Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Meeting
June 19, 2015
2:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 2:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.
   a. Attendance:
      i. First Selectman Peter J. Tesei – Present
      ii. Selectman John F. Toner – Present
      iii. Selectman Drew Marzullo – Present

2. Old Business: Request for Municipal Improvement (MI) Status for New Lebanon Elementary School
   a. Barbara O’Neill, Chairman of the Board of Education, presented a brief history of the process to date. Initially, Site D was off the table, because the Byram community did not want to dislocate the children. There was also concern about Site B from the community about using the open space to build the new school. So, the Board of Education presented Site C to the Board of Selectmen, which was voted down. As such, the Board of Education reconvened and voted 6-2 in favor of presenting Site B to the Board of Selectmen. That is what the purpose of today’s meeting is – to hear and decide upon Site B.
   b. Peter Gisolfi and Michael Tribe, architects, went over the Site B plan in full. They reiterated that items such as handicap spaces, turning radii, and one way driveways are all adjustments that can be made at a later time. Their diagram is just being used at this time to show the footprint and general location of the new New Lebanon Elementary School.
   c. Drew Marzullo asked about the gas pipeline that is suspected to exist near New Lebanon Avenue and Wessels Place. Ron Matten answered that he estimates that is where the gas line is, and that it would be possible to relocate that gas line if need be. This is not a major obstacle. Mr. Matten expects to receive the exact data for this within the next 3 weeks. The best case scenario it that the gas line exists outside of the new building footprint.
   d. Katie DeLuca, Town Planner, stated that an A-2 survey is an “existing conditions survey,” and is just one piece of many of the engineering plans required for preliminary site plan review. An A-2 survey shows the boundaries of property lines, all easements, the footprints of the structures, and a topographic survey.
   e. Drew Marzullo asked how difficult it would be to build a field in a ravine. Peter Gisolfi responded that it can be done, and that his firm has done this a lot. There are costs, though, for cutting, filling, and retaining walls.
   f. The Parks Department has looked at the playtime hours of the field over the past 2 years, using their RecTrac software of games and activities. In 2013, the field had 573 hours of play, and in 2014, it had 682 hours of play.
   g. John Toner motioned to further discuss the request for Municipal Improvement (MI) Status for New Lebanon Elementary School for Site B. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 2:43 p.m.
      i. John Toner stated that Site B does not address the needs of the community at large. Plan B will perpetuate the unfortunate divisions that have arisen in
the community, and change the dynamic of Byram that will not be reversed in the foreseeable future.

ii. Peter Tesei is concerned about balance. He looks at Byram in terms of a campus, with the library, the green space, where the school sits, and the undeveloped woods. Plan B would change the character of the neighborhood and exacerbate traffic concerns. He is continually focused on how the school currently is in the best location possible. He is not prepared to support Site B today.

iii. Drew Marzullo agrees with his two colleagues. He would like the Board of Education to bring Site D before the Board of Selectmen. His concerns are regarding the possible changing landscape, the ball field, and issues on traffic and construction. He noted the offensive tone of some of the emails the Board of Selectmen has received, implying that the BOS has not been involved with this process. Drew Marzullo said that every decision the BOS makes is with safety in mind. He is not supporting Plan B as well.

iv. With all three Selectmen opposing, the motion to consider the referral of Scheme B for the New Lebanon Elementary School for MI status failed 0-3-0 at 2:50 p.m. The Selectmen request that the Board of Education fully evaluate Plan D.

h. Peter van Shaik, a Byram parent, asks why the Board of Selectmen chose to abandon Plan B even though the architects believe Site B to be a good site. Peter Tesei responded that given his familiarity with this neighborhood and this issue, he does not believe Plan B is the best location to situate the new structure. The current site is known, and will deliver the finest education to the Byram children.

i. Chris von Keyserling stated that the Town of Greenwich has a system in place to deal with this issue. The Board of Education is in a position far beyond its expertise or jurisdiction.

j. Joe Pecora, asks if the Board of Education comes back before the Board of Selectmen in a timely manner with a “B-ish location,” and can show that the field proposed is even better than the current field, is a modified Plan B possible. Mr. Teseli responded that it is up to the Board of Education to choose which plan to present next to the Board of Selectmen.

3. **Appointments and Nominations**

Peter Teseli placed the nomination of Jake Allen for appointment as a regular member of the New Lebanon Elementary School Building Committee. John Toner seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 3:03 p.m.

4. **Executive Session**

Peter Teseli motioned to enter into executive session to discuss a pending claim and a matter of pending litigation against the Town. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 3:05 p.m.

Present in Executive Session were: Wayne Fox (Town Attorney), Aamina Ahmad (Assistant Town Attorney), Ben Branyan (Town Administrator), and Michael Rosen (Executive Assistant to the First Selectman).

John Toner motioned to enter into public session at 3:25 p.m. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
On advice of counsel, John Toner motioned to grant authority to the Town Attorney to settle the case of Nicholas LeRose v. Town of Greenwich for $40,000. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously at 3:26 p.m.

John Toner motioned to adjourn at 3:26 p.m. Drew Marzullo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Friday, July 17, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Peter J. Tesei
First Selectman

Prepared by Michael Rosen
Executive Assistant to the First Selectman