

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2015

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on March 11, 2015. Present were Mark Tourgee, Susan Woloochojian, 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 7:10 P.M.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council President Tourgee made the following announcements: There are new Fry Pond Conservation Area Trail Maps available on the town's website under recreation. The maps were developed by the Southern RI Conservation District and made possible by the West Greenwich Land Trust. The maps can also be found at wglandtrust.org and exploreri.org. The Annual Land Trust Dinner & Silent Auction will be Saturday, March 21st at 6:00 P.M. at the West Greenwich Fire Company #1 Station at 830 Nooseneck Hill Road. Contact Steve Wright for tickets, at 392-3628. Also anyone wanting to donate an item for the silent auction please contact Steve. This is the Land Trusts only yearly fundraiser. The Rabies Clinic will be held at the highway garage on Sunday, April 26th from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. The cost is \$10 and cash only is accepted. Animals must be leashed or in a carrier. Bring your unexpired previous rabies slip in order to get a 3 year vaccination. Dog Licenses are due in April and may be obtained after April 1st at the office of the Town Clerk, Monday thru Friday between 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. The fee is \$8.00 male or female. Proof of rabies vaccination is required. Licenses may also be obtained by mail; addressed to the Town Clerk, Town of West Greenwich, 280 Victory Highway, West Greenwich, RI 02817. Please enclose \$8.00 plus 60 cents postage for each dog. The following information is required: name and address of owner, phone number, sex of dog, breed, color and name. Proof of rabies vaccination is required and will be returned to you with the license.

Council President Tourgee also read the following article in Rhode Island Monthly: West Greenwich is the least densely populated town in the state, and it's proud of its rural character. Just about 6,000 residents share its mostly wooded fifty-one square miles and lots generally start at one acre. The town is also home to the highest amount of protected land in the state, with escapes like Arcadia State Park, Big River Management Area and Tillinghast Preserve. Locals also maintain their independent spirit with few public services and by voting on the town budget.

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

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2015

Council Vice President Woloohojian requested Correspondence item 11 pulled for further consideration.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to approve the Consent Agenda with Consent item 11 pulled for further consideration. Council Vice President Woloohojian seconded.

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

I. MINUTES

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2015
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION- FEBRUARY 11, 2015 (SEALED)

II. REPORTS

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

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

III. CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. LAND TRUST – MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2014
2. LAND TRUST – MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2014
3. LAND TRUST – MINUTES OF MEETING DECEMBER 9, 2014
4. LAND TRUST – MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 13, 2015
5. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2015
6. COPY OF PHYSICAL ALTERATION PERMIT
FROM: STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DOT
RE: TRUCK STOP INTERSECTION REALIGNMENTS AND RESTRIPING OF RT. 102

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2015

7. COPY OF PAYMENT TO: TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
FROM: THE BEACON MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.
JANUARY 31, 2015
RE: WORKERS COMPENSATION EARNINGS DIVIDEND
8. COPY OF LETTER TO: RICHARD N. RAMSAY, CHIEF OF POLICE
FROM: COLLEEN C. COOK, DIRECTOR OF RISK MANAGEMENT
FEBRUARY 18, 2015
RE: GRANT FOR TRUST'S SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
9. COPY OF LETTER TO: RICHARD N. RAMSAY, CHIEF OF POLICE
FROM: ROBERT W. MCKENNA, ASSOCIATE DEAN & DIRECTOR
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 18, 2015
RE: SERGEANT RICHARD BROWN RECEIVED A JOHN D. COYLE SCHOLARSHIP
10. COPY OF LETTER TO: HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: RAYMOND KELLEY, DEPUTY CHIEF HIANLOLAND FIRE COMPANY
FEBRUARY 20, 2015
RE: INVITATION TO ANNUAL APPRECIATION DINNER
12. COPY OF LETTER TO: HONORABLE TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: MAYOR JEANNE- MARIE NAPOLITANO
FEBRUARY 25, 2015
RE: INVITATION TO ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE

IV. ADDITIONS, ABATEMENTS, REBATES & UNCOLLECTABLES

1. REQUEST OF TAX ASSESSOR/TAX COLLECTOR FOR SPECIFIC UNCOLLECTABLES
AND VOTE REGARDING SAME – MARCH, 2014

MARCH

ACCT #	NAME	AMOUNT	CODE
<u>ABATEMENTS</u>			
01-0136-52	AMITRANO, JOHN L JR (2014 TAX ROLL)	\$410.59	02
01-0136-52	AMITRANO, JOHN L JR (2013 TAX ROLL)	\$379.21	02
13-0389-00	AGENT FOR MERIKOSKI ESTATE	\$433.89	DONATING LAND TO TOWN

ADDITIONS

01-0136-52	AMITRANO, JOHN L JR (2014 TAX ROLL)	\$272.56	02
01-0136-52	AMITRANO, JOHN L JR (2013 TAX ROLL)	\$215.94	02

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2015

19-0189-05	SMOLENSKI, KAREN M (2007 TAX ROLL)	\$37.45	PREVIOUSLY UNCOLLECTABLE
19-0189-05	SMOLENSKI, KAREN M (2006 TAX ROLL)	\$53.07	PREVIOUSLY UNCOLLECTABLE
19-0189-05	SMOLENSKI, KAREN M (2005 TAX ROLL)	\$105.12	PREVIOUSLY UNCOLLECTABLE

REFUNDS

01-0136-52	AMITRANO, JOHN L JR (2014 TAX ROLL)	\$48.41	02
01-0136-52	AMITRANO, JOHN L JR (2013 TAX ROLL)	\$163.27	02

V. CHECK SUMMARY REPORT

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

**C. 11. COPY OF PRESS RELEASE DRAFT
RE: \$5.17 MILLION REFUNDING BOND**

Council President Tourgee read the following press release: West Greenwich Town Administrator Kevin A. Breene today announced that the Town has sold it's \$5,170,000 general obligation (GO) refunding bonds at interest rates lower than projected, saving over \$525,000 in future debt service. Mr. Breene said, "the Town is very pleased with the results. The upgrade in our bond rating to AA+ by Standard & Poor's last year allowed us to achieve lower rates, which increased our savings. I commend Danielle Andrews, our Town Treasurer, and the Town's financing team on a very successful sale." The bonds were underwritten by Roosevelt & Cross. Locke Lord was bond counsel and FirstSouthwest was the financial advisor. Adam Krea of FirstSouthwest, the Town's financial advisor said, the Town refunded bonds with an average coupon of 4.00% and replaced them with bonds with a net interest cost of 1.76% with maturities ranging from 2015 through 2026. The Town did not extend the final maturity; all of the savings are due to a reduction in interest rates." The Town's Standard & Poor's bond rating of AA+ was affirmed in January 2015. The Town's strong credit rating is a result of strong budget performance, financial flexibility, solid liquidity, and a low debt burden.

Council President Tourgee requested the press release be placed on the Town's website.

Town Administrator Breene further explained the bond savings and the history of the acquisition.

Council President Tourgee commented on the property and the forward thinking for purchasing the land.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to approve Correspondence Item 11 pulled for further consideration. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2015

E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON PRIVATE DETECTIVE LICENSE- JON T. CHIRNSIDE

Chief Ramsay stated he approved granting the Private Detective License to Chirnside.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to grant the Private Detective License to Jon T. Chirnside.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

2. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON APPOINTMENTS TO BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Council President Tourgee explained the following recommendations from Town Administrator Breene: It is my recommendation that Holly Howard, current Chair of the Board of Canvassers, be reappointed for a term of five (5) years with an expiration date of March, 2020. After the vacancy of Jennifer Regan from the Board of Canvassers; town resident, Carol Montie expressed interest in the position. After careful consideration, I recommend her appointment to fill the remaining term which will expire in March of 2017.

Town Administrator Breene commented on Montie and her service as Moderator in past elections.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to reappoint Holly Howard to the Board of Canvassers for a term expiring March, 2020 and to appoint Carol Montie for a term expiring March, 2017.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

Holly Howard thanked the Council for her reappointment.

3. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RENEWAL OF KENNEL LICENSES

Council Vice President Woloohojian advised town resident Holly Howard had submitted a letter of concern regarding Kennel License renewal.

Holly Howard, 424 Plain Meeting House Road explained the following letter submitted: Please allow me to voice some concerns over the Kennel License that is before you tonight. I do not want to ask you to deny the license, as the kennel license was issued before I became a resident of Plain Meetinghouse Road. My purpose is to make you aware of the disturbance that it causes to neighbors. Since I have moved to this road 7 years ago, 5 more houses have been built and sold that are closer to this kennel. As there is no sign, there is no way of knowing that it is there until the dogs start to bark. More houses are being built now. Eventually you will hear from the neighbors. Everyday these dogs bark and bark. We have to keep our windows closed in the summer to avoid being woken up by the barking as early as 5:30 A.M. When ever we have visitors to our home they remark about the noise of the dogs.

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 11, 2015

There are other noises in our area, chain saws, motorcycles, the hammering of the building of new homes, large trucks building the new road... but these are all short term. We know they will stop after a few hours or days, and none are before the time of the noise ordinance. All I am asking is that you are aware of this problem and I implore the owners of the kennel to try to do what they can to keep the dogs from barking, early in the morning and for such long periods of time.

Councilman Andrews requested we table this item until ACO Tavares can look into it.

Town Solicitor Ursillo suggested requesting the Town Clerk send a letter to the Kennel requesting their attendance at the April Town Council meeting.

Councilman Andrews moved to continue the kennel license renewal of Jewelset Kennels to the April 8th Town Council meeting with the presences of the kennel owners and request ACO Tavares to investigate the complaint. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey –aye

It was noted no complaints were received for Sharick Collies.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to approve the renewal of kennel licenses for Sharick Collies subject to compliance with all local and state ordinances and statues relative to kennel license and payment of taxes. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey –aye

4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON S 0626- EARLY VOTING

Town Clerk Liese and Board of Canvasser Howard discussed the financial implications and burden if S0626 Early Voting was passed.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to send a letter in opposition to our local Senators and Representatives in opposition to S0626. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - aye, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey –aye

G. PUBLIC FORUM

Claude Wright, Public Works Director updated the Council on the status of the roads and repair of potholes. He further explained due to winter storms the budget is exceeded; however not by a large amount.

Council President Tourgee commended the Highway Dept on the conditions of roads this winter.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan stated her appreciation for the work done by the Highway Dept.

Council Vice President Woloohojian stated she loved West Greenwich and the pride and work of the Highway Dept.

TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH
TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING
March 11, 2015

Public Works Director Wright advised most of the Highway Dept. personnel live in town.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the cost of snow removal. He stated the cost includes hired vendors, salt and sand, drivers for vehicles and also commended the maintenance worker James Falvey on keeping the walks open and his efforts this winter.

Holly Howard stated she has no complaints about the walkway at the town hall it was maintained very well this winter. Town Administrator Breene advised the town purchased a new snow blower for Falvey.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to close the meeting and to go into Executive Session at 7:43 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 Litigation with Swap Inc. Vs. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013-01 and 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).

Councilman Andrews 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**

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to come out of Executive Session and seal the minutes at 8:18 P.M. and reconvene in public session. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

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

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to adjourn 8:19 P.M.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

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

ERIN F. LIESE, CMC
TOWN CLERK