

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen Meeting

August 31, 2017

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:07 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 of Allegiance, the First Selectman asked attendees to remain standing in a moment of silences to remember local resident and World War II hero Chuck Standard, and Sacred Heart Greenwich student Caroline Dym. Mr. Tesei also 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 pose questions and make comments. He also introduced Josephine Sargeant as the new Customer Service Representative working in the Selectmen's Office.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on August 10, 2017 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, and seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. On August 12, Mr. Tesei and Mr. Toner attended the grand opening of Adams Garden II on Reed Lane in Riverside. With this latest project with 12 units, the Greenwich Housing Authority continues to work on creating affordable housing for middle-income town residents.
- b. On Monday, Aug. 28, all three Selectmen participated in the annual Greenwich Public Schools 'Back to School' gathering and convocation in the High School performing arts center. Mr. Tesei said he was very impressed with the outside speaker who said that when the children born today are ready for employment, 60% of the jobs of today will not exist. He also said he wanted to remind residents that the start of school on (Aug. 31) brings new start and dismissal times for the high school and three middle schools. For Greenwich High School, classes will start at 8:30 a.m. and dismiss at 3:15 p.m. For each of the middle schools, classes will begin at 8 a.m. and dismiss at 2:50 p.m. Many of you received our telephone and social media alerts on Monday that

traffic around the schools will be congested as we all adjust to the new schedules. We ask that all motorists exercise patience.

- c. Mr. Tesei said the Town received notification last week from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Conservation that Greenwich's Harbor Management Plan final draft has been approved by the state. He thanked all of the past and current members of the Harbor Management Commission, under the leadership of Bruce Angiolillo and Lile Gibbons for bringing this effort to a successful conclusion on the state level. Now the plan will be presented to the Representative Town Meeting for the final local approval.
- d. The Town's Retirement Board is back at full strength. Following interviews conducted by Mr. Tesei, RTM Moderator Tom Byrne and BET Chairman Mike Mason, acting as the Board's Appointment Committee, reappointed Joseph Pellegrino to a four-year term, which will expire June 30, 2021. After careful deliberations and interviews with four candidates, Mike Wacek, of RTM District 11, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of John Chadwick which will expire June 30, 2019.
- e. Mr. Tesei gave an update on the Siting Council hearing for Eversource proposal to construct a new substation in central Greenwich that would be connected to the Cos Cob substation. Also attending to represent the Town were DPW Commissioner Amy Siebert, Deputy DPW Commissioner Jim Michel, Town Planner Katie DeLuca, Tree Warden Bruce Spaman and Conservation Director Denise Savageau. Mr. Tesei explained that the Town originally opposed Eversource's plan to lay power lines through Bruce Park because of the deleterious effects of horizontal directional drilling. The Town then supported using the Metro-North Railroad right of way until it was discovered the negative impacts it would have on the Town's force main system. The alternative is now the Bruce Park route, by installing underground along the existing roadways. Mr. Tesei said that it is clear that the Town's information changed and evolved and resulted in a change of the Town's position. The Town also is relying upon Mitch Mailman, a private citizen who builds electrical distribution systems here and abroad. Mr. Tesei said Mr. Mailman was grilled by Eversource lawyers and that there was a negative tone and tenor to the questioning. The Siting Council next hearing set for Sept. 5 and will include testimony from Ceci Morgan and Parker Stacy.
- f. Mr. Tesei also read a letter from Eversource regarding the Energize Connecticut program.
- g. Mr. Tesei read a letter of gratitude from Rosa Mini who thanked the Town for permission to launch a petition drive to support human rights in Venezuela.
- h. Mr. Tesei also read a letter from Bob Stacy of Greenwich Public Schools praising the work of Parks and Recreation and Department of Public Works for preparing school facilities and grounds for the start of school. Mr. Tesei asked that that letter be included in the meeting minutes.
- i. For informational purposes, Mr. Tesei said he was notified by the Chief of Police that the Greenwich Police Department will be participating in Department of Justice training for the management and control of protests.

4. Old Business

- a. Municipal Improvement project referral – Greenwich International Film Festival (GIFF) use of building on Horseneck Lane Parking Lot.

Mr. Tesei said that this item was one of several 'like' items that illustrates that Greenwich is a community driven by volunteers and public-private partnerships. GIFF is a hugely successful event that has generated tremendous support and positive publicity. He said this proposal is a way for the Town of Greenwich to provide in-kind services to support a community organization. He also said that it is a creative utilization of a stagnant facility that was built with the intent that it would be used by the Byram Fire Department during its renovation project. However, governmental processes have slowed that project and the building will be unused in the 2017-18 calendar year. Mr. Tesei said he would support the MI referral allowing GIFF use of the building.

Town Administrator Ben Branyan said that if the MI application is approved, it would be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission and placed on its Sept. 7 agenda. He also said that the Department of Public Works feels this is a unique opportunity to preserve the building through use rather than be mothballed until July 2018. He introduced GIFF Founder Wendy Stapleton Reyes and Maryann Ghiarardelli, GIFF office manager. Mr. Marzullo said he supports the MI referral and that it was a unique opportunity for both the Town and GIFF. He also remarked that Andrew Niblock, one of this year's GIFF honorees, is remarkable and inspiring because of his work with ALS. (Mr. Niblock is afflicted with ALS.) Ms. Reyes thanked Mr. Marzullo and Mr. Tesei for their support. She said GIFF is doing great things for local business, the arts and nonprofit organizations in Town. She said her organization greatly appreciates the support and that they are passionate about what they do.

On a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the MI referral was approved 3-0-0.

5. New Business

- a. Review and approve Representative Town Meeting changes to the lease with the Greenwich Garden Education Center.
Assistant Town Attorney Abby Wadler read the amendments which include a 2027 expiration of the agreement, not 2037; a 10-year lease with a sublet provision to a Greenwich nonprofit.

On a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the MI referral was approved 3-0-0.

- b. Municipal Improvement referral for the Greenwich Garden Education Center lease. Parks & Recreation Director Joe Siciliano said that if approved, the referral would be voted upon by the Planning and Zoning Commission and placed on the October call for the RTM.

On a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the MI referral was approved 3-0-0.

- c. Approval of the sublease agency (the Greenwich Garden Education Center and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy).

On a motion by Mr. Tesei that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the motion was approved 3-0-0.

- d. Approval of language of sublease between the Greenwich Garden Education Center and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy. Garden Education Center (GEC) President Karen Sadik-Kahn explained that the GEC has extra space that is not being used and that the Greenwich Tree Conservancy (GTC) needed administrative office space. With its horticultural work, the GEC, and the GTC's work to preserve trees, both are nonprofits that benefit the Town of Greenwich, Ms. Sadik-Khan said. She said the sublease agreement would enhance the activities of both organizations. She thanked attorney Bruce Cohen who wrote the sublease agreement as a favor.

On a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the sublease language was approved 3-0-0.

- e. Approval of Municipal Improvement request for the sublease between the Greenwich Garden Education Center and the Greenwich Tree Conservancy.

On a motion by Mr. Toner that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the MI referral was approved 3-0-0.

Mr. Tesei thanked the GEC and the GTC, Ms. Wadler and Mr. Siciliano for their work which he said illustrates the 'triple P – public/private partnership.'

- f. Parking Services update. Mr. Tesei introduced Parking Services Director Rita Azrelyant and explained the Department has been faced with some issues including the arrest of an employee, and the introduction of new technology. He also provided a history of the administration of the department.
A 10-minute recess began at 10:58 a.m. so that technology for the PowerPoint presentation could be connected.
At 11:08 a.m., Ms. Azrelyant gave the presentation that covered the history of the department, an update on its functions and activities and planned changes. Mr. Tesei commented that the

department has strengthened security and accessibility; oversight; developed a policy procedures manual; internal controls and that the department has been cooperative during the audit and is implementing the controls that were recommended in the audit.

Mr. Toner said that he mentioned at the recent Retired Men's Association meeting that the Parking Services Department was seeking candidates as Parking Appeals Hearing Officers. Ms. Azrelyant said there is a need for candidates who are familiar with the Parking Code and that they do not need to be a lawyer. Ms. Joanne Messina of the Greenwich Tree Conservancy commented that for three years her organization has been trying to green the parking lots and advocated for planting trees at the Horseneck Lane lot among others. Mr. Tesei said that now new technology has been installed in many lots, perhaps there can be a reassessment of the lots.

6. Appointments and Nominations

There were none.

Mr. Toner made a motion to take a brief recess. Upon a second by Mr. Marzullo, the motion was unanimously approved at 12:03 p.m.

7. Executive Session

Mr. Marzullo motioned to enter into executive session at 12:07 P.M., seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were Assistant Town Attorneys Aamina Ahmad, Fred de Arango, Gene McLoughlin and John Wetmore; Town Attorney Wayne Fox.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 12:54 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

- a. Settlement of Docket No. HHB CV 16-6036160S - Parcel No. 10-2002 v. Town of Greenwich for a tax credit of approximately \$11,230.

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

- b. Authorization to settle Marva Savariau v. Town of Greenwich for an amount up to \$105,000.

Upon a motion by Mr. Tesei, that was seconded by Mr. Toner, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor of the trying to settle the case.

8. Meeting cancellation: Mr. Tesei said the Board needed to take a vote to cancel the Sept. 7 Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Toner made a motion to cancel the Sept. 7 meeting. Upon a second by Mr. Marzullo, the motion was approved 3-0-0.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 12:36 P.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.



Peter J. Tesei First Selectman



Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary