

Town of Greenwich

Regular Meeting Board of Selectmen

January 10, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Cone Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 A.M.

a. Attendance:

- a. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei - Present
- b. Selectman John Toner - Present
- c. Selectman Sandy Litvack – Present

Following the Pledge, Mr. Tesei greeted and welcomed attendees commenting that it was a Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen who reserve the right to call on people to ask questions and make comments.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. The draft of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting held on December 20, 2018 will be voted upon at the Jan. 24, 2019 meeting.

3. First Selectman's Updates

Mr. Tesei noted that this was the first meeting of 2019 and that today's meeting will be continued discussion on the re-adoption of the Senior Tax Relief Ordinance.

He thanked retiring legislators – state Sen. Scott Frantz for his 10 years of service and state Rep. Mike Bocchino for his efforts to obtain funding for a new New Lebanon School. He also congratulated the new Governor, former Selectman and BET member Ned Lamont.

He said that on Thursday, Jan. 3, the Town participated in the annual credit ratings calls with S & P and Moody's. The Town is selling \$100 million in bonds - \$60 million in short-term notes and \$40 million in bond anticipation notes. The Town once again received AAA ratings from both agencies.

On Monday, Jan. 7, Mr. Tesei participated in the Fairfield 5 breakfast meeting with the legislative delegation representing each of our municipalities – Greenwich, Stamford, Norwalk, Westport and Fairfield. We discussed our priorities going forward with a new state administration. The Fairfield 5 is a consortium of the towns focusing on issues such as transportation, marketing the positive of Fairfield County and focusing on growth.

Also on Monday, Mr. Tesei said he had the pleasure of promoting two of Greenwich's bravest – Lt. Shawn Morris to Deputy Chief and Firefighter George Lattanzi to Lieutenant. He also thanked Deputy Chief Tom Nixon for his 31 years of dedicated service to the Town and wished him well in his retirement.

Mr. Tesei also highlighted upcoming events including the annual YWCA program celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16. This year's program is focusing on Fighting Modern Day Slavery. And On Feb. 2, the Greenwich Diversity Planning Committee in partnership with the First Selectman's Youth Commission will host a Greenwich Student Diversity Leadership Conference. The topic is *Bridging Conversations and Building Campus Communities*. It is a collaborative effort to bring together students from both the private and public sectors. Mr. Tesei also mentioned that on Jan. 24, in addition to the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen, he will be presenting the 2019-2020 budget to the Board of Estimate and Taxation. He discussed this year's process to develop the Capital Improvement Projects budget and said the Board of Education is to present a \$26 million capital budget.

4. Old Business

- a. Re-adopt the Senior Tax Relief Ordinance – the Commission on Aging.

The overall goal is to help seniors stay in their homes and upon the request of a resident to consider providing similar relief for the disabled.

Tax Assessor Lauren Elliott said the 2018 Grand List will total about \$33 billion, with \$31 billion in real property. She said state statutes allow for exemptions for the blind, disabled and veterans, regardless of financial need and that based upon financial need, the state offers tax relief which also is based upon age. In 2017, there were 274 seniors participating in the state tax relief program and 516 (including the 274 in the state program) seniors in the Town tax relief program.

Selectman Litvack led discussion on increasing the income limits to help more seniors. Those limits are set by the BET, according to Kip Burgweger of the Commission on Aging.

It was agreed that the Commission on Aging would present a revised ordinance to include disabled residents receiving Social Security disability benefits and to gather more data on how many more residents may be eligible if income limits are increased.

5. New Business

- a. Request to settle Curtis v. Town of Greenwich – Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin.

Upon a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the settlement was approved unanimously.

- b. Request to settle Zhao/Zhang v. Town of Greenwich – Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin.

Upon a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the settlement was approved unanimously.

- c. Request to settle Bai/Yum v. Town of Greenwich – Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin.

Upon a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the settlement was approved unanimously.

- d. Request to settle Cvecich v. Town of Greenwich – Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin.

Upon a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the settlement was approved unanimously.

6. Appointments and Nominations.

- a. There were none.

7. Executive session

- a. Executive session to discuss pending litigation and settlement of claims, and to interview candidates for boards and commissions.

Mr. Litvack made a motion to enter Executive Session at 11:15 a.m. Upon a second by Mr. Litvack, the motion was approved unanimously.

In attendance were Town Attorney Wayne Fox, Assistant Town Attorneys Eugene McLaughlin and Abby Wadler, Recording Secretary Barbara Heins, and board and commission candidate Aris Crist.

Mr. Litvack made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Toner to exit the Executive Session at 12:21 p.m.

8. Adjournment

At 12:22 p.m., Mr. Litvack made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was approved unanimously.

The next Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary