

September 25, 2019

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons, Selectman John Prue and Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple. Also, present were members of the public. Members of the press were not present.

**(1) Call to Order**

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Comments from the Public**

Ms. Janice Mink, Ms. Laura Graham, Mr. Paul Sartor and Mr. Ben Tamsky all spoke in support of Ms. Lynn Conway's request to become a regular member on the Planning and Zoning Commission and asked that the Board of Selectmen vote to appoint her to the Commission.

**(4) Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Update**

Mr. Simmons called the public hearing to order at 7:07 p.m.

Ms. Julie Savin gave an update on the program stating the Town of Stonington closed on the CDBG Small Cities Homeless Diversion grant with the Department of Housing in May 2019 in the amount of \$315,466. The Town of Stonington positioned itself as the pass-through entity for the federal funding to reach many areas of Eastern CT. The grant period runs from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Five social service organizations are working under the United Way's direction to perform homeless diversionary activities. Those organizations include Always Home in Mystic, New London Homeless Hospitality Center in New London, Thames River Family Program in Montville, Noank Community Support Services in Noank and Access Agency in Willimantic.

Ms. Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services, was unable to attend the meeting but sent a statement thanking the CDBG program as Stonington Human Services has engaged a few of the listed organizations to collaborate and coordinate services for homeless Stonington residents.

Ms. Savin stated that the Town of Stonington is a champion for the future elimination of homelessness in Connecticut. She thanked Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, for his thoughtful and patient guidance regarding the grant as well as his professionalism.

With there being no further public comments, Mr. Simmons adjourned the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

**(5) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the September 11, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

**(6) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Al Rowland thanking Public Works for the recent upgrade to the sidewalks his Mechanic Street neighborhood.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Jim Lathrop requesting a letter from the Town to Eversource permitting them to run temporary power lines from a pole in Veteran's Park to the rear

corner of 34 West Broad Street to get power and heat to the building as well as the trimming of two trees.

**(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment – Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. James Stanton to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate.

**Appointment – Planning and Zoning Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Lynn Conway to the Planning and Zoning Commission from an alternate to a regular member.

**Reappointment – Planning and Zoning Commission**

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Peter Chomowicz as an alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Resignation – Waterfront Commission**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Mr. William Bomster from the Waterfront Commission with regret.

**Resignation – Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Mr. Alan Strunk from the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee with regret.

**Resignation – Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Mr. Alan Strunk from the Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission with regret.

**Resignation – Conservation Commission / Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Mr. Michael Schefers from the Conservation Commission with regret. Further, they also accepted his resignation as the Conservations Commissions representative to the Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee.

**Resignation – Planning and Zoning Commission**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Mr. Shaun Mastroianni from the Planning and Zoning Commission with regret.

**Resignation – Stonington Beautification Committee**

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Mr. Shaun Mastroianni from the Stonington Beautification Committee with regret.

**(8) Old Business**

**Discussion - Creation of a Stonington Pop-Up Book**

No discussion or action was taken on this item.

**Discussion – 75 Stillman Avenue Update**

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, gave an update on 75 Stillman Avenue stating that 45 loads of material were removed from the site and clean-up efforts of the site are complete. He added that the river was also cleaned up. He stated that the site is secured by a fence and although the fence is contracted by the property owner, he has asked the fencing company not to remove the fence and to contact the Town if the owner asks for the fence to be removed.

Mr. Prue stated this was a highly regulated complex project and was a team effort.

Ms. Kepple asked what next steps are in regards to getting compensation from the property owner. Mr. Deledda stated that the Town Attorney is working on that issue and also the Town is in the process of working with their insurance company to review further.

Mr. Simmons stated that items not contaminated such as granite sills were cataloged and removed from the site for safe keeping to ensure the valuable items were not stolen.

**(9) New Business**

**Discussion – Transition of Central Office Building Back to Town of Stonington**

Mr. Paul Sartor stated that the Facilities Committee will be holding an open house at the central office building on October 5<sup>th</sup> to allow the public to view the space. He added that he is awaiting a proposal from Human Services and has spoken with Stonington Housing Authority who are interested in the property for senior housing. He stated that the building is in really good condition.

**Discussion – Consultant for Pawcatuck Bridge Historic District Project**

Mr. Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, gave an overview regarding the importance of creating the Pawcatuck Bridge Historic District which would allow for the buildings recognized as historic in that area to become exempt from the FEMA limitations. He added that the first step would be to hire a consultant to develop the information needed to present to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). He stated that he believes it should take about two months after finding a consultant to be prepared to present to SHPO. Mr. Vincent stated that the same thing can be done with Wequetequock Cove area as well as Old Mystic along Rte. 27, however, that will be placed into next year's budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to approve moving the item of hiring a consultant at \$10,000 to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

**Discussion – Request for additional appropriation for drainage work located at Locust Street and Moss Street**

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, stated that the Department of Public Works was informed of a conflict between an existing municipal storm drain line and the construction of a new inground swimming pool located on Moss Street in Pawcatuck. The pipe was discovered by the homeowner's contractor during excavation. Public Works determined that the pipe is part of a runoff from Locust Street. The additional appropriation is needed to redirect the storm drainage east along Locust to the existing system within Moss Street.

Mr. Simmons stated that as this was the Town's mistake and he would attend the Board of Finance meeting to explain the need for the additional appropriation.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve moving the additional appropriation of \$34,000 to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

**Discussion – Request for additional appropriation for Public Works**

Mr. Simmons stated that the additional appropriation of \$10,000 would be utilized to compensate the Town Engineer and Highway Supervisor for the additional responsibilities they managed during the Director of Public Works eight-week absence due to a medical issue. Mr. Simmons stated that this is a past practice which has been done when staff filled interim positions. He added that both the Town Engineer and Highway Supervisor ensured that Public Works continued to run efficiently in the Director of Public Works absence.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve moving the additional appropriation of \$10,000 to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

**Discussion – Request from the Board of Education authorizing approval to apply for upcoming grants and formation of committees**

Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Gary Shettle, Director of Finance for Stonington Public Schools, sent through a request from the Board of Education asking the Town of Stonington to approve resolutions permitting them to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for roof replacement and construction of a safety vestibule at Stonington Middle School. Further, they requested the formation of two building committees named the Stonington Middle School Roof Replacement Building Committee and Stonington Middle School Safety Vestibule Building Committee. It was noted that the language on the agenda was incorrect and that a committee would be formed not a subcommittee.

Mr Simmons read the following resolutions regarding the Stonington Middle School Roof Replacement Building Committee:

Resolved, that the Town of Stonington Board of Selectmen authorizes the Stonington Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the replacement of the roof at the Stonington Middle School.

Resolved, that the building committee is hereby established as the Stonington Middle School Roof Replacement Building Committee with regard to the roof replacement project at the Stonington Middle School.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve both resolutions.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Faruk Rajab, Mr. Craig Esposito, Ms. Alisa Morrison and Mr. Van Riley to the Stonington Middle School Roof Replacement Building Committee.

Mr Simmons read the following resolutions regarding the Stonington Middle School Safety Vestibule Building Committee:

Resolved, that the Town of Stonington Board of Selectmen authorizes the Stonington Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the construction of a safety vestibule at the Stonington Middle School.

Resolved, that the building committee is hereby established as the Stonington Middle School Safety Vestibule Building Committee with regard to the safety vestibule construction project at the Stonington Middle School.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve both resolutions.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Faruk Rajab, Mr. Craig Esposito, Ms. Alisa Morrison and Mr. Van Riley to the Stonington Middle School Safety Vestibule Building Committee.

**Discussion – Permit Fee Waiver**

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve a waiver of building permit fees for the Stonington Free Library in the amount of \$3,650.00.

Ms. Denise Easton and Mr. George Sylvestre thanked the Board for waiving the fees associated with the building permit.

**(10) Comments from the Public**

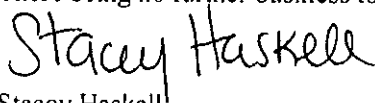
None

**(11) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Ms. Kepple stated that the vacancies on the Boards and Commissions are a good opportunity to get some new residents involved.
- Mr. Prue stated that he looks at the openings on the Boards and Commissions and tries to recruit people who may not realize they would be a good fit.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Town of Stonington is lucky to have over 200 citizens volunteering on the Boards and Commissions with the experience, knowledge and skill set to support the Town.

**(12) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary