

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on February 11, 2015. Present were Mark Tourgee, Susan Woloochian, Robert Andrews, Thomas Mulcahey and Linda Rekas Sloan. Also present was Town Administrator Kevin Breene and Town Solicitor Michael Ursillo.

A. CALL TO ORDER - 7:00 P.M.

Council President Tourgee called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Tourgee made the following announcements: There will be a Mushroom Hunting presentation on Tuesday, February 17th 6:30 P.M. at Louttit Library. Ryan Bouchard and Emily Schmidt of Southern New England Mushroom Hunting will give a presentation about this fascinating hobby. They will present some amazing local varieties, focusing on those that are safe for beginners, and discuss their health and nutritional values as well. There will be a Winter Composting Workshop: "Vermicomposting" - Tuesday, February 24th at 6:00 P.M. held at Louttit Library. This 1-hour workshop will give you all the information you need to start using worms in an existing outdoor compost bin or to start a worm bin that can be used indoors. Topics covered include selecting the right worms, what goes and does not go in a worm bin, how to make a basic worm bin, best practices for managing your bin, and for harvesting and using your worm castings. If you've ever wondered why some people use worms in their compost bins, or if it is possible to compost indoors, this workshop is for you! This workshop is put on and sponsored by the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation. Contact Jenny Paquet, Town Planner for more info at 392-3800 x 121.

Council President Tourgee also commended the Highway Dept. in regards to how they handled the blizzard. The town has a very small crew with vendors and the roads are in great shape in comparison to surrounding towns.

Town Administrator Breene advised the snow is costing West Greenwich just like surrounding communities and a request for FEMA money was submitted. He also agreed with Town Council President Tourgee on the job well done and only one complaint was received, however several compliments were received.

D. CONSENT AGENDA - All items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Town Council and may be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Council so requests, in which event the item will be removed from Consent Agenda consideration and considered in sequential order

Vice President Woloochian requested correspondence items 7, 8, & 9 be pulled for further consideration.

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Councilman Mulcahey moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Consent Items 7, 8 and 9 pulled for further consideration. Councilman Andrews seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

I. MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2015

II. REPORTS

(THE FOLLOWING REPORTS ARE RECEIVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.)

1. BUILDING OFFICIAL REPORT - JANUARY, 2015
2. POLICE DEPT. REPORT - JANUARY, 2015
3. TAX OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT - JANUARY, 2015
4. TOWN CLERK REPORT - JANUARY, 2015
5. PLANNER'S OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT- JANUARY, 2015
6. TREASURER'S OFFICE REPORT- JANUARY, 2015

III. CORRESPONDENCE

(THE FOLLOWING CORRESPONDENCE IS RECEIVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL.)

1. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES OF MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2014
2. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2015
3. COPY OF LETTER TO: ROBERT A. SMITH, P.E., DEPUTY CHIEF ENGINEER RI DOT
FROM: STEVEN W. PRISTAWA, P.E., SECRETARY STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION
JANUARY 13, 2015
RE: SPEED LIMIT ON ROUTE 102
4. COPY OF LETTER TO: TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
FROM: THE BEACON MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.
JANUARY 16, 2015
RE: DIVIDEND CHECK
5. COPY OF LETTER TO: KEVIN BREENE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: CAPTAIN CRAIG BARONE, PRESIDENT IBPO LOCAL 517
JANUARY 23, 2015
RE: PROPOSED HEALTH CARE REQUIREMENT

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6. COPY OF LETTER TO: TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT TOURGEE
FROM: STEVE EMMA, RIMH PRESIDENT
JANUARY 25, 2015
RE: HOUSING FOR RI MINERAL HUNTERS

IV. CHECK SUMMARY REPORT

1. RECEIPT OF CHECK SUMMARY REPORT FOR
MONTH OF JANUARY, 2015
FROM TOWN TREASURER

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON APPOINTMENTS OF NEGOTIATING TEAM FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF POLICE OFFICERS LOCAL 517

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to appoint Councilwoman Rekas Sloan and Council President Tourgee to the negotiating team for contract renewal with International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 517. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RE-APPOINTMENT OF TAX ASSESSOR CHARLENE RANDALL

Council President Tourgee commented on the service of Charlene Randall as Tax Assessor. He noted Charlene has worked for the town for twelve years and commented on her additional duties such as: IT, Webmaster, Coordinator of the Summer Concert Series and she also serves as Tax Collector.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to re-appoint Charlene Randall as Tax Assessor for a five year term. Councilman Andrews seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

2. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RESIGNATION OF JENNIFER REGAN FROM THE BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Council President Tourgee commented on Jennifer Regan's service on the Board of Canvassers.

Town Solicitor Ursillo and Town Administrator Breene commented on the procedure for filing the vacancy.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to accept the resignation of Jennifer Regan from the Board of Canvassers and send a letter of thanks for her service. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

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3. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON DATES FOR BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Discussion ensued on availability.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to set the following dates for Budget Workshops: March 2nd & 9th at 6:30 P.M. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON THREE YEAR CONTRACT RENEWAL WITH INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS, LOCAL NO 4771, AFL-CIO

Council President Tourgee read the following memo from Town Administrator Breene: Council Vice President Woloohojian, Councilman Andrews and I met with Mark Cary, President of Local 4771 IAFF to discuss renewal of the contract. We have a tentative agreement for a three year renewal of the contract pending Town Council approval. The tentative agreement leaves all language in the contract the same as it is in the current contract except for page 19. - XIV. Wage Rates, Section Salaries. The following change to salaries is proposed: increase of 3% on July 1, 2015, 2% on July 1, 2016 and 3% on July 1, 2017. The clothing allowance on Exhibit A will remain at \$850.00 each January and July throughout the new contract. The Negotiating Committee recommends ratification of the new contract as presented.

Councilman Andrews commented on the contract negotiations.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the Rescue Dept. and staffing.

Councilman Andrews moved to approve the contract with International Association of Fire Fighters, Local No 4771, AFL-CIO. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

5. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON PROPOSAL FOR PER-DIEM RESCUE PERSONNEL

Councilman Mulcahey recused.

Chief Hoxsie explained the proposal for per-diem personnel and history of the position.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the history of calls and amount that occur during the day.

Councilman Andrews questioned the shifts. Chief Hoxsie advised on the shifts and open shifts would be offered to other departments of qualified personnel.

Council President Tourgee complemented the quality of the document and effort by Chief Hoxsie and the Fire Board of Engineers.

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Council Vice President Woloohojian questioned fairness of shifts. Chief Hoxsie stated the shifts would be fair and rotated.

Council President Tourgee recommended this policy be placed on the town's website.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the need to implement the policy due to state law requirements and requested Chief Hoxsie explained the changes.

Chief Hoxsie explained the regulations regarding staffing of EMT's.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to approve the proposal of the Fire Board of Engineers for Per-Diem Personnel. Council Vice President Woloohojian seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

The following items pulled from the Consent Agenda were considered.

7. COPY OF EMAIL TO: ERIN LIESE, TOWN CLERK
FROM: SARAH RAPOSE
JANUARY 28, 2015
RE: GRATITUDE TO DPW

Council President Tourgee read the following email from Sarah Rapose: I would just like to express my gratitude to your DPW. They always do an excellent job. Please let them know how much they are appreciated.

8. COPY OF EMAIL TO: KEVIN A. BREENE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: STEVE WRIGHT
FEBRUARY 3, 2015
RE: COMMEND WG HIGHWAY DEPT.

Council President Tourgee read the following email from Steve Wright: Good Evening Kevin, please pass this along to the Town Council. In this day when so many people are quick to complain about the services they receive in their town or city particularly from the recent Blizzard, I wanted to commend the West Greenwich Highway Department for the great job they do on our local roads here in our town. As you know I live five miles from 102 on Plain Road down Plain Meeting House Road and these two roads were in great shape the morning after the Governor lifted the travel ban. Please pass along our thanks for all of the hard work during the Blizzard. It is a pleasure to live in this town!

Council President Tourgee also further commented on the Highway Dept. and complemented on their performance during the recent snow events.

9. COPY OF LETTER TO: HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: CHIEF RAMSAY
FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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RE: POLICE DEPT. UPDATE

Chief Ramsay reviewed the following letter submitted regarding the Police Dept.: I am happy to report the near completion of the newly renovated police department; this renovation has provided a much needed upgrade to the working conditions for our officers. The removal of the prisoner bar and the addition of the cell, not only increases safety for the entire Town Hall but decreases liability moving forward. These changes not only provide us with a professional working area, it assists us as we move forward toward State Accreditation. In late 2014, I applied for a grant to assist us in upgrading our communication equipment and dispatch area. Although, I was not awarded the actual grant, we were provided with approximately \$20,000 in radio equipment at no cost to our Town. This equipment will help as we move forward with the much needed renovation of the Dispatch area. In an effort to provide a more professional police department to serve our community we have been moving forward with advanced training techniques and tools that provide our officers the ability needed to process and investigate major crime scenes. Officer Maldonado recently graduated from, Basic Crime Scene Investigation (BCI) School. He will join Sgt. Andrews and Officer Dugan as one of the three (3) trained crime scene investigators. We now have an officer assigned to each shift with the skills and tools needed to thoroughly investigate major crimes. Officer Longo recently graduate from Accident Reconstruction School, he will join Sgt. Laliberte as one of the two (2) department accident re-constructionists. This training provided these officers with the ability to investigate major accidents and actually reconstruct the accident scene. Officer Ferle is in the process of completing his last stage of training to become a Drug Recognition Expert or DRE. This is a highly competitive program to be accepted into. All training expenses for Officer Ferle are paid for by the State. Once he has completed this training he will be only one of a handful of DRE's in Kent County. This certification allows Officer Ferle to recognize impairment in drivers and crime suspects who are under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the history of the Police Dept. and the central location of the Police Dept. for accessibility to residents. He also commented on safety issues in the past; the addition of the small pound; funding provided by the Trust for the renovation and performance and effort of Chief Ramsay and satisfaction with the renovation.

Council President Tourgee concurred with Town Administrator Breene on the performance of Chief Ramsay, the new facility and pride of officers.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to accept Correspondence 7, 8, 9 pulled for further consideration. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey -aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

G. PUBLIC FORUM

No public comment.

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Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to close the meeting and to go into Executive Session at 7:42 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 Litigation with Swap Inc. Vs. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013-01; pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 6 Prospective Business or Industry Big John's LLC and West Greenwich Solar LLC; pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 Litigation with State and Municipal Pension System and also pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 Potential Litigation with Patriot Homes.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 1. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 LITIGATION-
SWAP INC. VS. TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH PLANNING BOARD SHAB 2013-01**
- 2. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 6 PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY-
BIG JOHN'S LLC AND WEST GREENWICH SOLAR LLC**
- 3. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 LITIGATION-
STATE AND MUNICIPAL PENSION SYSTEM**
- 4. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2-POTENTIAL LITIGATION-
PATRIOT HOMES**

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to come out of Executive Session and seal the minutes at 8:35 P.M. and reconvene in public session. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to authorize Town Administrator Breene to sign the retainer with Attorney Marc DeSisito. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to adjourn 8:37P.M. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Mulcahey –aye, Rekas Sloan - aye

ERIN F. LIESE, CMC

TOWN CLERK