Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen
Meeting April 28, 2016
10:00 A.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:13 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 4-14-2016 were
      moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion
      passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Update
   a. Access Greenwich has been expanded to now include Nuisance complaints to be
      addressed by the Zoning Office and general information can be accessed by
      sending questions to the First Selectman's office via a mobile app.
   b. Regarding the town's budget process, there is an effort to reduce department
      budgets contained within the Town's operating budget. The overall budget is
      below the 2% budget guidelines issued by the Board of Estimate and Taxation.
   c. On April 16: For the Housing Authority of Greenwich, the third time was the
      charm ... Mother Nature finally cooperated for the groundbreaking of Adams
      Garden II in Old Greenwich.
   d. On April 18: Attended a kickoff event at Richards for Shatterproof, a national
      organization that is focused on assisting those addicted to opioid narcotics and
      supporting their families. The organization is looking to establish more of a
      presence in the region, including Greenwich. They are planning a fall gala in
      Greenwich.
   e. On April 19: Attended the Bruce Museum Board of Trustees meeting. There was
      discussion of developing plans for the expansion of the museum.
   f. On April 20: Presented awards at the 58th annual Connecticut Daffodil Show and
      New England Regional Show that was presented by the Greenwich Daffodil
      Society at Christ Church Greenwich.
   g. On April 21: Attended the Western Connecticut Council of Governments whose
      membership voted to write letter from all 16 member chief elected officials to
      Gov. Malloy regarding the impact of the proposed Educational Cost Sharing
      funding reductions, or as in the case of Greenwich, total elimination of $3.4
      million.
   h. Also on April 21, The Greenwich Lions Club held its annual Dr. John A. Clarke
      Award luncheon in which Sgt. Mark Zuccherella was recognized as the
department's officer of the year for his service and dedication to the Special Victims Section that investigates the most serious crimes committed against our most vulnerable residents. Selectman Toner attended and helped to present a Proclamation from the State Legislature as the entire delegation was in Hartford for budget deliberations.

i. On April 23: Attended the Cos Cob Fire Police Patrol annual benefit at Greenwich Country Day School where former Selectman Paul B. Hicks III was honored for his support of the organization. He was presented with a proclamation declaring last Saturday as Paul B. Hicks III Day in Greenwich.

j. Also on April 23, the First Selectman attended the Greenwich Symphony Orchestra's annual gala at the Greenwich Country Club where Davide Strackbein, was honored for her contributions for Greenwich's 375th anniversary celebration last year, especially with the tie in of period music in several events – which was the connection for the Symphony.

k. On April 25, there was a power outage in Old Greenwich – specifically, the Tomac Avenue substation that was damaged and offline from 9 a.m. to about 7 p.m. when Eversource hooked up a mobile emergency substation to serve about 1,100 customers.

l. Also on April 25, Mr. Tesei attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Greenwich Boys & Girls Club where the Junior League of Greenwich partnered with teens to redecorate and spruce up the Teen Room. A supporter of the club, former NY Knick John Starks dropped by.

m. On April 26, Spirit Zone Too in Byram ... sent two teams of cheerleaders/gymnasts – the only two teams from CT, to participate in national competition. Presented them with a Town of Greenwich flag to bring to the competition.

n. On April 27, there was a meeting of the First Selectman’s Economic Advisory Committee that is putting the final touches on its upcoming panel discussion ‘Developing Solutions to Connecticut’s Economic Tsunami.’ CNBC economist Larry Kudlow will moderate the discussion to be held May 22 at the Riverside Yacht Club w/ state Sen. Scott Frantz, Yankee Institute President Carol Platt Liebau among others.

o. There also was a review of upcoming events including the Greenwich Chamber of Commerce annual Business & Culinary Showcase on April 28; the YWCA’s Stand Against Racism Day at Town Hall on April 29; the Greenwich Police Department’s semi-annual drug take-back on April 30, and Greenwich Clean & Green’s semi-annual paper shredding event, also on April 30.

4. Old Business

5. New Business
   a. Representative Town Meeting Appointments Committee Chairman John Eddy gave an overview and then detailed explanation of his proposal to restructure the terms of appointments to Town boards and commissions. Mr. Eddy explained that the proposal would stagger the term dates of said members on a trimester basis so that the RTM committees would not be overburdened with interviewing as many as 60 candidates in some years. The changes sought by the Appointments Committee would require changes to the Town Charter, changes which only can be initiated by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Tesei said that a member of the Selectman’s Nominations
Appointments Committee thought the proposal was a good idea. Mr. Tesei, who said the proposal has the tacit approval of the Board of Selectmen, asked Mr. Eddy to present his proposal at the May 3 staff meeting.

b. At the request of Selectman Marzullo there was discussion about soil testing at Western Middle School and the possible placement of modular classrooms to house New Lebanon School students there during construction of a new New Lebanon School.

Michael Long from the Health Department said that based upon the information the town has received, the town cannot make a decision on whether testing is needed.
Mr. Marzullo said that the soil issue has become atown issue, not an issue limited to New Lebanon modular classrooms. He also said that until the Town verifies that the initial soil tests were conducted illegally, that town is at a point to further test the soil at Western Middle School to either dispute the initial tests or to remediate the soil if necessary.

Mr. Long stated that the information provided to the town is incomplete in terms of the test locations and depth of the tests performed, and therefore are not valid. Mr. Marzullo then questioned whether the town should be testing the soil on its own and stated the town should be proactive in soil testing rather than reactive.

Mr. Tesei said the Town has a consistent protocol in testing before embarking on capital projects. He cited the Public Safety Complex as an example. Mr. Tesei also said that the situation could lead to the testing of all public property as well as the possibility of testing private properties, forcing remediation of naturally occurring elements in the soil.

Mr. Long stated there wasn’t a public health hazard at Western Middle School because given the levels of arsenic and lead reportedly found in soil samples are safely capped by the existing turf shield.

Mr. Tesei said the source of the soil samples is in question and that criticism in the media has led to unnecessary public hysteria that possible chemicals found in the soil will lead to cancer and death.

Mr. Tesei acknowledged attendance of Board of Education Chair and Vice Chair, Laura Erickson and Barbara O'Neill, respectively; Board of Education staff Ron Matten and Jim Hrincay and New Lebanon School Building Committee member Claire Kilgallen. Ms. Erickson thanked the Board of Selectmen for its collegiality in working with the Board of Education and said that the board does not want to proceed with testing at this time because it sets a bad precedent and that board wants to proceed prudently and cautiously.

Mr. Marzullo made a motion to have the Board of Selectmen recommend to the Board of Education to begin environmental testing at Western Middle School immediately. There was no second of the motion. The motion failed
to advance.

6. Appointments and Nominations
   a. Mr. Toner moved the nomination of John Vecchiolla to serve as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term expiring March 31, 2020. Mr. Marzullo seconded the motion which passed 3-o-o.
   b. Mr. Toner moved that the nomination of Donald Carlson as a member of the Harbor Management Commission, replacing Stephen Kinner who had resigned, be rescinded because Mr. Kinner withdrew his resignation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Tesei and passed 3-o-o.
   c. Mr. Toner made a motion to now appoint Mr. Carlson as an alternate member of the Harbor Management Commission for term expiring March 31, 2019. After a second by Mr. Marzullo, the motion was approved 3-o-o.
   d. Mr. Toner moved the reappointment of Sam Romeo to the Housing Authority of the Town of Greenwich for a term expiring July 31, 2021. Mr. Marzullo seconded. The vote: 3-o-o.

7. Executive Session

   Mr. Toner motioned to enter into executive session at 11:09 A.M., and was seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The Board voted 3-o in favor.

   Also present in Executive Session were Town Administrator Ben Branyan; J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; and Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Barbara Heins.

   Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 11:22 A.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The Board voted 3-o in favor.

8. Adjournment

   Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 11:22 A.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-o in favor.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

[Signatures]
Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman
Barbara Heins, Recording Secretary