

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen Meeting

January 23, 2023

1 p.m.

Cone Room and via Zoom webinar

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

a. Attendance

- a. First Selectman Fred Camillo - present
- b. Selectwoman Lauren Rabin – present
- c. Selectperson Janet Stone McGuigan – present

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular meeting of January 13, 2023

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

- b. Special meeting of January 13, 2023

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

- c. Second special meeting of January 13, 2023

Upon a motion by Ms. Rabin and a second by Ms. Stone McGuigan, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

First Selectman Camillo began by discussing the controversy over the vote taken at the Jan. 17 RTM meeting to authorize the town to accept grant money for the Registrar of Voters Department. Camillo said he decided not to sign the grant authorization yet after speaking to the town's legal department. He said they were all on the same page that if there is a procedural mechanism for someone on the RTM to appeal the decision on the vote that it would "short circuit" things if he signed the grant before any potential appeal was heard and considered by the RTM, which he felt would create more of an issue. He

said he would “stand pat” until the matter was resolved before the RTM. Camillo welcomed Beth Evans as the town’s new director of environmental affairs and said she was terrific and eager to get going including having visits in the town’s neighborhoods to discuss environmental issues with the residents. He said she was just waiting for invitations from the neighborhood groups so anyone who wanted to have her come speak could reach out to her office. At this point, Camillo was informed by Jenny Larkin, who was managing the Zoom of the meeting, that his microphone had not been on and the Zoom had not recorded his comments. He then made sure his microphone was on and repeated what he said about the RTM meeting and Evans beginning work while also noting for the record that the minutes for the regular and two special meetings of Jan. 13 were passed. Camillo then said he would be giving his 2023-24 municipal budget presentation on Jan. 24 and he hoped people would tune in. He reported that on Jan. 17 he swore in a new special police officer, Sean Hughes, who had recently retired from the Greenwich Police Department. Camillo said he was happy that Hughes would still be working in town. Camillo reported that on Jan. 18 he visited the American Legion in Glenville and said there would be a ribbon cutting for the new flag pole likely in April and thanked the Department of Public Works and Superintendent of Building Construction and Maintenance Luigi Romano for doing it. During that meeting with the Legion, Camillo said he told them it was his intent to have money in the new budget to fix the building up but it was going to take a public/private partnership to do it because the budget was “being impacted by a lot of big projects.” He said they town was actively looking at ways and talking to people who could help on the project by raising funds to fix the building up. Camillo said he had been visiting lots of schools in town and reading to kids there, which would be going on for the next few weeks. He said it was a lot of fun and then reported on a tour of Old Greenwich School from the building committee and the school principal and talked about the challenges of remodeling an old building like it to keep its beauty while getting it up to code. Camillo praised the building committee for doing “a fine job” and said he looked forward to the project going forward. Camillo said he was continuing to take meetings about the sale of the Rockefeller property in town and there had been lots more meetings than he had thought there would be. Camillo said the family was aware the town wanted to try and keep as much of the land as possible in its natural state and to see if there was any way that some town needs could be addressed there like with a town hockey rink or a multi-purpose field. He said the town would continue to be an active participant in the process and “hopefully something really good” would be coming out of it in the next few months. Camillo said there had been a public meeting about Brothers Brook in central Greenwich and thanked DPW for holding it. He acknowledged the frustration in town because of flooding and said DPW was “pretty honest” about what it could do and what people can do to protect their own properties. Camillo pledged more was to come on that. Camillo said on Jan. 30 local historian Missy Wolfe would give a presentation on colonial Greenwich at Town Hall so people can learn more about Greenwich. Camillo also promoted the Jan. 30 the Old Greenwich Association annual meeting at the Sound Beach Avenue firehouse where Selectperson

Stone McGuigan was to speak and he was to present an award. Camillo ended his updates by saying the town would be swearing in two new firefighters on Feb. 6.

4. Selectwomen's Updates

Selectwoman Rabin reported on her work with the Western Connecticut Council of Governments at their meeting last week. She said one of the things the organization does is vote on funding for local transportation capital projects. Rabin said because the RTM had rejected the project for improvements at Greenwich Avenue's intersections with Arch and Havemeyer the grant money that would have been given to Greenwich instead went back into the pool and will be reinvested in other communities. Rabin reported on the Central Middle School Building Committee and said they were waiting on responses from the request for proposal to find a construction manager at risk. Rabin said she was excited to see Camillo and the Board of Education's budget presentations on Jan. 24 and noted that on Jan. 31 the Board of Estimate and Taxation's Budget Committee would be meeting with the Board of Education on capital and operating budgets. Rabin said she was reengaging as liaison to the Commission on Aging and spoke about the gift of money that was given for the Senior Center for capital improvements in its building. She said she was given a tour and spoke with Luigi Romano about how to best put the money to use for "what our seniors deserve and expect."

Camillo spoke after Rabin's update to follow up on her comment about the grant money going to other communities. He said that the improvements were rejected by the RTM due to misinformation from people in town and now town money will have to be used in the budget over the next 12 to 24 months for what could have been paid for by the grant. He said "there is always consequences for people's actions" and wanted to make sure people knew that when grants come before the town that have been thoroughly vetted and "you throw a lot of mud" at them sometimes it will succeed but "it's going to come back and cost the town." He said he would continue to work to improve the town and make it safer despite the misinformation.

Selectperson Stone McGuigan, wished everyone a happy Lunar New Year, which is the Year of the Rabbit and is supposed to usher in peace and prosperity, something she said would be nice before the budget presentation. Stone McGuigan said she'd had the pleasure of meeting Beth Evans and called her "fantastic" She added she was thrilled to be the co-chair of the town's Sustainability Committee. She said that on Jan. 24 she would not be attending the Old Greenwich School Building Committee like she usually did because she would be going to Hartford with Sustainability Committee members for the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters Environmental Summit. She reported at the last committee meeting, the members met with the town's state representatives to discuss proposals that would be introduced in the legislative session that just began. She said the committee was "encouraged" by what it had heard. Stone McGuigan also reported that the League of Women Voters of Greenwich would hold a presentation on Feb. 7 about Connecticut's Plan for Economic Growth.

5. Old Business

- a. Discussion of the Greenwich Fire Department's plan review fee schedule.

Fire Chief Joseph McHugh, Fire Marshal Chris Prattico and Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Ahmad all appeared and told the Board of Selectmen they would need more time to finalize their proposal. Ahmad said some issues still had to be "ironed out" and they would come back to the Board of Selectmen. She expected that it would happen within the next month.

6. New business

No new business was heard.

7. Public comment

David Wold addressed the Board of Selectmen to follow up on a request he made in June 2022 to get a historic plaque on Byram School. He said the town is listed as owner of the building, which is already registered as a historic building, so it has to apply to get the plaque. Camillo asked Wold if he had reached out to the Greenwich Historical Society and the Historic District Commission. Wold said he talked to the commission and they told him how the application should be made. Camillo said he would follow up to get more information and would have more information at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Wold also inquired about money in the budget for wreaths for Memorial Day and Camillo said it would be in. Following up on Camillo's earlier comments about a public/private partnership for the American Legion building, Wold asked about whether money would be included in the budget for roof repairs at the Byram Veterans Association building. Camillo said something was being proposed for the American Legion but he was "not hopeful" it would be approved by the BET and Representative Town Meeting. Wold said the Byram veterans were facing \$40,000 to \$50,000 in renovation costs for their building. Camillo suggested there might be grants available to help with that.

8. Appointments/Nominations

No appointments or nominations were made.

9. Adjournment

At 1:35 p.m., Selectwoman Rabin made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Selectperson Stone McGuigan, the motion was approved unanimously.