

# Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting March 10, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

## APPROVED MINUTES

### **1. The meeting opened at 10:07 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

The First Selectman 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 propose questions and make comments.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 2-10-2017 were moved for approval as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

### **3. First Selectman's Update**

- a. Mr. Tesei said that he and the other Selectmen have received numerous communications from residents regarding the recent increase of religious intolerance incidents both nationally and regionally. He said that he and the Board support efforts with residents to stand united for tolerance of religious and social values. He then read a joint statement from the Board regarding religious intolerance.
- b. Mr. Tesei said he attended the Feb. 27 installation of new officers of the American Legion Post 29 in Glenville.
- c. A letter from the Greenwich Credit Union to the Department of Public Works was read aloud. It detailed and thanked crews for the work done to spruce up the neighborhood where the credit union is located on Old Post Road #3.
- d. Regarding the ongoing water emergency situation, Mr. Tesei discussed attending two meetings – in Stamford and in Darien - regarding how towns can reduce municipal water consumption while reservoirs and supply systems continue to operate at below-normal levels. Mr. Tesei explained that there is a lack of uniformity throughout Connecticut on what shall trigger water conservation measures. He said that Greenwich is fortunate to have such regulations and that conservation efforts by residents are working. He urged residents to continue to strive for a 20% overall reduction in water consumption. These conservation efforts also apply to residents who rely upon private wells. Further details and updates on the water situation will be given later in this meeting by Conservation Director Denise Savageau and Health Director Caroline Baisley.
- e. Selectmen Drew Marzullo and John Toner reported they attended the Feb. 23 infrastructure roundtable discussion hosted by U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy here in Town Hall was well-attended by residents, local officials and town department heads. Mr. Marzullo said that the Senator promised to advocate for funding of

Connecticut highway infrastructure projects. He said that there is a total of \$1 trillion available and with thousands of projects to be submitted by each of the 50 states, competition for funding will be difficult.

- f. Mr. Tesei said the New Lebanon School project was the subject of meetings and a hearing held March 1 in Hartford by the Legislature's Education Committee. He said he has received dozens of emails from residents with a vast majority supporting the new school building project.

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

##### **Report/Recommendation of the Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Advisory Committee:**

Mr. Tesei thanked Committee Chair Joan Caldwell and the committee members for their continued dedicated time and collegiality during the past several months as they reviewed options for possible changes to the Board of Education election process. He said that the committee looked beyond the original proposal during its consideration; that the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on March 15 to take comments on the proposal(s) and a Special Meeting on March 16 to possibly vote on same. The Representative Town Meeting (RTM) will have the final say in terms of any changes that could be made to the process, Mr. Tesei said.

Mr. Marzullo also thanked the five-member committee for its work and expressed concern that the Board of Selectmen would review 19 different options that were developed by the Committee over a six-month period and is expected to vote the following day on an option. He suggested that the Selectmen consider delaying its vote. Mr. Tesei said he would seek the advice of counsel, Town Attorney John Wayne Fox.

The Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee Secretary Brian Peldunas presented the Committee's majority report/recommendation, explaining it is the result of work that identified goals, receiving input and information from various resources in Town. (The Committee's majority report is attached.)

Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee member Bill Finger presented his minority opinion report on options, which in summary was that no change be made to the current process. (Mr. Finger's report is attached.)

##### **b. Update/review of the Town-wide water use restrictions:**

Conservation Director Denise Savageau made a PowerPoint presentation on the current water/reservoir situation. Town reservoirs are at about 80% capacity, less than the 88-90% capacity typical for this time of year. Ms. Savageau explained that even if reservoir levels continue to increase, there is a need to control and reduce water demand by residents who are serviced not only by Aquarion but also by private wells. She also explained that the trigger levels for implementing water conservation efforts are 20 years old and need to be reviewed and updated. Given the new reservoir levels and the state continuing the water emergency, the Selectmen need to amend the water irrigation restrictions for residents.

On a motion by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board of Selectmen voted 3-0 to amend water irrigation restrictions so that hand-held water devices, power washing, and the washing of cars

and boats are allowed.

## **5. New Business**

- a. Sebastian Dostmann of Sebass Events presented a request seeking Board of Selectmen approval to close a portion of Greenwich Avenue – from Amogerone Crossway to Lewis Street on four (4) Sunday mornings for Greenwich Cars & Coffee, an informal gathering of car owners/aficionados to display and view collectible automobiles. The dates are April 30, June 18, August 6 and October 15, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Mr. Tesei made a motion to approve the closures, subject to review/approvals by the Police and Parks and Recreation departments. Following a second by Mr. Marzullo, the motion was unanimously approved.

## **6. Appointments and Nominations**

Mr. Tesei said thanked Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich member George Yankowich who was stepping down after nearly 12 years of service.

Mr. Toner said there were two (2) open positions on the Commission on Aging.

Mr. Toner nominated Ann Marie Hynes, to a three-year term replacing Kate Brennan, expiring March 31, 2020. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Mr. Toner nominated Dr. Ellen Wolfson to a three-year term on the Commission on Aging, expiring March 31, 2020. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Mr. Toner renominated Robert Sisca to a three-year term to the Board of Ethics, expiring March 31, 2020. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Mr. Tesei nominated Analisa Fernandez to a three-year term to the Board of Social Services, expiring March 31, 2020. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

In motions made by Mr. Marzullo and seconded by Mr. Toner, the following members were unanimously reappointed to the Selectmen's Nominations Advisory Committee, with terms expiring June 30, 2020: Emily Sternberg, Richard Shapiro and Rita Baker.

## 7. Executive Session

Mr. Toner made a motion to enter into executive session at 12:21 A.M. The Board voted 3-0 in favor, following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Present in Executive Session were: Community Development Grants Director Princess Erfe; attorney William Kupinse; Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Barbara Heins.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 1:01 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

- a. Resolution to approve a settlement between the Higbie, et al v. Greenwich Housing Authority – Disposition of Subordinate Loan Proceeds from Hollow Wood Project.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

- b. Full and Final Settlement of residential tax appeal Docket # FST CV 16-6029019S – Parcel No. 06-3599/S vs. Town of Greenwich for a credit of approximately \$11,181 against future tax payments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

- c. Full and Final Settlement of Commercial Tax Appeal Docket # HHB CV 11-6022816 – Parcel No. 01-1722/S and Parcel No. 01-1723/S vs. Town of Greenwich for a credit of approximately \$6,808 against future tax payments.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the settlement.

- d. Following motions made by Mr. Toner that were seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board unanimously approved settlement of the following Worker's Compensation Claims:

# 0079498 and 0087454 for \$150,000.

# 0103138 for \$65,000 of which the Town is responsible for \$44,300.

# 0114429 for \$21,500.

#0126529 for \$5,682.02.

## 8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 1:18 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing to receive comments on the Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee at 6 p.m. March 15.

The next Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is a special session scheduled on Thursday, March 16 at 3:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for March 23, 2017.



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Peter J. Tesei First Selectman



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Prepared by Barbara A. Heins  
Recording Secretary