

February 3, 2015

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Town Hall at 2:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman George Crouse, Selectman Rob Simmons and Selectman Michael Spellman. Also present were members of the public.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Crouse called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

(2) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the January 14, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Correspondence

Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Russell McDonough expressing his interest in serving on the Commission on Aging.

(5) Appointment

Climate Change Task Force

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to appoint MaryEllen Mateleska to the Climate Change Task Force.

Stonington Housing Authority

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to appoint Elizabeth Leamon to the Stonington Housing Authority.

Westerly Public Library Representative

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse and seconded by Mr. Simmons to appoint Mr. Spellman as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the Westerly Public Library. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that he would be interested in knowing what the representative does. Mr. Crouse stated that Mr. Brown and Mrs. McAnanly sat on the board and the representative is the voice for the Board of Selectmen. The vote was 3-0 in favor of appointing Mr. Spellman.

(6) New Business

The Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck Area Chamber of Commerce Request for Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the request for the use of Donahue Park for the 17th Annual Pawcatuck River Duck Race on Saturday, April 25, 2015.

Pawcatuck Lion's Club Request for Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Crouse to approve the request. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that since it's a road race rather than the duck race, the road race presumably goes through the Stonington roads so the Stonington Police Department should be notified of our approval. The vote was 3-0 in favor of approving the request for the use of Donahue Park for the Lion's Club 5k road race on Saturday, June 6, 2015.

(7) Set call for Special Town Meeting to consider and vote on:

a. To consider and vote on a resolution to approve the Board of Finance's approval of a request in the amount of \$125,000.00 from Stonington Public Schools for security items for the Town's elementary schools.

b. To consider and vote on a resolution to approve the Board of Finance's approval of a \$40,000.00 increase to the Building Department's "technical assistance" line item to pay for the services of a part time building inspector.

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Crouse to set the call for the special town meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that he approves the special town meeting whether or not he approves the vote for the items that will be taken up on that day are another matter. Mr. Crouse stated the \$125,000.00 has been much discussed between the Board of Finance and Stonington Public Schools a figure they have now both reached and the board of Finance has agreed to this figure. Mr. Crouse stated that the second one is the recent need for technical assistance to make sure the development of Masonicare. The vote was 3-0 in favor of setting the call for the special town meeting.

(8) Comments from the Public

Mr. Bill Sternberg stated that the 3rd workshop for the K-12 School Building Committee would be held that night.

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mr. Crouse stated that the town at the request of Mr. Wojtas is in the process of redacting 15,000. Mr. Crouse stated that we are going through that material judiciously and are in the process of turning it over.
- Mr. Simmons stated the time that the First Selectman spends and the town attorney spends in response to Freedom of Information Act requests is time well spent. He stated that one of the most important things that the government of any town can convey is a sense of openness, transparency and confidence in dealing with the public.
- Mr. Crouse stated that we have a map of a plan and there is \$25,000.00 to do the ADA compliant paths and walkways at the high school.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he arranged to meet Les Fiorenzo of the Federal Railway Administration under the DOT. Mr. Simmons stated that he met with him and Lou Frangella who is the Crossing Regional Manager and also with the Deputy Regional Administrator. He stated it was a fifteen minute meeting designed to share with them the paperwork that they have put together on the issue. Mr. Simmons stated that the fifteen minute meeting became an hour long meeting that was very productive. He stated that they are in agreement that we have to resolve this issue and they have pledged their cooperation. Mr. Simmons also stated that he will do a memorandum of conversation for the record for the Town of Stonington. He stated that they will be responding back with an e-mail to set up a meeting within the next 30 days to address the issue of the process to pursue. Mr. Simmons stated that the bottom line is this is a quiet zone. He further stated that the people in Pawcatuck don't have whistles and the people in Mystic don't have whistles but the people in Stonington central, not just the Borough, but the whole Borough has these whistles. He stated that he is not in the borough that he is on the other side and he hears them and they are louder than the Wamphassuc crossing used to be. Mr. Simmons stated that this is a matter of a balance between safety and public convenience.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the second item to discuss has to do with Economic Development. He stated that he is working with Blunt White and Tim Murray, who is a local activist, and they are meeting with local business folks. Mr. Simmons stated two

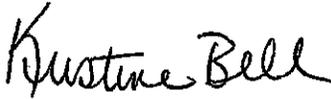
issues have come up in or conversation. One issue is the issue of a Town Planner and the town Economic Development and the second is the Plan of Conservation and Development. He stated that every recommendation of the Economic Development Commission that was provided to Planning & Zoning for the POCD has been struck. He stated that if there is no development, there is no grand list if there is no grand list, there is no way to pay for the schools or the police or the highways or anything else without taxing old people out of their homes. Mr. Simmons stated that the most important thing that every one is saying that we can do as a Board of Selectmen is hire a Director of Planning and to make sure that the Plan of Conservation and Development allows people to do things in the Town of Stonington other than get rejected.

- Mr. Crouse stated that he had a meeting with the POCD advocates and we are on board with their recommendations.
- Mr. Simmons stated that what he will be looking at is the recommendations that were submitted by the Economic Development Commission. He stated that there is no point in voting for the plan of Conservation and Development if it doesn't allow rational, reasonable development.
- Mr. Spellman stated that we have a great quality of life here in Stonington. He stated that we have to have development.

(10)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary