

# Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen  
Meeting February 10, 2017  
10:30 A.M.  
Town Hall Meeting Room

## APPROVED MINUTES

### 1. The meeting opened at 10:50 A.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

- a. Attendance:
  - I. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei - Present
  - II. Selectman John Toner - Present
  - III. Selectman Drew Marzullo – Present

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

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on January 26, 2017, as amended, were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. Mr. Tesei recapped the Feb. 9 snowstorm which dropped at least 12 inches of snow in Town. During and after the storm, there were 60 Highway crews who used 47 pieces of equipment in addition to 20 pieces of equipment from the Parks Department that supported maintenance of the school facilities. He also thanked residents who abided by the Town-wide snow emergency regulations. He added that the Board of Selectmen would be voting later in the meeting to lift the snow emergency.
- b. Mr. Tesei reported that he presented his proposed 2017-2018 budget to the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) Budget Committee on Jan. 30 and that he and staff continue the budget review process with the Committee. The budget is well below the targeted guidelines set by the BET and the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) Budget Overview Committee (BOC), with a projected 1.79% increase in the mill rate, even though there are continuing fluctuations with the state budget. Mr. Tesei said that local officials clearly are not pleased with Gov. Malloy's decision to share pension costs with municipalities. He said that if local governments were going to shoulder the burden of the costs, they need to be able to negotiate the terms of pension programs. Mr. Tesei added that the shifting of the cost does nothing to cover the underlying problem which is mismanagement and underfunding of the state pension fund. He invited the Governor to come to the Town of Greenwich to meet with residents to explain his plans.

- c. On Feb. 3, Mr. Tesei met with residents of the Porchuck/North Porchuck roads neighborhood. He said that he is continuing to work with police and the Department of Public Works to find a solution to their traffic concerns. The Board of Selectmen is the local Traffic Control Authority. While potential solutions that could include improved signage along roads to alert drivers to hazards, residents must be mindful that the Selectmen must follow state and federal regulations for installation of any traffic control device. The board also must adhere to those regulations regarding reduction of speed. The problem is exacerbated by GIS directions to Westchester Airport.
- d. Mr. Tesei reminded the public that the YWCA BRAVA Awards luncheon is scheduled for today and that 11 women who live and/or work in Town are being honored for their extraordinary contributions to the Town.
- e. Before moving on to Old Business, Mr. Tesei stated that the Board has received confirmation that the Snow Emergency can be lifted. And that he would need a motion to place the item on the meeting agenda under New Business.

#### **4. Old Business**

a. Conservation Director Denise Savageau gave an update on the drought situation and water conservation efforts in Town. She said that despite recent good amounts of rainfall, the region remains in a drought. She said that even though recent rains were above the 30- and 90-day averages, the Town is still more than 11 inches below normal and those rains have not provided the necessary recharge of ground water. While reservoirs are expected to hit the 100% level by May, there is still concern about groundwater recharge. Ms. Savageau also said that Stamford reservoirs are not expected to be fill during that same time frame. All of the estimates are based on the current winter water usage of 8 MGD vs. 10-12 MGD. She said that there will not be any lifting of water use bans because the state Department of Public Health water emergency remains in effect and 10 MGD is still being transferred via overland pipe from the Bridgeport water system. She also said that long-term planning will consider increasing those transfers to maintain reservoir supplies. The area water task force on which she and First Selectman Tesei represent Greenwich is focusing on long-term, permanent solutions of year-round water conservation rather than waiting until September or October when water supplies have dwindled. A plan is expected by the end of February and will including public education and best management practices. Selectman Toner said that he hoped public education efforts included the backcountry where wells are prevalent. Ms. Savageau said it would, especially because the wells are pumping out more water than is being replenished. Mr. Tesei added that at the task force meetings, Stamford Mayor David Martin was envious that Greenwich has a Conservation Director.

#### **5. New Business**

- a. On a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the board voted 3-0-0 to place the lifting of the Snow Emergency on the agenda.
- b. Mr. Tesei made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, to lift the Snow emergency at noon February 9. The vote was 3-0-0.

## **6. Appointments and Nominations**

Mr. Tesei said that he received a letter from Harbor Management Commission member Peter Quigley who was tendering his resignation from the Commission upon the completion of his term. He described the letter as fraught with distortion – the equivalent of fake news, which Mr. Tesei said starts locally with Hearst Media.

Mr. Tesei nominated Bernard Armstrong to move up from an alternate member of the Harbor Management Commission to a full member, for a term expiring 3/31/2020. The nomination was approved 3-0-0.

Mr. Tesei nominated Joseph ‘Casey’ McKee as an alternate member of the Harbor Management Commission, for a term expiring 3/31/2020. The nomination was approved 3-0-0.

The Board determined that it still has two Commission on Aging vacancies; one each on Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, the Planning & Zoning Commission, Historic District Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, the Social Services Commission, as well as vacancies on the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich.

## **7. Executive Session**

Mr. Toner motioned to enter into executive session at 11:37 A.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: Assistant Town Attorney John Wetmore, attorney William Kupnise Jr. and Community Development Block Grant director Princess Erfe to discuss pending litigation.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 12:02 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.


There was discussion of pending litigation in the Executive Session and no action was taken following that session.

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 12:04 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, March 9 12, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

  
Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman

  
Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,  
Recording Secretary