

Town of Greenwich

Board of Selectmen

Meeting December 22, 2016

10:00 A.M.

Town Hall Meeting Room

APPROVED MINUTES

1. 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

Minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen meeting held on December 8, 2016 were moved for approval by Mr. Toner, seconded by Mr. Marzullo. The motion passed unanimously.

3. First Selectman's Updates

- a. Mr. Tesei noted that tomorrow will mark the second anniversary of the passing of Republican Selectman Dave Theis who passed away on December 23, 2014.
- b. Mr. Tesei reported the Greenwich Fire Department administration has relocated from its temporary headquarters on Holly Hill Lane to the new Central Fire Station at 15 Havemeyer Place. It marks the first time in Mr. Tesei's tenure that the fire administration actually is downtown.
- c. On Dec. 19, Mr. Tesei attended the quarterly meeting of Communities for Action in Stamford. Representatives from Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan as well as social services, human services and police, discussed proposed legislation aimed at reducing opioid abuse as well as local grass roots efforts.
- d. Mr. Tesei read an email from the Selectmen's Board of Education Charter Revision Committee stating that it is seeking legal advice from the Town Attorney's office to answer several questions and concerns regarding the issues they are reviewing.
- e. Despite the rain and snow storms, the Town's reservoir levels continue to remain below 40% of capacity. With the reservoirs at 37% percent capacity, Aquarion continues to pump water from other sources into the Town system, Mr. Tesei explained. He also reported that he attended a water conservation workshop hosted by Aquarion on Dec. 13 at the Stamford Marriott. A Dallas, TX city official attended and explained the effectiveness of a two times per week lawn irrigation program – something that Mr. Tesei said may be considered for this region. He also said that there is a water

- supply task force involving Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan, as well as West COG and the state, being established to review water use and conservation efforts.
- f. On Dec. 19, the Town received notification from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that a 30-day comment period began Dec. 11 and seeks public input on the proposed Binney Park Pond dredging and bank restoration project.
 - g. Mr. Tesei said the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection granted certification of permission for dredging the Byram Park Marina.
 - h. Mr. Tesei read an email from Hillcrest Park resident Jerry Porricelli thanking the First Selectman's office for intervening in a road drainage problem that created hazardous road conditions in the area of Palmer Hill and Hillcrest roads in early December.
 - i. Mr. Tesei related that Mr. Toner attended the Greenwich Historical Society's Preservation Marker ceremony on Dec. 21 in the neighborhood of the Historical Society and Mead Avenue. Mr. Toner said several more neighborhoods are being targeted for marker installation.
 - j. Mr. Tesei explained that the annual budget process is in progress with the presentation of a draft Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget of \$40.3 million under review by the CIP Committee. Mr. Tesei said the budget was developed within the constraints imposed by the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET) and the Representative Town Meeting (RTM). Mr. Tesei also discussed changes in the proposed Board of Education budget process in which school officials claimed the Town is not funding a portion of school bus transportation costs. He read a memo from June 2016 to then school Superintendent Bill McKersie outlining expenditure policy for bus transportation. Mr. Tesei also said the issue was discussed with interim Superintendent Sal Corda in July. Town Administrator Ben Branyan explained that funding for nine buses should have been on the public school side of the budget rather than as an expense for private schools.

4. Old Business

5. New Business

- a. The appointment of officers of the Board of Education, pursuant to C.G.S. sec. 10-218.

Mr. Tesei said the matter is somewhat historic in that the Selectmen have not ever had to select a chairman and secretary for the Board of Education. Mr. Tesei read the applicable state Statute allowing for the appointments as well as an opinion from Tom Mooney, an attorney for the Board of Education. Mr. Tesei also thanked Selectman Marzullo for reaching out and soliciting input from all Board of Education members regarding their leadership.

Mr. Marzullo said he requested meetings with school board members because the Selectmen's decision should not be made in a vacuum. He said the discussions with both Democrats and Republicans provided insight as to what is best for both students and the school administration. He said he would respectfully ask his colleagues to support a motion to appoint current school board Chair Laura Erickson as the new chair, an appointment that would ensure continuity when hiring a new school superintendent. Mr. Marzullo also said that of 357 votes by the

school board, only 3 were along party lines and that was for election of chair.

Mr. Marzullo made a motion to nominate Ms. Erickson as Board of Education chair. The motion failed to garner a second.

Mr. Toner said that he admires Ms. Erickson and has the highest respect for her but that if the Board of Education could not support her, he would nominate board member Peter Sherr because of his longevity of school board service, being the lead school board negotiator on contracts and having innovative ideas.

Mr. Toner made the motion to appoint Mr. Sherr as chairman. Following a second by Mr. Tesei, the motion unanimously passed 3-0-0.

Mr. Tesei no other vote that has come before the Selectmen has been so difficult. He thanked Ms. Erickson for her dedication and service as chair.

Mr. Sherr thanked the selectmen and said he would try to do the best job for the town's children.

Mr. Marzullo made a motion to nominate Lauren Rabin as board secretary. Following a second by Mr. Toner, the motion passed 3-0-0.

- b. Request to change the name of the Department of Social Services to the Department of Human Services was presented by Social Services Commissioner Dr. Alan Barry, along with Social Services Commission Chair Barbara Nolan. Also attending was Commission member Alan Gunzberg. Dr. Barry explained that the name of the department was last changed 50 years ago. The name change would better reflect the work being done by the department including case management, working in partnership with clients to improve their lives and thrive, Dr. Barry explained. Mr. Tesei complimented Dr. Barry and the Social Services Commission for the work they are doing and said the name change would be reflective of that work. Mr. Marzullo commented that the name change would remove societal stigmas associated with 'social services.'
- Town Attorney J. Wayne Fox explained that the name change involves a two-step process: there is a first read at this meeting followed by a formal resolution to be voted upon at the next meeting (Jan. 12, 2017).

6. Appointments and Nominations

Mr. Marzullo nominated Nicholas Macri as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Tesei seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Macri to a term ending 3/31/19, that passed 3-0-0.

7. Executive Session

Mr. Toner motioned to enter into executive session at 11:34 A.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0 in favor.

Present in Executive Session were: J. Wayne Fox, Town Attorney; Assistant Town

Attorneys Aamina Ahmad and Eugene McLaughlin.

Mr. Toner moved to exit Executive Session at 11:50 P.M., seconded by Mr. Marzullo, the Board voted 3-0-0 in favor.

Mr. Tesei made motions to settle the following tax appeal claims. Following a second by Mr. Toner on each motion, they all were approved by a vote of 3-0-0.

Docket # FST CV 16-6028884S - Parcel # 06-1051S for a tax credit of \$10,268 against future tax payments.

Docket # HHB CV 16-5017753S – Parcel # 10-3153 for a tax credit of \$1,569 against future tax payments.

Docket # FST CV 16-6028885S – Parcels # 05-1202/S and 05-1201/S for a tax credit of \$6,405 against future tax payments.

Docket # FST CV 16-5015703S – Parcel # 11-2140 for a tax credit of \$844 against future tax payments.

Mr. Tesei made a motion to settle the following tax appeal claim. Following a second by Mr. Toner, it was approved by a vote of 2-0-1, with Mr. Tesei abstaining.

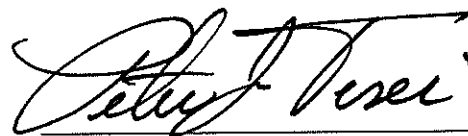
Docket # FST CV 16-6028882S – Parcel # 06-1180/S for a tax credit of \$3,960 against future tax payments.

Before adjourning, Mr. Tesei said he wanted to thank all Town volunteers and employees, as well as GCTV cameraman/technician Don Conway for their dedication and hard work and which them a happy holiday season.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Toner motioned to adjourn at 12:01 P.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, January 12, 2017 at 10:00 A.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.



Peter J. Tesei, First Selectman



Prepared by Barbara A. Heins,
Recording Secretary