

MINUTES
Town Council
Town of East Greenwich
Joint Meeting with Town Manager Search Advisory Board/Joint Meeting with School
Committee/Regular Meeting
February 12, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818

(1) Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

President Cienki called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

(2) 6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting with Town Manager Search Advisory Board

Town Council Present (3/5): S. Cienki, A. Deutsch, and N. Granatiero (Absent: S. Todd and M. Schwager)

Town Manager Search Advisory Board Present (6/6): J. Yena (Chair), C. Callanan, A. Meyer, A. Gammons, S. Lombardi and V. Ragosta

Town Staff Present: D. D'Agostino and L. Carney

Motion to go in to Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) to discuss the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons related to applications received for the Town Manager's position. Such person or persons shall have been notified in advance in writing that they may require the discussion be at an open session.

Motion to close the Executive Session made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

Motion to seal the Executive Session minutes and reconvene in to Open Session made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(3) 7:00 P.M. Joint Meeting with School Committee

Town Council Present (3/5): S. Cienki, A. Deutsch, and N. Granatiero (Absent: S. Todd and M. Schwager)

School Committee Present (7/7): C. Mark, M. Winters, M. Fain, M. Plain, Y. Sun, L. McEwen, and J. Dronzek

Town Staff Present: G. Corrigan, D. D'Agostino, L. Carney, L. Dykeman, A. Davey, L. Bourbonnais, W. Schmidle, J. Duarte, E. McAndrew, C. Bradley, K. Robinson, S. Brown, S. Cirella

Others: M. Oliverio, V. Mercurio, C. Tangney

President Cienki opened the joint meeting at 7:04pm.

Chairwoman Mark called the School Committee to order and the assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

- (a) Pre-budget meeting between School Committee and Town Council; Council to present estimate of revenues for FY 2019 and School to present estimate of total expenditures, projected enrollments, with resultant staff and facility requirements and any necessary or mandated changes in school programs or operations per RIGL 16-2-21 and 16-2-21.3.

Anthony Davey, Tax Assessor, provided a brief comparison of median home values and tax bills from 1998 to fiscal year 2017. As a result of the recent statistical revaluation, total assessments are \$2.64 billion. Exempt and taxable properties were explained and a correction was made to the value of FY19 taxable property from \$3.368 billion to \$2.368 billion (typo). Details on the tax levy were given. If increased to the maximum of 4%, the Town would receive an additional \$2.25 million. Senior and veterans exemptions are near 1,500 totaling \$1.78 million in tax credits.

Dr. Mercurio reported that the Governor's budget for FY 2019 is showing a \$416K increase over last year. Current enrollment is at 2,518 students which includes pre-K and out-of-district placements and excludes home-schooling. NESDEC projected enrollments through 2017 were reviewed.

- (b) Update, discussion and consideration of potential resolution of school sewer bill issues.

Town Manager Corrigan explained the calculations used to decipher the total amount owed, less FY17, which was \$111,834. The School Committee agreed with the amount and the Town offered to split the balance giving an abatement of \$55,916.90 to the Schools. The proposed total to become current including FY17 is \$122,618.14. Dr. Mercurio agreed and will confirm amounts owed with Mr. Wilmarth and bring before the School Committee for action on February 27th. Adjustments to their budget also require action as fees are higher than anticipated. Costs are up an estimated 10%.

Motion to accept the resolution and reduce the bill by \$55,916.90 made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (c) Decision regarding municipal/school finance functions.

Town Manager Corrigan remarked on the School Committee's current position in reference to her letter dated February 7, 2018 regarding consolidation of municipal and school department

functions. She recommended the adoption of Appendix A which is a consolidation of Town and School financial functions.

Chairwoman Mark shared the School Committee's perspective on both options as presented by Town Manager Corrigan. She explained that the stand-alone option is not in the best interest of the schools and recommended this option be tabled. She explained how the consolidation option fails to meet two out of the three reasons for consolidation as presented by Town Manager Corrigan. She spoke about state statutes and the role of the Director of Administration. A third option was recommended to consolidate Human Resources on the school side, manage day to day finances on the municipal side with the Town's Finance Director serving as the main link to all financial processing to support the schools. She made reference to an organizational chart calling it A1, which was an amended version from the one presented by Town Manager Corrigan.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the differences in the organizational structure between the two charts. Chairwoman Mark noted the major difference is who the Director of Administration reports to. Councilor Granatiero noted the schools version has one extra position, Senior Accountant. President Cienki acknowledged that progress has been made and suggested that Town Manager Corrigan, Superintendent Mercurio and Attorneys D'Agostino and Oliverio meet to come to a final agreement.

(d) Public Comment (limited to Joint Meeting topics)

Kim Kinzie, 143 Hemlock Drive, spoke as an advocate for the high school librarian and presented Valentine's to both bodies. She urged both sides to make the librarian's position a priority during budgeting.

Miguel Figueroa, 200 Kenyon Avenue, implored both bodies to re-consider staffing at the high school library. He spoke about his positive experiences throughout his elementary and middle school years with skills learned in the library.

Lila Baumgartner, 125 Cresthill Drive, spoke against having a split librarian.

Carla Swanson, 38 Greene Street, was disturbed at the speed of the discussion during the joint meeting.

Motion to adjourn the School Committee made by Dr. McEwen, seconded by Mr. Plain

Ayes: Mark, Winters, Plain, Fain, Sun, Dronzek, McEwen

Motion carried 7-0

A brief recess was taken.

(4) Town Council Minutes

(a) January 22, 2018 (Regular and Executive Sessions)

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Suzanne Cienki

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch

Motion Carried 2-0 with Councilor Granatiero abstained

(b) January 24, 2018 (Special Session)

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(5) Public Hearing

- (a) Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 166 Parks and Recreation (as amended) to add Article IV Tobacco Free Facilities (SECOND READING).

Ms. Bradley explained that no changes were received so the ordinance remains as originally drafted. The DOH is offering up to \$5,000 for signage to help enforce the ordinance. Discussion ensued on managing offenses and enforcement concerns.

No public comments.

Motion to move to Third Reading on February 26th made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (b) Application for a NEW Entertainment License for Red Stripe East Greenwich LLC d/b/a Red Stripe, 455 Main Street.

The applicant was not present.

No public comments.

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(6) Consent Calendar

- (a) Petition from National Grid and Verizon to install two poles on Maplewood Drive.

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (b) Application for RENEWAL of Private Detective License for Benjamin Lupovitz, 25 Ivy Garden Way, East Greenwich, RI

Motion to approve made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(7) Unfinished Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of East Greenwich, Chapter 227 Taxation (as amended), Article XV Exemption for Renewable Energy Systems adding Section 227-50 entitled Rules and regulations for Commercial Renewable Energy Systems Tangible Tax Value (THIRD READING).

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (b) Annual Renewal of Alcoholic Beverage License with Victualing, Entertainment and Outdoor Sidewalk Service for the period December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018 for The Grille on Main, 50 Main Street.

Maria Chianese explained there has been no progress with the State Division of Taxation despite providing information dating back to 2015. The Town is still owed a small amount for tangibles and past due sewer payments. Those amounts were not disputed and she expressed full intentions to pay the Town tomorrow. The State statute was recalled which states licenses expire on November 30 if no certificate of good standing is received but the Town Council sits as the local licensing board with decision making authority.

Motion to extend the annual licenses for two weeks to February 26th contingent upon payment within the next 48 hours by certified check made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Deutsch, Granatiero

Nays: Cienki

Motion Carried 2-1

(8) New Business (Discussion/Action)

- (a) Application for a Transfer of Victualing License from Ren Investments LLC d/b/a Ronzio Pizza to Rayan Restaurant LLC d/b/a Ronzio Pizza 5601 Post Road

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (b) Award of bid to Starkweather and Shepley Insurance for Health Care and Welfare Benefits Brokerage and Consulting Services.

President Cienki noted that the Town has not gone out to bid for these benefits since 1983. Town Manager Corrigan explained the scope of the RFQ and the results of same. She made a recommendation to award the bid to Starkweather and Shepley. Councilor Granatiero requested the bid results be posted. The next RFQ will be for property and casualty insurance.

Motion to approve the award of bid made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Town Manager Corrigan could not speak to what had been done in the past.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (c) Consideration of RIGL 45-15-5 claim by Pamela Aveyard filed by Robert E. Savage, Esq. and communicated in his January 23, 2018 correspondence to the Council.

No action taken.

- (d) Consideration of RIGL 45-15-5 claim by Sharon L. Kitchin filed by Richard A. Sinapi, Esq. and communicated in his February 2, 2018 correspondence to the Council.

No action taken.

- (e) Determination and realignment of Department Head compensation retroactive to July 1, 2017, pursuant to Section C-67 (I) of the Charter and in accordance with the Town of East Greenwich Standard Pay Schedule for Appointive Office and Positions adopted December 4, 2017.

Item tabled. President Cienki stated that compensation shall be set and voted upon by the full Town Council once performance reviews are completed.

- (f) Amendment to APRA Policy to update Fire Department contact to Kristen Henrikson

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (g) Emergency Fire Department Capital Purchases

Chief Robinson expressed the immediate need for new cardiac monitors, cardiac compression systems and AED's. IT compatibility was confirmed with Director Schmidle and prices are current. Kent Hospital has verbally agreed to purchase the modem but it is included in the request in case that falls through. A letter was received from a resident thanking the Department for saving their mother's life. Total amount requested was \$98,828. Town Manager Corrigan supports these purchases. Discussion ensued on change of protocols. Capital spending budget will need to be reviewed.

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (h) Ratification of Settlement Agreement between the Town of East Greenwich and Crompton Meadows LLC and authorize Town Manager or Planning Director to execute the agreement.

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ms. Bourbonnais provided a comprehensive update on the project.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (i) Performance Bond Reduction for the Frybrook Culvert Project

Mr. Duarte reported that the culvert has been installed with paving remaining. Bond was reduced by 10% plus cost of asphalt.

Motion to approve made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (j) Consideration of the disposal of obsolete technology equipment

Ms. Schmidle reported that old equipment is taking up valuable space and Council approval is required to dispose of it. All has been fully depreciated and has no value to the Town.

Motion to approve made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (k) Claim for property damage to 70 Kenyon Avenue for an amount of \$1,000.

Motion to approve made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (l) Update and discussion concerning Social Media Policy and application to fire and police departments.

President Cienki explained the Fire and Police Departments have existing SOG's that also address social media but are more stringent. Town Manager Corrigan provided details on both Department's policies and recommended exempting Fire and Police from the Town-wide policy and preserve what exists in their SOG's.

Motion to pull the police and fire from the Town-wide social media policy made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Discussion ensued on the union's position for demand bargaining.

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

- (m) Update and discussion of Town Council Rules and Guidelines to add back and edit the requirement that, "Members of the Council may contact Department Heads directly, but the Town Manager shall be informed of the contact. Contact will be for informational purposes only."

Motion to approve the addition made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(9) Town Manager's Report

- (a) Update on FY 2019 Budget Schedule

Town Manager Corrigan explained that two sections of the Charter (55-2 and 55-6) pertaining to the involvement of the Planning Board in the budget process for capital expenditures were previously overlooked. Thanks to Planning Board Chair, Mike Donegan who identified the omission and despite missing some deadlines, requirements are now being implemented. Joint meeting scheduled for February 28th for Town and School to present their CIP for the next six years. Three projects would require bonding: DPW garage, sewer improvements and park improvements. The Planning Board shall adopt the CIP by resolution in March. Bond money remains intact for roads.

(10) Public Comments (30 minute time limit)

Eric Jautaikis, 184 Hemlock Drive, commented how he and his family have enjoyed living in Town since relocating after retiring from the military. He spoke about many observations he has made since attending Town Council meetings in November and asked Councilors to consider whether or not they were living up to their own words. He advocated strongly for neighbors helping neighbors and for more honesty and transparency from Town Council.

Rob Vespia, Shippeetown Road, questioned why Councilors have already vetted the applications received for the Town Manager position. He felt that blame is being placed unfairly on previous administration for errors in the tax mailer.

Bill Perry, 5 Pardons Wood Lane, spoke about the Fire Department responding to four major incidents with fatalities over the past eight days and noted that the Chief was absent. He questioned why an officer who returned to work after being cleared from IOD was sent home pending clearance from the Town's doctor. He clarified that some departmental costs are covered by a federal AFG grant and should not be shown as additional expenses. He stated that the SOG pertaining to social media is a guideline and not a policy, created in 2016 for testing but not enforced. He asked for details on hourly rates paid to special counsel that was not provided through an APRA request.

Caryn Corenthall, 5 Brookfield Court, commented on the flow of information and contested the hiring of Town Manager Corrigan. She stated the Town's social media policy violated civil rights and was a lawsuit waiting to happen. She requested a financial accounting as it relates to breaking the Fire contract and hiring counsel. She commented further on a lack of transparency, lack of freedom of the press and unwillingness to share information.

Abby White, 20 Graham Way, voiced her concerns as a student and resident about budget cuts that impact her education. She was concerned with level funding to the School Committee that has affected chorus and the library.

Elizabeth McNamara, 18 Prospect Street, asked about the status of the annual audit and why an extension was requested.

(11) Council Comments

President Cienki stated she will explain the reason the Town requested an extension on the audit following the Executive Session.

Motion to go into Executive Session per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(12) Executive Session

- (a) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss the matter, Pawtucket Credit Union v. East Greenwich, KC-2017-0084.
- (b) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss litigation strategies, options and potential litigation related to East Greenwich, RI Series 2008 General Obligation ("GO") Bonds.
- (c) Closed pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2), sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, specifically to discuss litigation strategies, options and potential litigation related to prior years' auditing services and related financial reporting requirements.

Motion to close the Executive Session made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

Motion to seal the Executive Session minutes and reconvene in to Open Session made by Andrew Deutsch, seconded by Nino Granatiero

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

(13) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:00pm made by Nino Granatiero, seconded by Andrew Deutsch

Ayes: Cienki, Deutsch, Granatiero

Motion Carried 3-0

Submitted By:

Leigh A. Carney, CMC
Town Clerk

Approved By Town Council:
(Pending)

DRAFT