

July 8, 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 Mike 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

- With regard to the June 22, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes Mr. Simmons stated that he went through the minutes and to his recollection there was no professional recorder at the meeting. He stated that when he read the Westerly Sun article on the meeting he felt that it was pretty accurate in the quotes. Mr. Simmons stated that it was a very significant meeting and that a lot of important things were said. Mr. Simmons stated that for the two bullet points that dealt with him he did an expanded bullet point based on his recollection of the meeting and on the materials that were put in the Westerly Sun which he thought was a very accurate article. He stated that he would ask that his comments be placed in the record of that meeting. Mr. Spellman stated that there was not a professional recording of this 6/22 meeting and there was no secretary present. He stated he read and reread the proposed minutes of this meeting. He was quoted extensively in the Westerly Sun. He stated that nothing in the existing minutes are not quoted at all. Mr. Spellman stated that there have been additions and deletions to these minutes. Mr. Spellman made a motion to table the minutes because he would like to have an opportunity to review them very closely and make sure they are accurate.
- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Spellman to approve the July 6, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes with Mr. Simmons' addendum. The vote was 3-0 in favor of approving the minutes with the addendum.
- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Crouse to approve the June 24, 2015 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes. Mr. Spellman abstained.

(3) Comments from the Public

Mr. Ed Hart asked if he should have an attorney present if he's going to ask questions. Mr. Hart stated that he has been here since 1979 and has never seen a town as screwed up as it is now. He stated that he feels that the Town of Stonington is really liable for a lot of problems prior to you guys getting here and afterwards and that is what concerns him. Mr. Hart stated that he would suggest they really sit down with the town attorney and look at some of the problems that may be coming up that could really impact this town.

(4) Correspondence

None

(5) Appointment/Reappointment

Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee

This appointment was tabled.

Conservation Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to reappoint Ben Baldwin to the Conservation Commission.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT
15 JUL 13 PM 1:00
CYNTHIA LADWIN
TOWN CLERK

(6) New Business

The Ocean Community YMCA Special Permit Fee Waiver

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse and seconded by Mr. Spellman to approve the request for a special permit fee waiver. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that the waiving of the fees is necessary because the YMCA located in Mystic is a non-profit and provides a useful service to the community. The vote was 3-0 in favor of approving the request.

(7) Comments from the Public

- Mrs. Cynthia DiCesare stated that she made a comment at the June 23, 2015 meeting and she hopes that they further the discussion on the pesticides that are partly being used on the athletic fields. She stated what she would really like to know is what are the benefits that we are obtaining from the use of these substances. Mrs. DiCesare asked if they are really necessary.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the lady is correct she did ask for an explanation for the purpose of these applications. He stated in fairness to her we should get a written response from either Ed Ball or from the appropriate officials in town hall who supervises this activity. Mr. Simmons stated that the Chairman of the Recreation Commission made a good comment when he said it's a problem of communication.
- Mrs. DiCesare stated that it seems as a community we are more aware of the use of pesticides and we're questioning is it so important that they are absolutely pristine and that the grass is green as we could possible get it. To what end and to what risk.
- Mr. Spellman stated that we grow children we don't just grow grass.
- Mr. Ed Hart asked if he could get a copy of the employee handbook.

(8) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mr. Spellman stated that the he spoke with Lisa Konicki of the Westerly Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Spellman stated that she indicated that numerous signs for a social event that was occurring in the City of New London three weeks ago were located all over town. He stated that she picked up some of the signs that were placed on town roads. Mr. Spellman stated that he disposed of them for her. He stated that he told her that he would forward her concern to the Board.
- Mr. Simmons stated that on the issue of signs, if you post your political signs on the state highway right of way or intersection, the state highway department is authorized to pick the signs up, put them in the truck and take them to the Old Mystic garage where they lay them out next to the dumpster because according to the state they are a distraction on a state highway. Mr. Simmons stated that we had a recent complaint about a commercial sign on North Main Street which is a scenic road. He stated that the town Highway Department should be authorized to remove illegal signs from town roads and take them to the Highway Department where the owner can pick them up if they so desire.

(9)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary