

**TOWN OF WEST GREENWICH**  
**TOWN COUNCIL**  

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**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 21, 2018**

A regular meeting of the West Greenwich Town Council was held on March 21, 2018. Present were Mark Tourgee, Linda Rekas Sloan, Thomas Mulcahey and Mark Boyer. Also present Town Administrator Kevin Breene and Town Treasurer Danielle Andrews.

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

Council President Tourgee called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**B. AGENDA:**

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to dispense of the reading of the previous meeting minutes. Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey - aye

**1. WORK SESSION ON FY 2018/2019 BUDGET**

Chief Kelley and Chief Andrews were present.

Town Administrator Breene stated the Chief's were invited tonight to discuss their budget. He also advised that Chief Tyler called and was unable to attend tonight's meeting and he further explained his frustration with Chief Tyler not attending.

Chief Kelley explained the discussion of hiring more people with Chief Tyler. He advised Chief Tyler would be in favor of the hiring; as long as they do not respond to his area.

Town Administrator Breene discussed the rescue personnel.

Chief Andrews commented on response times.

Town Administrator Breene further explained his frustration on Chief Tyler's absence.

Chief Kelley stated this is an important issue to discuss and all parties should be present.

Council President Tourgee advised on the difficulties with the increase of the school budget. It does not appear the hiring of additional personnel would be able to be funded.

Chief Kelley stated there is not enough staffing so Exeter is often toned out.

Council President Tourgee further discussed frustration with the budget and it is time to think outside the box for funding the rescue.

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Chief Kelley stated Chief Andrew's and him work well together at sharing rescue personnel.

Council President Tourgee stated he did support the increase of the Fire Personnel and EMT's.

Councilman Mulcahey stated maybe its time to give the Fire Board of Engineers more power so they can do what is good for the town.

Discussion ensued on Fire Board of Engineers.

Councilman Mulcahey stated that is why a 3-5 year plan needs to be created with a listing of equipment so a plan can be made.

Chief Kelley suggested adding one person to the schedule.

Town Administrator Breene discussed rescue recovery.

Town Administrator Breene stated frustration with the Fire Board of Engineers and budget requests.

Council President Tourgee agreed it is time to give the Fire Board of Engineers more power.

Councilman Mulcahey requested the Fire Board submit in writing the listing of equipment and what is needed per department including personnel.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan commented on the need for trade off. She also stated they would need to seek the advice of the Solicitor for each department is privately chartered.

Chief Kelley commented on powers of the Fire Board of Engineers.

Council President Tourgee stated they need a plan for appropriation of funding.

The Fire Department's Budget was reviewed.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan stated they need to come up with a group budget and no more horse trading.

Discussion ensued on the Fire Board budget process.

Councilman Boyer suggested a separate meeting to resolve the issues.

Discussion ensued on collective needs of the Fire Departments.

Discussion ensued on town funding allocation to fire departments.

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Discussion ensued on the cost of rescue personnel.

Town Treasurer Andrews advised on allocation.

Chief Andrews advised they have been putting rescue recovery funding aside to fund vehicles and repairs.

Discussion ensued on toning out protocol.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan stated concern with approving the requests without seeing the numbers.

Discussion ensued on budgets and seeing specific reports of funding.

Council President Tourgee stated the concern is what to do with Lake Mishnock.

Discussion ensued on the need to hold another meeting of the Fire Board of Engineers to have an analysis.

Town Administrator Breene advised on the history of Lake Mishnock personnel and out of town members.

Discussion ensued on the need to have an additional meeting.

Steve Wright was present for the Land Trust.

Town Administrator Breene advised on the 2013-2018 Real Estate Conveyance trend and agreement. The Town took the first \$25,000 the Land Trust took the second \$25,000 and anything above the \$50,000 the Town and Land Trust split.

Town Administrator Breene commented on the land that has been preserved in town.

Town Administrator Breene advised on the intent to still give the Land Trust the \$25,000.

Chairman Wright stated the Land Trust was not in the position to buy additional land. Now the focus is to provide assistance to residents to hold on to their large parcels. The Land Trust also manages the two historical church properties and as volunteers; they put in many hours to manage and maintain those properties. He stated they work very fiscally and they obtain grant funding.

Discussion ensued on the financial needs of the Land Trust.

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Council President Tourgee stated frustration with the bad feedback with the change of funding last year.

Chairman Wright stated if the Land Trust had the opportunity now like last year that would not have occurred and he never said the statement “to go see Council President Tourgee regarding the funding”.

Discussion ensued on last years funding of the Land Trust.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan stated the funding of the Land Trust has been an agreement and it is not statutory.

Council President Tourgee further stated frustration with what happened last year.

Chairman Wright replied he didn’t know why it was directed towards him.

Council President Tourgee responded for it came from your board.

Councilman Boyer suggested reviewing the funding quarterly.

Chairman Wright stated they were fine with the \$25,000.

Louttit Library Director Feldman was present to discuss Louttit Budget.

Town Treasurer Andrews advised on funding of the library.

Town Administrator Breene advised on the meeting held with the Louttit Library Board.

Director Feldman explained salaries of library employees.

Discussion ensued on pay of employees.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan questioned the 26% increase.

Treasurer Andrews explained the increase.

Director Feldman explained grant in aid.

Council President Tourgee advised to give the library the additional \$25,000.

Treasurer Andrews stated the \$25,000 would need to remain separate from the line item budget and a resolution would need to be done, due to the effects of State aid.

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Discussion ensued on funding the library and State aid.

Town Administrator Breene explained to the Council the funding.

Discussion ensued on open space.

It was agreed an additional workshop would need to be held next Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.

Council Vice President Rekas Sloan moved to adjourn at 8:59 P.M.

Councilman Mulcahey seconded.

VOTED: Tourgee- aye, Rekas Sloan - aye, Boyer- aye, Mulcahey - aye

**ERIN F. LIESE, CMC**

**TOWN CLERK**