

March 11, 2015

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Michael Spellman. Selectman Rob Simmons was available by telephone. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the February 25, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Correspondence

None

(5) Appointment/Resignation

Economic Development Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to appoint Danielle Chesebrough to the Economic Development Commission.

Charter Revision Commission

The Selectmen acknowledged the resignation of Constance Frishman from the Charter Revision Commission.

(6) New Business

Street Number for Map 32, Block 1, Lot 6A (267 Osbrook Point, Pawcatuck)

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the recommendation by Candace Palmer, ZEO to assign the address of 267 Osbrook Point to Map 32, Block 1, Lot 6A.

Street Number for Map 8, Block 1, Lot 38 (569 Greenhaven Road, Pawcatuck)

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the recommendation by Candace Palmer, ZEO to assign the address of 569 Greenhaven Road to Map 8, Block 1, Lot 38.

Small Cities Program Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman and seconded by Mr. Crouse to adopt the Small Cities Program Resolution. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that he supports the resolution. The vote was 3-0 in favor of adopting the resolution.

Borough of Stonington Request for Building Permit Fee Waiver

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the request from Borough Warden, Jeffrey Callahan to waive the building permit application fee in the amount of \$194.00 for the installation of a new steam boiler in the Borough Hall.

(7) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Ed Hart stated he would like to express a little concern he has with the Charter Revision Commission. He stated this commission seems to be concentrating on only one feature of the town, education. He stated that there were two or three items that he

thought were rather important. Mr. Hart stated that one thing he wanted to see them to get into was the makeup of the Board of Selectmen. I think it is important that once in a while see if someone is doing a lot better than we are or maybe we are doing it better than anyone. Mr. Hart stated he wanted to find out where the issue is that was in the paper. Mr. Hart asked if that is coming out of the state legislature or is it a proposed law. This is relative to the taxes on the golf courses.

- Mr. Crouse stated that is some lobby group or the golf course owners and they want to turn their greens into open space. Mr. Crouse stated that is a great economic hit to us. Talked to State senator and State Representative and they are on board with not supporting this.

(8) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mr. Crouse stated that there was something in the paper about selling West Broad Street School. He stated that was an option. Mr. Crouse stated that we listed many, many options in the K-12. He stated that the West Broad Street School will be a school through 2019. In 2019 the town will be able to decide if it is turned over to us by the Board of Education town uses for that building. Mr. Crouse stated that Mr. Spellman also brought up the fact that in Providence a building like this in a time of need that the town should own it because in any case if there is a need for it to be used again as an educational facility the town should be able to access this use.
- Mr. Spellman said it was West Broadway School ironically in Providence it became one of the great success stories. Mr. Spellman stated that they had a spike in enrollment which when listening to the school committee last night they project a potential of that occurring in Stonington very early in the next decade. He stated forewarned is forearmed. He stated that if we are prepared for it we are prepared for it. Mr. Spellman also stated that we may take that school out of mothballs. He stated that was a great success story in that district. Mr. Spellman stated that the principals and the teachers volunteered to work in the system to go work in that particular school. He stated that it was a very good thing to hold onto to that. Mr. Spellman further stated that rather than give something depending on the dollar you should hang onto your assets because realistically in this town we don't own a whole lot. He stated that you have to be careful tripping over dollars to pick up dimes.
- Mr. Simmons thanked the Selectmen for accommodating his travel plans and thanked Kris Bell for coordinating the hookup of this discussion. He stated that he is currently in Hanoi, Vietnam. Mr. Simmons stated that he appreciates being able to participate in this meeting. He also stated that he concurs with comments that were made with regard to West Broad Street School. Mr. Simmons stated that it is an asset to this town. He stated that it has historic and nostalgic value and the town needs to keep it for any potential future uses whatever they may be. He stated that Mr. Spellman has spoken publically about the issue of tolls. Mr. Simmons stated that the State of Connecticut is now considering tolls. He stated possibly tolls between Stonington, Connecticut and Westerly, Rhode Island. Mr. Simmons stated that he concurs with you that tolls are designed simply to be another tax. He stated the money goes into the general fund. Mr. Simmons stated that it not something that is beneficial to our community. He stated that the only tolls that he ever supported were tolls to fund the completion of Route 11 which he thinks would improve the transportation system in southeastern Connecticut.

(9) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine Bell".

Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary