

# Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting April 6, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

## APPROVED MINUTES

### 1. The meeting opened at 10:14 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 and said he reserved the right to call on people to propose questions and make comments.

Mr. Tesei then read a statement honoring the accomplishments and memories of two Greenwich community volunteers – Joan Melber Warburg and Representative Town Meeting Moderator Pro Tempore Joan Caldwell, both of whom passed away during the past week. (The statement is attached below.)

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Mr. Toner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Marzullo, to add to the agenda, approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 3-10-2017. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on 3-10-2017 were moved for approval as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Minutes of the Board of Selectmen March 15, 2017 Public Hearing on the proposed Board of Education charter revision regarding the election process were moved for approval by Mr. Toner and seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen March 16, 2017 special meeting on the proposed Board of Education charter revision regarding the election process, was moved by Mr. Toner and seconded by Mr. Marzullo. Mr. Tesei made a motion to amend the March 16, 2017 minutes that was and seconded by Mr. Toner. That motion was approved unanimously. The original motion to approve the minutes was then voted upon and unanimously approved. Mr. Tesei also noted that the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for April 27.

### 3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. Mr. Tesei said that he and the other Selectmen attended a March 29 reception at the home of Board of Education member Laura Erickson to meet the new Greenwich Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jill Gildea from the Fremont School District 79 in Mundelein, IL.
- b. Mr. Tesei said that the Town has received confirmation that the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) has approved the Charter change to rename the Department of Social Services as the Department of Human Services. All ordinances and related

- legislation have been amended appropriately.
- c. Mr. Tesei read a letter from a resident praising the care and services her husband received while a short-term rehabilitation patient at the Town's Nathaniel Witherell nursing home.
  - d. Mr. Tesei noted that on Thursday, March 30, the Secretary of State attended a ceremony in the Town Hall Meeting Room where she presented the Democracy Cup to the Town for having the largest voter turnout in the state by a large town for the 2016 Presidential election.
  - e. Citing it as another example of the positive attributes of Town employees, Mr. Tesei read a letter from Port Chester Police Chief Richard Conway to Fire Chief Peter Siecienski, which praised and credited the actions of off-duty Firefighter Matthew Gordiski of saving the life of a four-year-old who was trapped in the sunroof of a car. Firefighter Gordiski happened upon the incident that occurred March 24 near the intersection of Willet Avenue and North Main Street. Mr. Tesei said the Board wanted to extend its gratitude to Firefighter Gordiski's tremendous heroic action that is a tribute to his training and dedication.
  - f. Mr. Tesei also spoke of the press conference held at Town Hall on April 4, kicking off Sexual Assault Awareness Month in conjunction with the Center for Sexual Assault Crisis and Counseling center. The Center also has a photo exhibit on display in the first floor hallway of Town Hall, opposite the Tax Collector's office. Mr. Marzullo commented that the work addressed by The Center is a reason why he supports Mr. Tesei's budget effort to fund a school education program with the YWCA.
  - g. Mr. Tesei met with Fran Pastore, founder and president of the Women's Business Development Council, to discuss providing training space in Town to help local businesses develop in southwest Connecticut.
  - h. Mr. Tesei said that the continued preservation efforts of the Greenwich Historical Society were recognized by the Connecticut Historic Preservation Society. He also mentioned that the Society has been very vocal in its opposition to proposed changes to the railroad routes along the state's shoreline which will impact many historic buildings including the Greenwich Historical Society's campus.
  - i. Regarding the continuing water situation, Mr. Tesei said that recent rains have helped to fill reservoirs to near 100% capacity. However, the underground water supply has yet to recharge and that overall, the region remains in a drought situation when looking at overall annual rainfall. He also said that Stamford reservoirs, which are used to supplement water supplies to Greenwich by the Aquarion Water Co., are larger and deeper and take longer to replenish. He also said that residents must continue to be vigilant in their water conservation efforts – that there is not a need for current daily water use of 8 million gallons to nearly quadruple to 32 million gallons per day during the summer. Mr. Tesei said that residents do not need to water lawns daily – that two times per week is more than sufficient.
  - j. Mr. Tesei said he wanted to address the issue of the Steamboat Road landing/pier/dock, a repair item contained in his 2017-18 budget. He gave a history of the facility at the end of Steamboat Road and said that historically, documents show there have been similar issues over the years, dating back to 1944. Historically and currently, there is concern over the activities there including whether fishing and swimming are allowed by municipal ordinance. Mr. Tesei said that if the Town wants to change the use/regulations regarding the pier, that it must write a new ordinance that must be approved by the RTM. He also said that

if the Selectmen believed activities there were such a hazard, the Board has the authority to shut it down immediately. Mr. Tesei said that during a visit last weekend, he found a number of issues that need to be addressed including signage, enforcement of rules, parking and trash receptacles.

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

##### **a. Proposed Charter Revision changes regarding the Board of Education:**

Mr. Tesei said that the timetable for making any changes will not occur in this calendar year and that the proposed Charter change language reflects the changes to become effective for the 2019 municipal election rather than the 2017 municipal election.

Mr. Tesei asked Town Attorney Wayne Fox to prepare a chart illustrating/explaining how the proposed changes would occur and the impact they would have.

Mr. Fox explained that the town's political committees will decide who will be placed on the ballot and that unaffiliated voters can petition their way onto the ballot, the way they currently can. Mr. Fox also explained that the Town Charter requires the Board of Selectmen to deliver its proposal to the Town Clerk for placement on the next RTM call. If the Selectmen were to vote today, then the item must be placed on the RTM call for May which is historically reserved for annual budget votes.

Mr. Marzullo asked whether the public has access to copies of minutes from the Board of Selectmen public hearing and special meeting regarding the Charter Revision proposals. Mr. Tesei said that all minutes are posted online via the Town's website. He also said the Town also could provide printed copies of the minutes. He explained that 116 affirmative votes are needed from the RTM in order to approve the changes. The matter also could be carried over to the RTM that takes office in January.

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

##### **a. Children's Day School Lease**

Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Ahmad presented the lease that originally was approved in 2007. It includes a provision allowing the Children's Day School to renew the lease for five-year intervals. There aren't any changes in the lease with the school that provides day care to about 180 children from ages 6 weeks to five years.

Mr. Tesei made a motion to approve the lease renewal. Following a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **6. Appointments and Nominations**

Mr. Tesei said that at the last Selectmen's meeting, the Board received a letter of resignation from Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich member George Yankowich.

Mr. Toner nominated Vincent DeFina, to a two-year term on the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich, replacing Mr. Yankowich, expiring June 30, 2019. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Mr. Toner nominated the reappointment of James Boutelle to a five-year term on the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich, expiring June 30, 2022. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Mr. Marzullo nominated the reappointment of Abe Curdumi to a five-year term to the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich, expiring June 30, 2022. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Toner.

Mr. Toner nominated Alan Rossi to fill a vacancy as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency for a four-year term expiring March 31, 2021. The appointment was unanimously approved following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

## **7. Executive Session**

Mr. Toner made a motion to enter into executive session at 11:25 A.M. The Board voted 3-0 in favor, following a second by Mr. Marzullo.

Also present in Executive Session were: Town Attorney Wayne Fox, Assistant Town Attorneys Aamina Ahmad, Valerie Maze Keeney, Fred de Arango, Abby Wadler, Gene McLaughlin and Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Barbara Heins.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 12:56 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

- a. Resolution to approve a settlement of Old Loading Dock Road 190 Sheephill LLC v. Town of Greenwich.

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

- b. Resolution to approve a settlement of \$6,000 in the case of Gillian Lakeman v. Town of Greenwich, et al.

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

- c. Resolution to approve a settlement of \$17,183.61 in the case of Albert Zhornitsky v. Daniel Martin, Town of Greenwich, et al.

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

- d. Full and Final Settlement of residential tax appeal Docket # FST CV 16-602-9018S – Parcel No. 07-2486, 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.

- e. Mr. Tesei made a motion to authorizing a settlement of Joyce Tilghman v. the Greenwich Board of Education (CHRO) that was seconded by Mr. Toner, with a settlement up of to \$125,000.

The motion was unanimously approved.

- f. The following motions made by Mr. Tesei that were seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board unanimously approved settlement of the following claims:

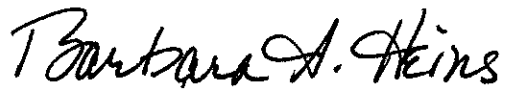
- Chubb Group v. Roberti and the Town of Greenwich for \$20,253.05.
- Safeco Insurance Co. v. Town of Greenwich and Ballone for \$10,437.58.
- Nationwide General Insurance Co. v. Scorca and Town of Greenwich for \$5,115.13.

## 8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 1:14 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for 10 a.m. April 27, 2017, in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

  
Peter J. Tesei First Selectman

  
Prepared by Barbara A. Heins  
Recording Secretary