

June 10, 2015

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 George Crouse, Selectman Rob Simmons and Selectman Michael Spellman. Also present were members of the public and press.

**(1) Call to Order**

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

**(2) Approval of the Minutes**

- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the May 21, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the May 27, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the June 1, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

**(3) Public Hearing – 2015 Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit Applications**

- Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, stated that the Town received two applications for the Neighborhood Assistance Act which is a tax payer program. He stated that it is a program which non-for-profits can solicit donations from corporations in the community and then that corporation can apply for a credit to the State DRS. Mr. Sullivan stated that he received two applications one from The Indian & Colonial Research Center. He stated that they are looking for donations of \$650.00 to insulate their museum. Mr. Sullivan stated that the other one he received was from the Stonington COMO. He stated that they are looking for donations of \$91,000.00 but people can contribute whatever they like and the area corporations can apply to the State DRS for a credit. Mr. Sullivan said he reviewed the applications and they look in fine order and he recommends that the Board approve them.
- Mr. Simmons asked with regard to organizations that are eligible to apply for the Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act do they have to be 501(c)3 organizations.
- Mr. Sullivan stated that they do.
- Mr. Simmons asked if they have that IRS letter or that ID number.
- Mr. Sullivan that they have to have the tax exempt letter.
- Mr. Simons stated that anybody who is eligible who applies gets a tax credit for the contribution to the organization.
- Mr. Sullivan stated that these applications are for the non-profits themselves to participate in the program and once or if an area corporation donates money to them then they are eligible to the DRS and file an application.
- Mr. Simmons asked if there is a particular deadline for a 501(c)3 to apply or is it basically open ended.
- Mr. Sullivan stated that it is annually and the application cut-off date is May 31<sup>st</sup> and we have to have to the State by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**(4) Approval of the 2015 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit**

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to send the applications on to the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services.

**(5) Comments from the Public**

Ms. Fran Hoffman, representing CUSH, stated that she was aware of some concern about the use of pesticides at Deans Mill School. She stated that one of things that CUSH has been involved in is bringing in the national expert on organic land management in particular fields and public property. He has been over the last 3 years provided training to grounds managers in Stonington, Groton and Westerly and North Stonington more recently. She stated type of practices he has developed and is known for are within a very short period of time less costly than methods currently used and she thinks his approach to things could be extremely valuable to Stonington in considering what type of action to pursue. She stated that she would like to offer any assistance that she can be in helping work through this and she would be happy to work with anyone.

**(6) Correspondence**

- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Virginia Abernathy expressing her interest in serving on either the Board of Finance, Board of Education, Waterfront Commission or Recreation Commission.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Tom Gilligan, Director of the Water Pollution Control Authority advising the Board that he will be retiring on Friday, August 14, 2015.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Chief Darren Stewart praising the Pawcatuck Fire Department for their effort in stopping the Clark Thread Mill fire on River Road in Pawcatuck.

**(7) Appointment/Reappointment**

**Commission on Aging**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to appoint Mary Ferguson to the Commission on Aging.

**Conservation Commission**

Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Bertrand Bell stating that he was resigning from the Conservation Commission.

**(8) New Business**

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

Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Shannon Caracciolo from the Greater Westerly-Pawcatuck Area Chamber of Commerce requesting the use of Donahue Park for the River Event on Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the request.

**Stonington Housing Authority PILOT Resolution**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman and seconded by Mr. Simmons to change the 10% to 6% of the shelter rent that the Stonington Housing Authority is paying the Town of Stonington. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that there was a lengthy discussion of this matter previously and we were unanimous in our agreement that moving from 10% to 6% was a reasonable idea. The vote was 3-0 in favor of adopting the resolution.

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to add the La Grua Center's request for use of the Town Dock to new business. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that we have a certificate of liability insurance from the La Grua Center and he believes that the Executive Director of the La Grua Center has been in touch with Kris Bell and that all of the details have been worked out. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the request from the La Grua Center's for the use of the Town Dock on Saturday, June 20, 2015 for their outdoor musical festival community event.

**Accept Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Spellman to voted unanimously to accept the final report of the Charter Revision Commission as submitted and these proposed revisions to be voted on in the November, 2015 election.

**(10)Comments from the Public**

Mr. Don Maranell stated that he was glad to know that the La Grua Center submitted a certificate of liability insurance.

**(11)Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mr. Spellman praised the Stonington Police Department for their recent arrests in Pawcatuck and addressing the heroin issues. He stated they did an outstanding job. He stated that it would be in the best interest as the town to advise department heads to make contingency plans in years ahead and that they are cognizant on the debt on the bonding and we make sure we don't over burden tax payers.
- Mr. Crouse stated that our town operates with much aid and assistance from the State of Connecticut.
- Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Crouse for asking him some months ago to look into issues relative to Economic Development issues in the Town of Stonington. He stated that request led to his involvement first in the business community and second with the EDC and Chairman White and pursuing the POCD. Mr. Simmons stated that this Board submitted over 20 recommendations to the Planning & Zoning Commission most of which were accepted. He stated that the current budget has funding for a Director of Planning which he thinks is an issue that they are unanimous about on the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Simmons stated that he understands that there will be the beginning of an advertisement process shortly. He stated that he would express his support from having someone from Planning & Zoning, Economic Development and someone from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Simmons stated that he would love to do that but he knows that it is Mr. Crouse's call. Mr. Simmons asked if the Board of Selectmen has the opportunity to approve the search committee.
- Mr. Crouse stated that he didn't think so.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to his interest and his concern in this. He stated that we have gone through several years without a Director of Planning. Mr. Simmons stated that he has been told repeatedly by members of the business community and the EDC that Stonington comes across to investment community as not friendly to businesses. He stated that the effort that they made this Spring for 6 months to offset that attitude and that opinion is important so it's important to continue to keep their eye on the ball.

- Mr. Spellman stated that he spoke with Chief Burns from the Pawcatuck Fire House today and they will have the availability to use the facility for the West Broad Street School Committee.
- Mr. Crouse stated that a Board of Finance member needs to come on.
- Ms. Ashley Gillice stated that the Board of Finance has submitted Tim O'Brien's name.
- Mr. Maranell stated that that you do have the final say with the Planning Director after he or she is hired. He stated that you have the ability to appoint or disappoint. He stated that Mr. Crouse does the hiring and firing but if the whole Board decides that that person is not qualified they have the ability to say no.

**(9) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell  
Recording Secretary