Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen
Meeting August 10, 2017
10:00 A.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

a. The meeting opened at 10:11 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

Following the Pledge, Mr. Tesei 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 ask questions and make comments.

2. Approval of Minutes

Following making two amendments (adding a copy of DPW Commissioner Siebert’s comments to the minutes and to correct the reference to Sally Maloney’s granddaughters) to the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on July 27, 2017 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman’s Updates

a. Mr. Tesei reported the Town received notification from the state Historic Preservation Office of the Connecticut Dept. of Economic and Community Development that the former CL&P power station and building at 330 Railroad Ave. has been listed on the state Register of Historic Places by the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council. The building is now owned by Greenwich resident Rick Granoff and Mr. Tesei it was good to see the restoration recognized.

b. On August 1, Tyler Fairbairn assumed the position of Community Development/Grant Administrator. Tyler comes to Greenwich with a resume filled with public service...he held similar positions for the cities of Meriden and Bridgeport. And this past Monday (Aug. 7) he helped assist at the First Selectman’s public hearing on the recommended CDBG grants for the 2017 year. Those recommendations were provided by the Community Development Advisory Committee and now go before the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) and the Representative Town Meeting (RTM).

c. Mr. Tesei said that on Sunday, August 6, he and Mr. Toner had the opportunity to join hundreds of car aficionados who gathered in Town for the inaugural St. Roch’s car show. It was a nice way to kick off the Feast of St. Roch which began last night...
and continues through this weekend. It is open nightly through Saturday and on Sunday culminates with the annual procession of St. Roch at 10 a.m.

d. Mr. Tesei also reported that on Aug. 8, he met at great length with the town’s new school superintendent Dr. Jill Gildea. He said they had a one-and-a-half hour, wide-ranging conversation about the issues facing the schools and acclimating to Town and he wishes her well in the position.

e. Mr. Tesei also reported on the monthly department head meeting which was held Aug. 9. Topics included the Town’s anti-idle policy for Town vehicle and a more aggressive approach to enforcing it. Other topics included the success of residents’ use of Access Greenwich, the mobile app to submit issues and services requests to various Town departments; the progress of Community First goals which requires each department to submit goals annually; the Lean 6 Sigma steering committee continues to meet every other month to review goals. Mr. Tesei also said the Town is preparing the budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year and that the RTM Budget Overview Committee (BOC) prepared a memo on July 5 which focuses on an overall 1 percent increase. He said that the Capital Improvements Program already was cut by $10 million for the current year and that several departments raised the question on whether the memo is an expression of the BOC or the RTM as a whole. He said that officials will be reaching out to the RTM Moderator to ask whether the memo is representative of a part of the whole or the whole.

4. Old Business

a. Road closure/detour – Riverside and Oval avenues:
Mr. Tesei read from an Eversource memo that detailed the work was needed to meet National Electric Safety Code clearance requirements on the equipment at the Riverside train station. He said that Eversource project manager Roxanne Huff had met with Town officials including DPW Commissioner Siebert, who is in attendance, that that all requirements including insurance, and communications with residents including use of door hangar notices were being performed. He also recommended Eversource reach out to the Riverside Association and its co-presidents Roseann Benefit and Daryl DeMakes. Ms. Hoff said she would make that contact.
Ms. Siebert said that after asking Eversource which weekend the work would require a complete road closure, that she received the information this morning (Aug. 10). She also said that there will be varying message boards in place to inform commuters and drivers that Parking Services Director Rita Azrelyant will meet to iron out parking details.

Mr. Toner made a motion to approve the road closure and detour request. It was seconded by Mr. Marzullo and unanimously approved.

5. New Business

a. Municipal Improvement – Greenwich International Film Festival (GIFF) use of building on Horseneck parking lot.

Mr. Tesei explained that the Horseneck building housed Greenwich Fire Department Tower 1 and Engine 4 during construction of the new fire
headquarters. Then the building was to house the Byram station equipment and manpower during renovation of that facility. The Board of Estimate and Taxation delayed funding of the Byram renovations, leaving the Town with a dormant building. Mr. Tesi said he met several weeks ago with the GIFF representatives who asked if the Town could provide in-kind services or office space for administrative functions. Because such a request will require considerable review by various bodies, Mr. Tesi said he wanted to hear the thoughts of his colleagues to discuss how the Town might be able to help the Festival that had 10,000 attendees; donated $300,000 to charities and $100,000 to film makers.

Mr. Marzullo said that it was a good thing any time the Town can help a nonprofit, given the economic constraints they face. Mr. Toner questioned the impact upon parking. Mr. Marzullo also questioned whether allowing this use would open the door to similar requests from other similar agencies.

Mr. Tesi responded that the building is dormant now and that the GIFF is about promoting the Town and bringing people to Town and is a creative use of the space. It would not be part of the GIFF movie venues, Mr. Tesi added.

Town Administrator Ben Branyan explained that a December 2011 letter from the Planning and Zoning Commission stated the building can only be used by the Greenwich Fire Department. He also said that Superintendent of Building Construction and Maintenance, Alan Monelli, plans to request the Planning and Zoning Commission release the conditions for building use for the Byram fire station that would begin in the summer of 2018. Mr. Branyan said that the GIFF request would fill the time the building would otherwise be vacant. If the Selectmen approve the Municipal Improvement (MI) request, then the Planning & Zoning Commission could act upon the requests regarding Byram station and then GIFF. He suggested an Aug. 31 timeline for the Selectmen to vote on the MI with Planning & Zoning acting on it at its Sept. 7 meeting.

6. Appointments and Nominations

There were none.

7. Executive Session

Mr. Toner motioned to enter into executive session at 10:56 A.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: Assistant Town Attorney Eugene McLaughlin and Barbara Heins, recording secretary.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 11:01 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.

Mr. Toner made a motion to settle tax appeal claim Docket # HHB CV 16-6034239S - Parcel # 01-1601/S for a tax credit of $4,832 against future tax payments. Following a second by Mr. Marzullo, it was unanimously approved.
8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 11:03 A.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, August 31, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the Cone Room of Town Hall.

Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman

Barbara A. Heins, Recording Secretary