

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH**

**TOWN COUNCIL**

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**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 12, 2014**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on March 12, 2014. Present were Mark Tourgee, Susan Woloochian, Robert Andrews, Gregory Coutcher and Thomas Mulcahey. Also present were 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: School was closed for February 5, 2014 Town Council meeting and that is why the videographer was not present and video was not available on the website. A 'Security/ Resident Vacation Request Form' is now available on the website for Residents who would like random security checks performed by the Police Department, while they are away from their homes. The History of the W. Alton Jones Campus featuring author Todd McCleish will be held on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. at the Greene Public Library. EWG Drama presents Beauty and the Beast at the High School Auditorium at 7 P.M. on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and at 2 P.M. on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students. The West Greenwich Land Trust Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 P.M. at the WG #1 Fire Station on Nooseneck Hill Road. Tickets are \$25 per person. A Puzzlethon for Autism Awareness will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1 to 4 P.M. at Metcalf School; sponsored by EWG Girl Scout Troup 1353. All proceeds to benefit the EWG Special Education Department. The cost is \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Help the scouts earn their Bronze Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior may achieve. The following are a list of events held at Louttit Library: March 15<sup>th</sup> celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday stories, crafts and cupcakes from 10 A.M. until noon; March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 P.M. Duct Tape Fun (ages 9 and up). The West Greenwich Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>; EWG School District Budget All Day Referendum will be Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and Coventry/West Greenwich Lions 40th Annual Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast to benefit local charities will be Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Post #9404 (29 South Main St – Coventry). Breakfast is served from 8 A.M. to 11 A.M. Adults are \$8, Children are \$4 and under 6 are free. WG Land Trust Earth Day will be held on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from noon until 4 P.M. at Louttit Library and Town Hall Pavilion. A Rabies Clinic will be held on Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 A.M. until noon at the Highway Garage behind Town Hall. The cost is \$10 for dog, cats and ferrets; cash only is accepted.

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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, Woloohojian - aye, Andrews - aye, Coutcher – aye, Mulcahey – aye

**I. MINUTES**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2014
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION- FEBRUARY 5, 2014 (SEALED)
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2014

**II. REPORTS**

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

1. TOWN CLERK REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2014
2. POLICE DEPT. REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2014
3. BUILDING OFFICIAL REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2014
4. TAX OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2014
5. PLANNING DEPT. MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2014
6. TREASURER’S OFFICE MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY, 2014

**III. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

1. CONSERVATION COMMISSION - MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 9, 2014
2. LAND TRUST- MINUTES OF MEETING JANUARY 14, 2014
3. ZONING BOARD OF REVIEW- MINUTES OF MEETING NOVEMBER 19, 2013
4. COPY OF LETTER TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS  
FROM: RICHARD PARKINSON, CHIEF  
RE: INVITATION TO MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup> CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER
5. COPY OF PAYMENT TO: TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH  
FROM: BEACON MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY  
JANUARY 31, 2014  
RE: WORKERS COMPENSATION SHARED EARNING DIVIDEND

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6. COPY OF LETTER TO: WEST GREENWICH TOWN COUNCIL  
FROM: HARRY WINTHROP, MAYOR OF NEWPORT  
FEBRUARY 24, 2014  
RE: INVITATION TO 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
7. COPY OF LETTER TO: KEVIN A. BREENE  
FROM: MICHAEL FINE, M.D., DIRECTOR OF HEALTH RI DOH AND BETSY ROSENFELD,  
J.D. REGIONAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR US DHHS, REGION 1  
FEBRUARY 21, 2014  
RE: INVITATION FROM FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA AND  
GOVERNOR LINCOLN CHAFEE TO JOIN LET'S MOVE! CITIES, TOWNS, AND COUNTIES
8. COPY OF LETTER TO: TA TRAVEL CENTER  
FROM: KEVIN A. BREENE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR  
FEBRUARY 11, 2014  
RE: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JOINT SESSION HELD FEBRUARY 10, 2014
9. COPY OF EMAIL TO: KEVIN A. BREENE  
FROM: MELISSA CURRAN  
FEBRUARY 18, 2014  
RE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PLASTIC BAG BAN
10. COPY OF LETTER TO: MARK TOURGEE, PRESIDENT  
FROM: KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY  
JANUARY 29, 2014  
RE: KENT COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT FY 2013

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

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

**February**

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ACCT #	NAME	AMOUNT	CODE
	<b><u>ABATEMENTS</u></b>		
06-0086-77	Flaherty, Michael J	\$289.10	05
16-0184-16	Philippi, Victoria P	\$296.37	01
	<b><u>ADDITIONS</u></b>		
06-0086-77	Flaherty, Michael J	\$34.75	05
16-0184-16	Philippi, Victoria P	\$202.66	01
	<b><u>REFUNDS</u></b>		
16-0184-16	Philippi, Victoria P	\$19.62	01

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**V. CHECK SUMMARY REPORT**

1. RECEIPT OF CHECK SUMMARY REPORT FOR  
MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2014  
FROM TOWN TREASURER

**E. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1 COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION- MORGAN BECK, AUDREY KLING & ANNIE SPIRA**

Council President Tourgee recognized Morgan Beck, Audrey Kling, and Annie Spira for their community service and donation to the West Greenwich Animal Safe Hold and awarded them with certificate's of recognition.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR POLICE PERSONNEL-  
PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICERS- BIAGIO LONGO AND JOSEPH FERLE**

Council President Tourgee commented on Longo and Ferle characteristics.

Chief Ramsay introduced Biagio Longo and Joseph Ferle and made the following remarks: Probationary Officers Ferle and Longo have successfully completed all of the Municipal Police Academy requirements and their Field Training Program. Ptlm. Joseph Ferle has been assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> shift and Ptlm. Biagio Longo assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> shift. Each officer is doing a find job in their respective assignments.

Town Solicitor Michael Ursillo sworn in Biagio Longo and Joseph Ferle to the rank of Probationary Police Officer.

Joseph Ferle was pinned by his father Joseph.

Biagio Longo was pinned by his brother Mark.

A brief recess was taken for pictures and to congratulate the new officers.

**2. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR-  
KEVIN A. BREENE**

Council President Tourgee commented on Town Administrator Breene's service to the Town of West Greenwich.

Council Vice President Woloochojian commented on Breene's accessibility.

Councilman Andrews stated Breene did a great job.

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Councilman Mulcahey moved to reappoint Kevin A. Breene for a five year term as Town Administrator. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

Town Administrator Breene thanked the Council for the appointment.

**3. DISCUSSION ON RAISE IN WEST GREENWICH'S BOND RATING FROM AA- TO AA+**

Council President Tourgee reviewed the bond rating and requested this be placed on the website. He also read the following letter from Maureen Gurghigian, Managing Director: Congratulations on the Town of West Greenwich's recent Standard & Poor's General Obligation double-notch rating upgrade to AA+ with a stable outlook! S&P has recognized the Town's excellent financial management. West Greenwich's long track record of taking the necessary steps to meet its financial goals puts the Town in a very strong position, as reflected in the upgrade. This higher bond rating will enhance the Town's position on any future borrowings. We appreciate and enjoy our work with Danielle on the Town's continuing disclosure. Please let us know if we may be of assistance as West Greenwich continues to make progress toward its long-term goals.

Council President Tourgee commended all the departments and was happy for the recognition.

Town Administrator Breene advised West Greenwich along with Narragansett were awarded.

**4. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON PERMISSION TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY-  
RE: POLICE VEHICLES**

Chief Ramsay advised the Council he would like to dispose of the ACO Van.

Town Administrator Breene advised the Building Official's old Tahoe would need to be disposed of as well.

Councilman Andrews moved to dispose of surplus property as recommended by Town Administrator Breene. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

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

**5. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON TAX APPEAL OF BONNIE BLAIR- 34 NOOSENECK HILL ROAD**

Charlene Randall, Tax Assessor/Collector advised on the appeal of Blair.

Discussion ensued on procedures and information disclosed prior to closing on the property.

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to deny the tax appeal of Bonnie Blair, 34 Nooseneck Hill Road. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

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

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**6. EXPLANATION OF RECENTLY COMPLETED STATISTICAL REVALUATION**

Charlene Randall, Tax Assessor/Collector discussed the recent notification sent to residents on the statistical revaluation and advised on the hearing process.

Councilman Andrews questioned what complaints Residents would have. Randall advised most complaints would be for discrepancy in value.

Discussion ensued on reasons for property values to increase.

**7. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RENEWAL OF TRANSFER STATION CONTRACT- EDWARD F BRIGGS COMPANY**

Council President Tourgee read the following memo from Town Administrator Breene: The Transfer Station contract runs out June 30, 2014. The contract calls for a three year renewal with the current operator, if the Town is satisfied with the operator. The current operator Edward F. Briggs Company has been around for many years; locally owned, and is a tax payer to the Town of West Greenwich. The also operate the Exeter Transfer Station. We have negotiated the following rates, should the Council wish to approve the renewal. Administrative Fee of \$3500/Month (for all three years, same as current contract). This fee includes employees who operate the site. The Hauling Fee will be \$170 a haul for all three years. The operator is a small local company that has done an excellent job and has a good relationship with our Residents who use the facility. I recommend the Council extend contract subject to the new rates.

Town Administrator Breene advised that the hauling rate for the next three years is the same as the current rate; no complaints have been received and Briggs is an excellent company.

Councilman Andrews moved to approve the Extension of Contract with Edward F. Briggs. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

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

**8. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON RENEWAL OF KENNEL LICENSES –  
JEWELSET KENNEL- 383 PLAIN MEETING HOUSE ROAD  
SHARICK COLLIES- 40 PLAIN MEETING HOUSE ROAD  
MARS KENNEL- 405 MISHNOCK ROAD-**

Town Administrator Breene advised on the three applicants and activity of the kennels.

Councilman Andrews recommended going with the ACO Tavares report.

ACO Tavares advised the Council on the meeting with MARS Kennel and condition of inspection prior to opening.

Councilman Andrews moved to approve the renewal of kennel licenses for Jewelset Kennel and Sharick Collies subject to compliance with all local and state ordinances and statues relative to kennel

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license and payment of taxes. Councilman Andrews also moved to approve MARS Kennel subject to inspection prior to opening and 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

**9. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON CHARLESTOWN RESOLUTION- RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT REPEAL OF MASTER-LEVER VOTING PER S 2091**

Council President Tourgee reviewed the resolution from Charlestown regarding the Master- Lever.

Councilman Mulcahey moved to endorse Charlestown Resolution to support repeal of Master-Lever Voting S 2091. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

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

**10. DISCUSSION ON REQUEST OF LINDA SHERMAN REGARDING BARKING DOGS**

Chief Ramsay discussed the history of the ongoing issue with the resident of 261 Mishnock Road, Linda Sherman, reporting she is being woken up by her neighbors', Claudia and David Chappelle dogs barking. He also reviewed dates of complaints and actions taken. He also advised on the current plan to rectify the situation with new barking collars purchased.

Town Administrator Breene expressed concern with the time burden of the Chief and also commented on the use of a dog door.

Linda Sherman, 261 Mishnock Road addressed the Council and reviewed the history of this issue. She commented on the failed attempts Chappelle has taken to address the situation. She reiterated her frustration with losing sleep and time this is taking to address.

Claudia Chappelle stated it is a bad situation for Sherman and they were friends and reviewed the history of the complaint. She also read a statement from David Chappelle on the situation.

Discussion ensued steps taken to ratify the situation.

Chappelle advised she put her dog up for adoption.

Councilman Mulcahey recommended an escalating fine.

Council President Tourgee discussed responsibilities of dog owners.

Discussion ensued on civil matters.

Discussion ensued on what would constitute barking as nuisance.

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Councilman Mulcahey moved to refer this matter to the Solicitor for amendments to Ordinance No. 48. Councilman Andrews seconded.

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

**11. DISCUSSION AND VOTE ON CLAIM AGAINST THE TOWN- ALAN KINNEL**

Town Administrator Breene advised on a claim regarding a motor vehicle and pothole received against the Town.

Town Solicitor Ursillo advised on laws regarding potholes.

Council Mulcahey moved to deny the claim of Alan Kinnel and refer to the Town Administrator.

Council Vice President Woloohojian seconded.

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

**G. PUBLIC FORUM**

Senator Kettle addressed the Council and congratulated the Town on the increase of the bond rating. He also advised on legislation regarding the Charter and thanked the Council for endorsing the Master Lever Resolution of Charlestown, as he is a co-sponsor.

**H. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**1. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2 POTENTIAL LITIGATION-**

**A. JUNK YARDS**

**B. SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**2. PURSUANT TO RIGL 42-46-5, (A), 2**

**LITIGATION – SWAP INC. VS. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013 -01.**

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to close the meeting and to go into Executive Session at 8:19 P.M. pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 A (2) Potential Litigation A. Junk Yards and B. School District and for Litigation relative to SWAP Inc. VS. Town of West Greenwich Planning Board SHAB 2013-01.

Councilman Coutcher seconded.

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



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Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to come out of Executive Session and seal the minutes at 9:00 P.M. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

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

Council Vice President Woloohojian moved to adjourn at 9:01P.M. Councilman Coutcher seconded.

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

**ERIN F. LIESE, CMC**

**TOWN CLERK**