

# Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting April 14, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

## MINUTES

### 1. The meeting opened at 10:12 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, not a Public Hearing and that he reserves 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 3-24-2016 were moved for approval as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen meeting held on April 7, 2016 were moved for approval, as amended by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. First Selectman Tesei welcomed Executive Assistant Barbara Heins to her first regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen as recording secretary. Mr. Tesei then thanked Catherine Sidor for her service for four months as the board's recording secretary. He also presented her with a bouquet of flowers.
- b. On March 28, he and Ms. Heins met with Pamela Topper, chair of the First Selectmen's Community Diversity Advisory Committee, that is looking to organize a family event at the YMCA to celebrate the town's ethnic/cultural diversity in October. In the meantime, they are seeking submissions for their annual diversity writing contest.
- c. During the April 2-3, the Weekend storm caused wind damage throughout town. Nearly 1,500 customers were without power. According to Parks and Recreation Tree Division, about 70 percent of all calls regarding downed branches/trees involved privately-owned trees. Eversource assigned 2 dedicated crews assigned to the town during the storm.
- d. Highlights from the April 5 Department Head Meeting:
  - a. The Nathaniel Witherell reports it was at 100% capacity on April 1. It will be increasing number of short-term beds from 41 to 46. It received a 5-star rating from the Center for Medicare Services for the 8<sup>th</sup> year.
  - b. With recent retirements, the Greenwich Police Department is four below authorized strength and is looking to give a hiring exam in June and hire recruits by October.
  - c. With a recent retirement, the Greenwich Fire Department expects to appoint new recruit in August. The construction of the Central Fire Station is about six months from completion.
- e. On April 6, the Town, along with nearly every other municipality in Connecticut – with

exceptions of Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford – they could lose additional state funding. The State claims each municipality, including Greenwich is “overfunded,” and in Greenwich’s case, the initial proposed cut was \$1,348,067 in Educational Cost Sharing funds. As of April 13, the town stands to lose all \$3.5 million in funds. Mr. Tesei continues to be in communication with Town’s legislative delegation.

- f. On April 11, he participated in the annual Entrance ceremony for first- and seventh-grade students attending the Greenwich Japanese School.
- g. The lack of funding for Safe Rides due to an inadvertent omission to the proposed 2016-17 budget, is being minimized with the donation of \$2,000 in excess campaign funds by Mr. Tesei and an \$8,000 donation from the family foundation of Ed Dadakis.
- h. There also was a preview of meetings scheduled for the week of April 18.

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

- a. New Lebanon School Project – a request for Municipal Improvement from the Board of Education on a request to abandon portions of the Church Street, Richard Street and New Lebanon Avenue right of way, for a total of 23,058 square feet for the proposed New Lebanon School project.
  - 1. Nick Macri, a member of the New Lebanon School Building Committee, gave an overview of the request. The land would be used for a limited access driveway for deliveries of food and supplies and garbage pickup during the 180-day school year, as well as emergency vehicle access.
  - 2. Mr. Tesei said the selectmen received three (3) emails from concerned residents, including Suzanne Wahba, who was in attendance, and read them for the record. Mr. Marzullo, an ex-officio member of the school building committee, and Mr. Macri said local and state representatives as well as the Byram Neighborhood Association had been notified of the request and none indicated concerns with the MI request. Upon questioning by Mr. Marzullo, Mr. Macri said that if the Board of Selectmen did not vote on April 14, it would set back progress of the project in the Planning and Zoning process.
  - 3. Ms. Wahba then addressed the board and asked whether contiguous property owners would be compensated if the MI is granted; whether the property owners were legally notified of the request and whether loop access or one-way access would be prohibited. Mr. Tesei said that there would not be compensation to homeowners because there isn’t any taking of property; that Planning and Zoning notified abutting homeowners and that because of previous neighborhood opposition there isn’t a plan to create a loop or one-way access via New Lebanon Avenue.
  - 4. Mr. Marzullo made the motion to approve the MI request. Following a second by Mr. Toner, the motion was unanimously approved.

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

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

**Mr. Tesei noted that there are about 20 positions that need to be filled and that he hopes to have all vacancies filled by June.**

- a. Mr. Tesei moved that Steven Katz be renominated to the Commission on Aging for a term that expires March 31, 2019. Motion was seconded by Mr. Toner and unanimously approved.
- b. Mr. Tesei moved that Donald R. Carlson be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Kinner on the Harbor Management Commission. The term would expire 3/31/2018. Upon a second by Mr. Marzullo, the appointment was unanimously approved.
- c. Mr. Toner moved the nomination of Klaus Jander as an alternate member of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency for a term expiring 3/31/2020. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Marzullo and approved unanimously.

## **7. Executive Session**

Mr. Tesei said there would be an executive session to discuss legal action regarding property damage and personal injury. Mr. Marzullo motioned to enter into executive session at 11:10 A.M., seconded by Mr. Toner. The Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: Mary Pepe, Director, HR Department; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Abby Waddler and Aamina Ahmad, Assistant Town Attorneys, Executive Assistant Barbara Heins.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 12:05 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

- a. Settlement of a claim of The Hartford Financial Group as representatives for Sally and Martin Levene vs. Town of Greenwich for damages to their vehicle in the amount of \$12,308.72.

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


- b. Settlement of a personal injury lawsuit brought by Sarah Gally vs. the Town of Greenwich, for the amount of \$6,000.

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

## **8. Adjournment**

Mr. Marzullo motioned to adjourn at 12:09 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

  
Peter J. Tesei First Selectman

  
Prepared by Barbara Heins  
Recording Secretary