Town of Greenwich
Board of Selectmen Meeting
October 12, 2017
10:00 A.M.
Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. The meeting opened at 10:10 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, Mr. Tesei requested attendees remain standing in a moment of silence to pay respects to Mike Chiappetta, a well-known Town resident, car salesman, former sheriff and constable, and a chili dog aficionado, who passed away on Oct. 5, at the age of 103 1/2.

The First Selectman then 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.

2. Approval of Minutes

   a. Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on Sept. 28, 2017 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

   a. Mr. Tesei said that on Sept. 28, there was the official retirement of esteemed colleague and gatekeeper to the Selectmen’s Office, Paula Belmont. About 70 coworkers, former colleagues (including 4 former Selectmen and First Selectmen), friends and relatives feted Paula with a retrospective of her 37-year career.

   b. On Oct. 2, there was the kick off of the YWCA’s Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a flag-raising and the placement of the Purple Purse in front of Town Hall. Mr. Tesei said Police Chief James Heavey also attended in support of the work the YWCA Domestic Violence Abuse services program.

   c. On Oct. 3, Mr. Tesei visited with about 20 boys who are members of the Webelos 2 Cub Scouts from Glenville Pack 35 at the American Legion Hall. He said that the boys asked many questions about civic duty and leadership. He also thanked Assistant Town Attorney Aamina Ahmad for inviting him back to his alma mater – as he was a former member of that Boy Scout pack.

   d. On Oct. 5, Breast Cancer Awareness Month was kicked off with a flag-raising ceremony at Town Hall to raise awareness and celebrate the work of the Greenwich-based Breast Cancer Alliance.

   e. On Oct. 8, both Mr. Tesei and Mr. Toner participated in the flag-raising and
proclamation presentation for Volunteer Firefighters week. More than 20 volunteers attended the ceremony. Mr. Tesei thanked the volunteers for the selfless efforts 365 days a year.

f. On Oct. 9, there was the Columbus Day flag-raising with a proclamation honoring Renato Berzulla of Riverside. He also was honored that night at a dinner at the St. Lawrence Society of Cos Cob.

g. On Oct. 10, The First Selectman’s Diversity Advisory Committee held its monthly meeting. The committee is beginning its programming for the year including the annual essay contest. The topic is being finalized. Mr. Tesei also said that the Committee is planning a program on immigration in November; that the focus of the Committee is to create an understanding on the topic with an immigration lawyer. He also said that Bobby Walker Jr. of the Boys and Girls Club Greenwich is now the Committee vice chair and is working on a spring program recognizing the diversity of the community.

h. Mr. Tesei that on the evening of Oct. 12, the third annual David N. Theis Award will be presented to state Sen. Scott Frantz and his wife Allison “Icy,” at the Tamarack County Club. Sponsored by the Glenville Fire Department, the award recognizes the Frantz’s decades of public service, both political and in the community.

i. At 2 p.m. today (Oct. 12) Mr. Tesei will be participating in a conference call regarding the Northeast Corridor for railroads. He said there is growing concern on the proposed bypass plan to divert rail traffic onto a new rail passenger line between New Rochelle and Greens Farms. That plan is on a route with numerous cultural and historical institutions in its path, Mr. Tesei said. A similar plan in the ecological and environmentally sensitive areas of Old Lyme was defeated. He said he attended a meeting hosted by U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal on Aug. 15 and this conference call will help reaffirm the Town’s opposition as it would desecrate the Bush-Holley campus of the Greenwich Historical Society as well as tremendously impact wonderfully historic neighborhoods. He said the Town realizes the need but not with diminishing.

j. Mr. Tesei said that Town and Aquarion Water Co. officials are carefully monitoring the reservoir levels and that with levels approaching last year’s, there may be a need to consider imposing more stringent regulations on water use and conservation.

k. On Oct. 10, Mr. Tesei and Mr. Toner attended a meeting of homeowners to discuss the potential increase of air traffic as Westchester County looks to privatize airport operations, which he described as a one-time plug for issues. He said there is a review of how the FAA may be able to retain some governmental oversight even if the airport become private. There also are updates to the Airport Master Plan. He said a majority of the airport traffic is private jets by people who want to avoid security checks of commercial flights. He said there is a voluntary cap on air traffic between midnight and 6 a.m. He said he is working with various neighborhood groups who don’t want to see the airport supersized.

4. Old Business

   a. Updates on amendments to Town Municipal Code regarding term expiration dates for certain boards/commissions. RTM Appointments Committee Chair John Eddy explained that the proposed amendments are part of a larger plan of the Committee to even out the workload of both the Board of Selectmen and the RTM.
Appointments Committee by staggering the expiration years of appointments to various boards and commissions. Mr. Marzullo thanked Mr. Eddy for his continuing work to revamp the appointments process.

Mr. Toner made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Marzullo, to reaffirm the proposed changes. It was unanimously approved.

5. New Business

a. Old Greenwich Merchants Association annual First Light Festival — Richard Fulton.
The festival will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sound Beach Avenue in Old Greenwich on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017. There will be horse drawn carriage rides, carolers, in-store magic shows, face painting and holiday cheer. Mr. Tesei described the event as a real Norman Rockwellian experience in our hometown.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner and a second by Mr. Marzullo, the festival was approved unanimously.

b. Proposed amendments to Sections 62 and 63 of the Town Charter regarding the Department of Human Services.
Assistant Town Attorney Valerie Maze Keeney summarized the non-controversial changes that will require approval by the Representative Town Meeting (RTM). The changes will be forwarded by the Law Department for placement on the December call of the RTM.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner and a second by Mr. Marzullo, the request was approved unanimously.

c. Municipal Improvement request for installation of temporary field lighting at Central Middle School — Greenwich Board of Education.
Mr. Tesei read the detailed project description from page 1 of the Municipal Improvement application. He said that he did drive the area on Monday night and saw that the area is well insulated from the lights. He said he believes night lighting is brighter than what is being proposed and that he sees this as a reasonable request and wholeheartedly supports it.

Mr. Toner asked if there were any responses to the letters of notification mailed to neighboring property owners. School Superintendent Dr. Jill Gildea said only one letter was received and that it concerned traffic. She said that traffic will only be post-practice parents pickup.

Mr. Marzullo said that by advancing the request to land use agencies, it will allow for more public comment. He also said he supports the Superintendent’s efforts for both temporary and long-term solutions to the lighting issues at the high school.

Upon a motion by Mr. Toner and a second by Mr. Marzullo,
the MI request was approved unanimously.

Dr. Gilda then introduced her staff including Lori O’Donnell, COO overseeing finance and operations; management operations head Daniel Watson who started on Oct. 2, and Bob Stacy who took on a number of roles over the summer until O’Donnell and Watson were hired.

d. Update on the opioid crisis and the Town’s Prevention Council – Human Services Commissioner Dr. Alan Barry and Police Chief James Heavey. Dr. Barry explained that it was a year ago today that the Town completed the study on opioid use. He said there is a widespread abundance of opioids in the community but a continued lack of understanding of addiction and prevention strategies.

Dr. Barry said work is being done to secure a five-year grant for staffing and funding opportunities for prevention programs. He also said progress is being made to conduct a survey of public and private schools and reiterated that a report on that survey will not single out individual schools. Work also continues to develop strategies to meet the needs of the community as well as to look at medical treatment strategies to create a sustainable infrastructure for prevention.

Chief Heavey said that use of the drug drop-box that is available at the department has created a problem – that the department needs money to dispose of the discarded drugs more often. He also said Greenwich officers will all carry Narcan, along with GEMS and Greenwich Hospital. There were 17 overdoses last year, five of which were fatal, Chief Heavey said.

He also said the screening of the movie ‘Chasing the Dragon’ was well received and that the department is working on a prevention program with eighth-grade students. He also said that the Department’s Narcotics Section is now reaching out to overdose victims to eliminate the supply of opioids.

Mr. Tesei said he needed two-thirds majority vote to place an unscheduled item on the agenda. By a vote of 3-0-0, the Board agreed to hear a request to close Amogerone Crossway and a part of Greenwich Avenue on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. for the Greenwich Veterans Day Community Patriotic Walk and Ceremony.

Chief Heavey said this year’s walk brings together several Veterans organizations under the leadership of American Legion Post 29 to lead the walk previously organized by the Greenwich Community Covenant of Care.

The Greenwich Veterans Council will be rotating leadership each year with representatives of the various Veterans groups. The walk will begin at 10 a.m. and proceed down Greenwich Avenue to the Veterans monument. During the ceremony, the American Legion Young Citizens awards and Boys and Girls State awards will be announced. Because
6. Appointments and Nominations

7. Executive Session

8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 11:00 A.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, October 26, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

[Signature]
Peter J. Tesei First Selectman

[Signature]
Barbara A. Heins
Prepared by Barbara A. Heins
Recording Secretary