

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**May 13, 2015**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on May 13, 2015. Present were Mark Tourgee, 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 7:00 P.M.

**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**C. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council President Tourgee made the following announcements: Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 25th. Parade kicks off at 1 P.M. Ceremony at Town Hall will follow. Fourth quarter taxes are due May 31<sup>st</sup>. The Financial Town Meeting will be held at the EWG Auditorium on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 P.M. The Council is proposing no increase in the tax rate for the third year in a row.

Town Administrator Breene made the following announcement from the Tax Assessor: There has been no increase in the tax rate for the third year in a row. There has been no substantial increase in 5 years. Since 2010 about 60% of residential properties have seen a decrease in their taxes.

Council President Tourgee also announced information regarding EWG Honors Night which will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Council President Tourgee, Councilman Andrews and Councilwoman Rekas Sloan commented on Elsie H. Oltedale former Librarian who passed on April 18, 2015 and her service to the Town of West Greenwich.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to reserve a page minutes in honor of Elsie H. Oltedale. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

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**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

Councilman Mulcahey moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

**I. MINUTES**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BUDGET WORKSHOP OF APRIL 8, 2015
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF BUDGET HEARING OF APRIL 8, 2015
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 8, 2015
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION- APRIL 8, 2015 (SEALED)

**II. REPORTS**

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

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

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. LAND TRUST – MINUTES OF MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2015
2. CONSERVATION COMMISSION– MINUTES OF MEETING APRIL 2, 2015
3. BOARD OF ENGINEERS- MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 16, 2015

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4. COPY OF EMAIL TO: KEVIN A. BREENE  
FROM: DAVID TACEY  
MARCH 20, 2015  
RE: VACATION
5. COPY OF LETTER TO: MARK TOURGEE, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
FROM: LUIS RODRIGUEZ, P.E. FEDERAL INSURANCE & MITIGATION  
APRIL 2, 2015  
RE: FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP
6. COPY OF EMAIL TO: WEST GREENWICH TOWN COUNCIL  
FROM: ROBIN CERIO  
MAY 4, 2015  
RE: INVITATION TO LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP
7. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF WESTERLY  
RE: H5000 RELATING TO PERSONAL INCOME TAX
8. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF WESTERLY  
RE: TAXING RETIREMENT INCOME AND PENSIONS
9. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF WESTERLY  
RE: HARBORS AND HARBOR LINES
10. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN  
RE: SURTAX ON SECOND HOMES
11. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF EAST GREENWICH  
RE: RI ETHICS COMMISSION
12. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN  
RE: SURTAX ON SECOND HOMES
13. COPY OF RESOLUTION FROM: TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN  
RE: S0510 & H5777 MARIJUANA
14. COPY OF LETTER TO: MARK TOURGEE, TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
FROM: CLAUDE WRIGHT, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
MAY 7, 2015  
RE: VACATION

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**IV. ADDITIONS, ABATEMENTS, REBATES & UNCOLLECTABLE**

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

	<b>MAY</b>		
<b>ACCT #</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>CODE</b>
	<b><u>REFUNDS</u></b>		
13-0026-47	MADDEN, MICHAEL R & MARY L	\$1,524.54	34

**V. CHECK SUMMARY REPORT**

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

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. RECOGNITION OF GEORGE H. WHEATLEY AS OLDEST CITIZEN**

Town Administrator Breene recognized George H. Wheatley as the oldest citizen and stated he was unable to attend tonight's meeting and will be recognized in June.

**2. RECOGNITION OF WEST GREENWICH CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING**

Council President Tourgee commented on the Town being recognized for excellence in financial reporting.

Treasurer Danielle Andrews and Town Administrator Breene discussed how the Town received the recognition.

**3 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHIEF RICHARD PARKINSON RESIGNATION FROM HIANLOLAND FIRE COMPANY**

Council President Tourgee commented on the service of Chief Parkinson and read the following resignation: Last night at our annual meeting, I retired as Chief of Hianloland Fire Company

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after 25 years of service in this position. I will still be active in the Company in other roles. Needless to say, I am also resigning my seat on the Board of Directors as well as the position of Chair, effective immediately. Our newly elected Chief Ray Kelley will be taking my place on the Board. I have enjoyed my times working together with all of you and hope that the future will continue to see growth in our efforts for all the departments in the town ( and surrounding areas) work together to form a more perfect unified body. Take care and be safe.

**4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CHIEF OF HIANLOLAND FIRE COMPANY RAY KELLEY**

Council President Tourgee commented on Ray Kelley's service and dedication to Hianloland Fire Company.

**5. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RE-APPOINTMENTS TO LAND TRUST**

Town Administrator Breene questioned Town Clerk Liese on appointments. Town Clerk Liese stated the most recent correspondence stated Robert Verrier was up for re-appointment and they would have an appointment shortly for the vacant position.

Town Administrator Breene further commented on Steve Wright's service to the Land Trust as Chairman and has stepped down and Diana Rotelli is now Chair.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to re-appoint Robert Verrier to the Land Trust for a term expiring May, 2017. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

**6. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RE-APPOINTMENTS TO ZONING BOARD**

Council President Tourgee explained the re-appointments to the Zoning Board.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to re-appoint to the Zoning Board Raymond Stewart for a term expiring May, 2016 and Gregory Breene for a term expiring May, 2020.

Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

**7. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON EVENT/ENTERTAINMENT AT NEW ENGLAND FARM & ARTIST- WINE & WELLNESS -MAY 14, 2015**

Norma Smith, 1196 Main Street Coventry commented on her Wine and Wellness event to be held at New England Farm & Artist from 6 P.M.to 8 P.M. on May 14, 2015.

Discussion ensued of fee.

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Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to approve New England Farm & Artist Wine & Wellness event on May 14, 2015 with a fee of \$10.00 and subject to compliance with all local and state ordinances and statues relative. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

Discussion ensued on 275 Anniversary Committee.

**8. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RHODY ROVERS EVENT/ENTERTAINMENT REQUESTS-  
ANNUAL BOB LEYDEN MEMORIAL ENDURO RALLY- MAY 24, 2015  
ANNUAL TURKEY RUN RALLY- JULY 11&12, 2015**

Council President Tourgee commented on the scholarship provided by Rhody Rovers and also their participation in the Earth Day Cleanup.

Scott Tucker from Rhody Rovers thanked the Council for their consideration and ability to be part of the community and explained the Enduro Rally and Annual Turkey Run.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan questioned what is Rhody Rovers? Mr. Tucker explained this is a timed motor cross off road event.

Discussion ensued on speed of the event.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to approve the Annual Bob Leyden Memorial Eduro Rally and the Annual Turkey Run Rally subject to compliance with all local and state ordinances, statues relative and insurance requirements. Councilwoman Rekas Sloan seconded.

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

**9. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON EVENT/ENTERTAINMENT REQUESTS AT WOODS TAVERN-  
STEAK FRY- LAST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH STARTING IN MAY  
CHOWDER/CHILI COOK OFF WITH CONCERT- JUNE 27, 2015  
BBQ COOK OFF WITH CONCERT- SEPTEMBER 26, 2015  
HORSE SHOE LEAGUE- WEEKLY**

Mike Berek owner of The Woods Tavern explained the following outdoor events to be held at the Woods Tavern: Steak Fry, Chowder/Chili Cook Off with Concert, BBQ Cook Off with Concert, and Horse Shoe League.

Town Solicitor Ursillo explained serving of alcohol would not be permitted outside until an extension of liquor license has been granted. He further explained the advisement and application will be due next week to be heard at the June meeting.

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Chief Ramsay commented on the police detail that would need to be provided during the concerts.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to approve the Event/Entertainment requests for The Woods Tavern subject to approval of Police Chief, Building Official and Fire Marshall in addition to compliance with all local and state ordinances and statues relative.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

Town Solicitor Ursillo further explained the advertising requirement and deadline for the liquor license extension.

**10. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON EVENT/ENTERTAINMENT REQUEST AT STEPPING STONE RANCH- WORLD TRIALS CHAMPIONSHIP WAGNER CUP- JULY 25& 26, 2015**

Mr. Carl Swanson and Dr. Herbert Brennan explained the Wagner Cup World Trials to be held at Stepping Stone Ranch. Mr. Swanson further explained the locations to be used would be within Arcadia and Stepping Stone Ranch.

Council President Tourgee questioned how many spectators they expect. Mr. Swanson stated they expect about 1,000 and explained the safety plan developed with Chief Ramsay and Chief Kelly. He also advised the Building Official is onboard.

Discussion ensued on security and rescue availability.

Council President Tourgee questioned if liquor will be served. He advised liquor will be served by Stepping Stone Ranch, which hold a liquor license.

Chief Ramsay commented on meetings held and detail agreement with the Trials. He advised traffic detail and police details will also continue during the concert.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan questioned restroom facilities. He advised several Porter Johns have been ordered.

Town Administrator Breene advised on the email received from a Resident and stated the entertainment is for the participants and not the general public.

Discussion ensued on entertainment.

Dr. Brennan advised this is a family sponsored event and the role of alcohol is limited.



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Council President Tourgee stated concern on the size of the event and reasons why questions were asked.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to approve the Wagner Cup Event to be held at Stepping Stone Ranch subject to approval from Police Chief, Building Official, and Fire Chief in addition to compliance with all local and state ordinances and statues relative.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

Mr. Swanson further stated that all the staff of West Greenwich was extremely professional, courtesy and represented West Greenwich well.

**11. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEST GREENWICH SOLAR, LLC AND TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH**

Attorney Pagliarini explained the agreement with West Greenwich Solar.

Town Solicitor Ursillo stated this was a good agreement; however potential legislation with renewable energy could affect the future of the agreement.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to approve the agreement with West Greenwich Solar, LLC. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

**12. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON FIDUCIARY AGENT REQUEST FROM EWG TASK FORCE**

Council President Tourgee read the following letter from Louise Dias: My name is Louise Dias and I am the EWG Task Force Coordinator. We are looking for a new fiduciary agent. Currently the Exeter West Greenwich School District Treasurer is our fiduciary agent. They have decided to no longer hold our funds as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The town of West Greenwich was our previous fiduciary agent until 1993. I would like to have a meeting with you and my Chair Person to discuss this further.

Town Administrator Breene requested the Treasurer explain the history of the Town being the Fiduciary Agent.

Treasurer Andrews advised on the history of funding.

Discussion ensued on why school would not be fiduciary agent.

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Council President Tourgee requested Superintendent Erinakes attend the June meeting.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to continue this matter to the June meeting.

Council Mulcahey seconded.

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

**13. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON EAST GREENWICH RESOLUTION REGARDING H6040, H6042, H6043, &S816, S818 AND S 820 REGARDING RHODE MAP RI**

Town Solicitor Ursillo advised on the above named Bills regarding opting out of Rhode Map RI.

Council President Tourgee commented on the ill effects of Rhode Map RI.

Council Mulcahey moved to support East Greenwich Resolutions regarding H6040, H6042, H6043, &S816, S818 AND S 820 and send a letter of support to our local Senators, Representatives and Governor Raimondo. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

**14. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REQUEST OF DARRELL & HEIDI WALDRON FOR TEMPORARY SPEED BUMPS ON ESCOHEAG HILL ROAD**

Council President Tourgee read the following letter from Darrell & Heidi Waldron: We would like to address the long time complaint about the speeding on Escoheag Hill Road. Although the town police have tried to show interest in our concerns they are under staffed to make a lasting difference. We feel that the speed should be lowered to 25 miles an hour, it is now 30. For those who may not know; our area is located in Arcadia Management Area which is heavily traveled; especially the weekends. Our area is recreational area with Oak Embers Camp Ground on one side of the road and Stepping Stone Ranch on the other. I have already had altercations with two motorcycles, and a day later there was a car accident which was not reported. We would like to see a temporary speed bump put in for the summer season that could be removed in the winter months. I feel it would make our road safer for all concerned, or hire another weekend officer so that we may get better coverage.

Chief Ramsay commented on the traffic study conducted on Escoheag Hill Road and advised that Escoheag Hill Road is a state road, so they do not have jurisdiction to place speed bumps on the road. He advised on funding provided to have speed details at the location.

Council President Tourgee commented on Residents likely being the speeders.

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Heidi Waldron commented on the increase in police presence and speed sign; however weekends are busy with traffic cutting into CT. She further explained the incident she had recently with a motorcyclist.

Discussion ensued on speeding.

Town Administrator Breene advised on the history of location and difficulty with Exeter not having a police force; for there is no enforcement prior to entering West Greenwich.

Darrell Waldron commented on the speed sign and reasons why the speed study data is low. He also stated concern with children and horses could potentially be hurt. He requested a letter of support from the Town.

Chief Ramsay advised the possibility of requesting a State Trooper provide assistance with patrolling the area.

**G. PUBLIC FORUM**

Chief Claude Tyler, Lake Mishnock Fire stated concern with how the Fire Budget was submitted and was upset with the 3% fire allocation designated for West Greenwich No. 1. He felt the 3% from West Greenwich should be split equally between Hianloland and Lake Mishnock, instead of Hianloland receiving the full 3% from West Greenwich No. 1.

Councilman Andrews questioned if this concern was addressed at the Board of Engineers meeting. Chief Tyler stated he did not attend the meeting.

Councilman Mulcahey stated this was discussed three times at budget workshops and questioned why representation was not sent in his absence. He further explained the budget timeline.

Chief Tyler stated concern with Councilman Mulcahey not abstaining from this matter due to his involvement with the Fire Dept.

Chief Ramsay advised this item was discussed for three months and due to Chief Tyler being on vacation and illness, he was not present at the meetings. He further explained how the board came forward with decision for allocation. He advised he had called each fire station to advise a budget had not been submitted.

Council President Tourgee further explained the role of Fire Board of Engineer's.

Discussion ensued on 3% allocation.

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Discussion ensued on Hianloland truck.

Town Solicitor Ursillo suggested bringing this matter back to the Fire Board of Engineers.

Discussion ensued on the distribution and effect on the budget.

Town Administrator Breene stated the value of Councilman Mulcahey and there is no conflict with him as a Councilmember speaking on fire issues.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to close the meeting and to go into Executive Session at 8:31 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 Litigation- Swap Inc. Vs. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013-01. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee - 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**

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to come out of Executive Session and seal the minutes at 8:49 P.M. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

No action was taken.

Councilwoman Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn at 8:50 P.M.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

**ERIN F. LIESE, CMC**  
**TOWN CLERK**