

Town of Greenwich

Regular Meeting Board of Selectmen

January 24, 2019

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:08 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. Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting on Jan. 10, 2019. Following a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

Mr. Tesei discussed his participation in the Jan. 15 Fairfield 5 panel discussion with the legislative delegations representing each of the five municipalities.

On Jan. 16, there were continuing discussions with the subcommittee of the RTM Appointments Committee, SNAC, and the OFS as we streamline the nominating and appointments process for boards and commissions. This process began back in 2016 and we anticipate finalizing the process improvement by year's end.

Also on Jan. 16, he participated in the YWCA annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day program. This year the topic of discussion focused on human trafficking and the businesses that are typically involved in trafficking – nail salons, illicit massage parlors, and the food service and construction industries.

On Jan. 22, he met with DPW and representatives of the Children's Day School, Hill House, and St. Catherine of Siena to develop a resolution to address pedestrian/traffic concerns on Riverside Avenue. This will involve realignment of the crosswalks and installation of signs.

On Jan. 23, Mr. Tesei hosted more than 60 third-graders from Old Greenwich School. The students also received tours of the Town Clerk's Office records vaults and the Health Department laboratory operations.

Upcoming events highlighted:

The inaugural Winter Sale Days began Jan. 25 and continue through the weekend. There are more than 100 businesses, galleries and restaurants throughout Town that are participating. This is an effort led by Economic Advisory Committee member Tammi Ketler.

Also on Jan. 25, is the YWCA's Women who Inspire awards luncheon. Congratulations to the honorees: Stephanie Cowie, Janice Trebbi Richards, Stephanie Schnabel and Katherine Vadasdi; two high school students: Isabel Allard and Sydney Nobel and the corporate honoree: Stamford Health.

Mr. Tesei also spoke about the Jan. 30 event involving a local resident who booked the Town Hall Meeting Room for a town meeting and explained that he thought the event would put the spotlight on divergent points of view. Mr. Litvack said that given the expressed views of the organizer, he disagreed with Mr. Tesei's decision to allow the event in Town Hall.

On Jan. 31, Mr. Tesei said he will have the honor of swearing in four new fire department recruits at 10 a.m. in the Public Safety Complex.

Also on Jan. 31, there will be a discussion of the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center project at the annual meeting of the Riverside Association. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Eastern Greenwich Civic Center.

Mr. Tesei said that on Feb. 1 at 3:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, he will announce his intentions on whether he will seek re-election.

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.

Lori Contadino, Patricia Burns and Kip Burgweger of the Commission on Aging, Tax Assessor Lauren Elliott, Tax Collector Howard Richman and Chair of the People with the Disabilities Committee Alan Gunzberg spoke in support of the proposal.

Using language of Connecticut state law, the proposed local senior tax relief ordinance will also cover permanently disabled residents. The Commission on Aging agreed to continue its research on the impact of expanding the income limits so that future adjustments to the ordinance can be proposed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Litvack, the board unanimously approved readopting the Senior Tax Relief Ordinance with a June 30, 2029 expiration.

5. New Business

- a.** Reschedule Feb. 14, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Litvack, the Board unanimously approved canceling the Feb. 14 meeting and holding a special meeting to conduct interviews of candidates for boards and commissions at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 31. (Room to be determined.)

Upon a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board unanimously approved canceling the March 14 meeting and holding a special meeting on March 4 at 10 a.m. (Room to be determined.)

- b.** Request to settle Denholm 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.** Adoption of a local tax deferral ordinance for eligible Federal employees impacted by Federal government shutdown.

Tax Collector Howard Richman explained that the local ordinance would mirror a state law enacted to provide a tax deferral for federal employees affected by the Federal government shutdown. Those employees would be eligible to delay payment of property taxes for up to 60 days after the shutdown ends and would not be subject to interest payments on the deferred taxes.

Both Mr. Tesei and Mr. Litvack said there would be minimal impact on Town finances and that there should be no opposition to the deferral which also must be approved by the Representative Town Meeting.

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

6. Appointments and Nominations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Litvack that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board unanimously renominated Aris Crist to the Historic District Commission for a term beginning upon appointment and expiring 10/31/23.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei that was seconded by Mr. Litvack, the Board unanimously nominated Thomas Petrone as a regular member of the Board of Human Services for a term beginning 04/01/19 and expiring 6/30/19.

7. Executive session

- a.** Executive session to discuss pending litigation and settlement of claims.

Mr. Toner made a motion to enter Executive Session at 11:04 a.m. Upon a second by Mr. Litvack, the motion was approved unanimously.

In attendance were Town Attorney Wayne Fox and Recording Secretary Barbara Heins.

Mr. Tesei made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Toner to exit the Executive Session at 11:37 a.m.

b. Executive session to discuss pending litigation and settlement of claims.

Mr. Litvack made a motion to enter Executive Session at 11:46 a.m. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was approved unanimously.

In attendance were Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin and Recording Secretary Barbara Heins.

Mr. Litvack made a motion to exit the Executive Session at 12:19 p.m. Upon a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was approved unanimously.

8. Adjournment

At 12:19 p.m., Mr. Toner made a motion to adjourn. Upon a second by Mr. Litvack, the motion was approved unanimously.

The next Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. in room to be determined.

Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman

Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary