

February 10, 2016

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station at 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons, Selectman Michael Spellman and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

(2) Comments from the Public

None

(3) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the January 27, 2016 Joint Board of Selectmen/CIP Committee special meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the January 27, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the January 29, 2016 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

(4) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Tony Sheridan, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut thanking the town for its continued participation in the Chamber.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Cynthia Ladwig, Town Clerk notifying the Board of the number of electors and the number of polling places in Stonington.

(5) Reappointment

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Jim Kelley to the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut.

(6) New Business

Stonington Prevention Council Update

Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services stated that based on the 20 plus overdoses that our region has experienced in the past 2 weeks there has been an outpouring from the community asking what can they do to help. She stated that first and foremost the town does have a Stonington Prevention Council. Ms. Theodore stated that in our town we merged our Underage Drinking Task Force with the Youth Advisory Board 8 years ago to form the Prevention Council. Ms. Theodore stated that their focus is not only on alcohol prevention it is also any substance that might be detrimental to our youth and adults in the community and focusing on providing a safer community. She stated with that was the installation of the drug drop box last May at the Police Department. Ms. Theodore stated that they collect anything from prescription drugs, patches, ointments, over the counter medication, expired vitamins, even pet medication. She stated that since May, they have collected over 140 pounds of unused medication from the public. Mr. Simmons asked if the drugs are legal. Ms. Theodore stated yes. Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Spellman what his thoughts were. Mr. Spellman stated that it is an outstanding program. He stated he gives great credit to Ms. Theodore. He stated that she was right on the forefront of this and they took the heroin issue of the table as a political issue last fall. Ms. Theodore stated that there will be a community forum on

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February 18, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Stonington High School and also the high school will be hosting a youth forum presented by Shine a Light on Heroin on February 18, 2016 in the morning for students. Mr. Simmons asked Mrs. Rotella if Waterford has a program like this. Mrs. Rotella stated that they have a drop box. She stated that you shouldn't flush them down the toilet or throw them away. Mrs. Rotella stated that it is very important to work with the community and that it takes away some of the stigma as this effects all sorts of people. Mr. Simmons stated that we should look at this as an illness not a crime.

Coastal Resiliency Plan Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to adopt the Coastal Resiliency Plan Resolution authorizing Mr. Simmons to enter into and sign contracts on behalf of the Town.

Resolutions and Declarations of Official Intent

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to adopt four resolutions authorizing the First Selectman or the Director of Finance to negotiate, enter into, execute, and deliver one or more Equipment Leases.

(7) Comments from the Public

None

(8) Comments from the Selectmen

Mr. Spellman stated that he encourages people to attend the SALOH event. He stated it is information that parents need in today's world. Mr. Simmons stated that for some time the Town of Stonington has operated without a populated Ethics Commission. He stated the town charter reads that we have an ethics commission. Mr. Simmons stated that in recent years, for whatever reason, the town and Board of Selectmen have decided not to populate it. He stated that in discussion with the town attorney it has been suggested that we have a Commission on Ethics that is populated that can address on a regular basis issues such as how do we brief incoming town employees. He stated that the Commission on Ethics should be for a 2 year period that coincides with the service of a particular board. Mr. Simmons stated that under those conditions it might be appropriate that each member of the Board have a right to designate one person that they would like to see on the board. He stated that the other 3 then be selected through a process of applications so that we each have a sense that there is somebody there who represents us and then you round out the group with others who come from different backgrounds and different experience.

(9) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary