. I am a better Selectman because of Dave Theis and I will miss you greatly my friend.

iii. Governor Malloy and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman

1. We are saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Greenwich Selectman David Theis. Throughout his life, David, a third generation Greenwich resident, gave back to the community of Greenwich through volunteerism and service to the town. He loved his town, he loved his state and his country and always gave back in service to his community. He served for over 20 years on the Board of the YMCA of Greenwich and was a leader on the board of the Greenwich Old Timers Association, where he helped provide scholarships to local student athletes. He was elected to the Board of Selectmen in 2009, where he worked to improve the lives of families in Greenwich, specifically honoring returning veterans. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends during this difficult time.”

iv. Congressman Jim Himes

1. Like so many of my fellow citizens of Greenwich, I was profoundly saddened by the tragic and untimely passing of my friend, our friend, David Theis. David was deeply committed to his community, he was willing to volunteer and to lead, and he did all of this with a kindness and good humor that is all too rare today. David did everything he did focusing on people—not their political party, not their neighborhood, not their beliefs. He saw and sought the fundamental good in everyone, and would do all he could to help anyone and everyone. David has left a legacy and an example to which all of us should aspire.

v. Former First Selectman Tom Ragland

1. The Town of Greenwich was blessed to have the dedicated service of Dave for almost three terms. His steady hand and open heart was a gift to all, as he gave of himself to help and assist the constituents of the Town and the many Non Profits for which he loved and served. Dave was a true patriot and brought honor, integrity and leadership to all of the Organizations of which he was a member. He had the distinct ability of being able to work with all people in the resolution of complex problems. Few cared more about his country, Town or community than Dave. All will sorely miss this fine and wonderful man. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Kerrin, Ginny, Nancy, and all who loved and adored Dave.

vi. Former Selectman Peter Crumble

vii. Former First Selectman Jim Lash
viii. Former Selectman Lin Lavery
ix. Former First Selectman John Margenot
x. Former Selectman Ned Lamont
xi. Former Selectman Penny Monahan
xii. Former Selectman Frank Mazza
xiii. Ginny Theis
xiv. John Raben
xv. Randall Hoffman
xvi. Bob Peterson
xvii. Christine Edwards
xviii. Nick Edwards
xix. Jim Boutelle
xx. Carmella Budkins
xxi. Ruby Durant
xxii. Kerrin Coyle

A memorial service will be held in honor of Selectman David N. Theis at Christ Church on January 10, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

6. **Appointments and Nominations**

There were no appointments or nominations before the Board of Selectmen.

7. **Executive Session**

There were no items of Executive Session before the Board of Selectmen.

Drew Marzullo motioned to adjourn at 11:10 a.m. Peter Tesei seconded. The motion passed 2-o-0.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Friday, January 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Peter J. Tesei  
First Selectman

Prepared by Michael Rosen  
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman