

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen Meeting

June 9, 2016

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 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 5-26-2016 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Update

- a. Mr. Tesei noted there were several events throughout town celebrating Memorial Day.
- b. Mr. Tesei reported that he met with Francis Pickering and Dean Hannon of the Western Council of Governments (WCOG) on May 31. There was discussion on how WCOG members can collaborate or partner in the sharing of some municipal services.
- c. On June 1, Mr. Tesei, attended the Greenwich League of Women Voters annual meeting where the Mary Award was presented to outgoing League President Cyndy Anderson.
- d. On June 3, Mr. Tesei met with Kyle Silver, the executive director of the Arch Street Teen Center, to discuss various youth initiatives and the trends of opioid addiction of town youths.
- e. On June 4, Mr. Tesei volunteered with Safe Rides along with Youth Services Coordinator Jenny Byxbee, for the Greenwich High School senior prom. Mr. Tesei explained that Safe Rides is now operated by the Transportation Association of Greenwich (TAG) and has incurred a considerable increase in insurance costs because of the hours of operation: 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Saturdays. To date, \$15,000 of TAG's \$18,000 budget shortfall has been raised by donations made by the Dadakis Family Foundation, Ed and Lile Gibbons and Mr. Tesei's reelection campaign.
- f. On June 6, Mr. Tesei met with Representative Town Meeting Appointments Committee members John Eddy and Stuart Reider to discuss the resynchronization of the end of term dates for all town boards and commissions that will disperse the work required of the Board of Selectmen and the RTM.

Discussions will be continuing on possible changes.

- g. Mr. Tesei also summarized the recently completed budget process and that he already is in the planning stages for the next budget cycle. To that end he is working with the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) regarding health care costs. A consultant is helping to gather information to help contain costs. Health care cost containment also will involve negotiations with labor contracts.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. Discussion a request to appoint a committee to review a proposal to expand the Greenwich Board of Education from eight (8) to 10 members.

Mr. Tesei said the request is a follow-up to a presentation made by the Law Department in January 2015 on Charter Revision. He said he was fulfilling a request from residents and that it was worth considering to put forth an alternative to provide a greater degree of choice of candidates with the intent to hear from residents and to appoint a committee to consider the proposal.

Mr. Marzullo questioned whether a committee or commission would be appointed.

Board of Education member Peter Sherr said he supported the appointment of either a committee or commission to study whether there should be a change in the composition of the school board. He said that the 154 school districts in Connecticut have memberships ranging from 3 to 12 members, and most have an odd-numbered membership. Greenwich is the only district to have eight (8) members. Mr. Sherr also said that changing the system would provide voters with a choice at the ballot box. He further explained that both he and current School Board Chair Laura Erickson were both successful in their candidate petition drives after not being nominated by their respective parties last year.

Town Attorney John Wayne Fox said that the Board of Selectmen was not taking any action at today's meeting and a charter change would be required. He also explained that if a commission was appointed then any potential changes would have to be voted upon as a referendum and the town could lose its Home Rule. If a committee is appointed, any recommended changes would need approval of the Representative Town Meeting, however, the town would retain its Home Rule advantages.

School Board Chair Laura Erickson said that the current election process provides anyone who wants to be a candidate for the school board to run for office. She said that she prefers an even number of board members.

Mr. Tesei asked Town Administrator Ben Branyan to develop a timeline of how long the process would take once a committee or commission is appointed. He also asked Mr. Marzullo and Mr. Toner to consider who shall be appointed to either a committee or commission.

- b. Mr. Toner made the motion to approve a nondiscrimination certification document from the state of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for the Financial Assistance Proposal package for the Bruce Museum grant. Mr. Marzullo seconded the motion which was approved 3-0-0.

6. Appointments and Nominations

Mr. Tesei noted that Lloyd Hull has resigned as a member of the Historic District Commission.


7. Executive Session

Following a recess at 11:37 a.m., Mr. Marzullo motioned to enter into executive session at 11:55 A.M., seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Amad, Town Administrator Ben Branyan and Executive Assistant to the First Selectman Barbara Heins.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 12:33 A.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, June, 23, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.



Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman



Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary