

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Special Meeting October 6, 2016

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

The Board also observed a moment of silence in memory of long-time Greenwich resident and a U.N. undersecretary-general, former U.S. ambassador and chief of protocol under President George H.W. Bush, who passed away on Sept. 29 at Greenwich Hospital.

First Selectman Tesei also announced that Breast Cancer Alliance's 'Go for Pink' month, highlighting breast cancer awareness, was kicked off with a flag-raising ceremony earlier in the morning in front of Town Hall.

The First Selectman greeted and welcomed attendees commenting that it was a special Public Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

2. New Business

- a. Adoption of the Water Supply Emergency – Phase II Restrictions. – Conservation Director Denise Savageau.

Mr. Tesei explained that the Board must vote to adopt Phase II of the water use restrictions as outlined in the Town Ordinance. The restrictions and ordinance were first adopted in 1981. Mr. Tesei also said the Town is working closely with surrounding municipalities – Stamford, Darien and New Canaan - and that there has been a tremendous reduction in water consumption. He also said the town and Aquarion Water Co. must continue to work to reduce demand and control demand and supply.

On Tuesday, Oct. 4, he and Health Director Caroline Baisley and Conservation Director Denise Savageau attended a three-hour meeting with representatives from Stamford, Darien and New Canaan, as well as with Laori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief of the Drinking Water Section of the Connecticut Department of Health. During the meeting, there was discussion of moving water through the Aquarion system, into Greenwich, to help protect water supplies. As of that date, water supplies in the Putnam Reservoir were at 29% of capacity. Mr. Tesei also said that daily consumption peaked at 32 million gallons per day (MGD) in part because of seasonal usage and now is at 5 MGD. He also explained that Stamford

Mayor David Martin and New Canaan First Selectman Rob Mallozzi are not ready to impose fines to consumers who do not conserve water. Darien does not have a water use restriction ordinance.

Mr. Tesei also recognized the work of Conservation Director Savageau during the past couple months and said it is indicative of the work she performs year-round concerning the Town's water supply.

Greenwich Police Sgt. John Slusarz informed the Board that since imposition of Phase I of the water use ban on Sept. 22., the department has documented 149 water ban complaints. Seventy-one resulted in education of property owner; 67 warnings issued to property owners; seven unfounded reports; four reports remaining active. No summonses have been issued.

Ms. Savageau reported that Greenwich's reservoir levels continue to drop despite reduced consumption. The reservoirs are at 29 % capacity. Previous levels were at 34.9 % or the equivalent of a 60-day water supply. She said that the state Department of Public Health indicated that if the Town had not addressed water consumption and achieved a reduction, Aquarion would not have been allowed to supply more water to the Town by using its Bridgeport and Stamford connections. She said that Greenwich has a population of 62,000-63,000 while Stamford has a population of 128,000. She said Greenwich uses more water than Stamford with half the population.

Ms. Savageau explained the restrictions that will now be required in Phase II as well as suggestions on how residents can reduce water usage.

Selectman Marzullo asked what is Phase III? Health Director Baisley said Phase III allows for enactment of another water supply emergency that can impose minimum amounts of water used by a household; allow for provisions to truck in potable water; allow for use port-a-potties via the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Savageau also discussed the effectiveness of mandatory restrictions versus voluntary restrictions.

Mr. Marzullo asked if there would be an advantage to imposing Phase III now. Ms. Baisley responded that residents are conserving and that there is a need to follow the process of steps already in place.

In response to a question from Mr. Marzullo, Ms. Savageau said everything is contingent upon receiving rain and that she expects the bans to remain in place for the remainder of this growing season. She said the goal is to have a recharge of the reservoirs and underground water supplies for the spring season.

Bill Gallagher, owner of Summer Rain Sprinklers, questioned whether mandatory rather than voluntary water use restrictions should have been imposed in July; i.e.: Allowing irrigation every other day or every third day.

He said the water supply would not be so dire if mandatory restrictions were imposed during the summer. He also suggested that the government investigate the creation of desalination plants to help replenish fresh water supplies while dealing with rising sea levels.

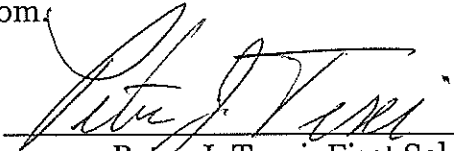
Mr. Toner questioned whether the water restrictions also apply to back country residents and those with wells. Ms. Savageau said the restrictions apply to all, regardless of their water supply.

Mr. Toner motioned to approve the implementation of Phase II of Water Supply Emergency. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, and the Board voted 3-0 in favor.


3. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 11:14 A.M.; seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.



Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman



Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary