July 27, 2016

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 Rob Simmons and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Mike Spellman was available by telephone. Also present were members of the public.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT.
16 AUG -9 PM 12:34
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the July 13, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Amanda Murphy expressing her interest in serving on the K-12 School Building Committee.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Rick Fiore regarding his dispute with Marsha Standish, Tax Assessor concerning his Income & Expense Report for 116 South Broad Street.

(6) Reappointment

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to reappoint Lynn Young to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

(7) New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to add new business to the agenda.

Recommendation to send LED lighting replacement project for the Town Hall, Public Works and Human Services buildings with Connecticut Light and Power dba Eversource Energy to Town Meeting

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Spellman to approve the recommendation. Discussion: Barbara McKrell, Director of Public works stated that this will be good for the Town of Stonington and that it will cut energy usage down. The motion was 3-0 in favor of approving the recommendation.

Calvary Church Request for Building Permit Application Fee Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the request.

Request for Authorization to Sell Old Shellfish Commission Boat

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to authorize the sale of the old Shellfish Commission Boat.

Discussion: Westerly Water Mandatory Conservation Plan

Mrs. Rotella read an e-mail from Mr. Spellman which is attached to these minutes as Exhibit "A". Mr. Simmons asked Selectmen Spellman and Councilor Gagnier if Westerly Water has initiated a mandatory ban. Mr. Gagnier stated yes. Mr. Simmons stated that the Westerly Water mandatory ban contains the elements that were included in Mr. Spellman's statement. He stated wat he would recommend that the Town of Stonington initiate a mandatory ban that replicates the ban currently in place in Westerly as a motion and the text of Mr. Spellman's statement (Exhibit "A") become an implementing text. Mr. Simmons stated that his concern is that the Town of Stonington may not have the statutory authority to engage in the punishment but that if we replicate the ban then we can collaborate with the Police Department on the details of the

implementation. Mr. Spellman stated they will be able to act under appropriate Connecticut General Statutes. A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to initiate a mandatory ban that replicates the Westerly Water Company mandatory ban in Westerly Rhode Island that a discussion of the details of the ban would be contained in the Spellman text and that we would align the policing portions of the ban with Connecticut law and local ordinance.

Discussion: Bricks and Murals Program

Councilor John Gagnier, Wendy Brown, head of the Downtown Business Association and Cameron Boards of Westerly gave a slide show presentation and spoke with regard to Stonington collaborating with Westerly on this project. Mr. Gagnier stated that this is meant to bring historic public art and it mimics businesses and industry and cultural impact of communities from a bygone error. Mr. Simmons asked if people would come in and paint the walls. Mr. Simmons asked when they planned to do this next year. Mr. Boards stated next September 13th through the 17th. Mr. Simmons asked if the people in the community determine the art. Mr. Boards stated no, the people in the community determine the theme. After more discussion a motion was made by Mr. Spellman and seconded by Mrs. Rotella to have Stonington collaborate with Westerly with Bricks and Murals Program. Discussion: Mrs. Rotella asked if they have picked out the places where they would like to have this. Mr. Gagnier stated that the Pawcatuck Workingman's Club is on this side, C.C. O'Brien's, the Blackall Building and the credit union. Mr. Simmons stated that C.C. O'Brien's has already agreed. He stated that the credit union has to run it by their board of directors and the Workingman's Club has to run it by their board. Mr. Simmons stated that he has briefed Mrs. Blackall who is an artist herself. The vote was 3-0 in favor of this project.

Discussion: Donahue Park Boat Ramp

Mr. Simmons stated that it was his understanding that the Westerly/Pawcatuck River Glow is August 6th or 7th. He stated that our Beautification Committee a couple of weeks ago did some work with the Mystic Train Station. Mr. Simmons stated that the Mystic Train Station is an entry point for the Town of Mystic. He stated that it was a collaboration between the Town of Stonington, the Department of Public Works, two maybe more highway workers, the Mystic Chamber, the Beautification Committee, the Mystic Garden Club and the owner of the business in the Amtrak station. Mr. Simmons stated that for very little time and not a lot of money they transformed the station which is an entry point for Mystic. He stated now the question is what can the town do reasonably at Donahue Park to spruce it up. Mrs. Rotella stated what the Beautification Committee would like to clean up and they are willing to put a volunteer committee together if it doesn't create any issues for Public Works as far as clean up goes. Mrs. Rotella stated additionally they talked in regards to the ramp at the boat launch and getting that done. She stated that she knows that they can't tar it but she believes that they can pave. Mrs. Rotella asked Director Barbara McKrell if the town can pave in-house. Mrs. McKrell stated no the town does not have the equipment to pave in-house. Mrs. Rotella asked if the town paves roads. Mrs. McKrell stated no the town just patches. Mrs. Rotella asked if the town paves roads at all. Mrs. McKrell stated that the town doesn't have the trucks. Mrs. McKrell stated that the town does not have the capability to do major paving work. Mrs. Rotella stated not major but don't we pave roads. Mrs. McKrell stated that the roads we do paving on are just patches small spaces. Mrs. Rotella stated that the ramp would be a small space. Mrs. McKrell stated Jason Vincent researched this. Mrs. Rotella wanted to understand first if the town paves in-house. Mrs. McKrell stated that the town doesn't have the ability to pave in-house. Mrs. Rotella stated that Mr. Vincent explained that there are some issues with water, wetlands and permits. She stated that currently there is gravel there and asked if the town could put more gravel in. Mrs. McKrell spoke with the town engineer and he has a call into the state DEEP and he would like to get their approval prior to placing gravel into the boat ramp. Mrs. Rotella asked if this is something Public Works Department could do prior to the River Glow taking place. Mrs. McKrell stated if the Town Engineer could get the approval from the State the town could do it. Mrs. Rotella asked if we need the approval if it's already

existing. Mr. Simmons stated that he went over there the other day and there is gravel there that goes below the high water mark. He stated that there is drainage coming off of the neighboring property. Mr. Simmons stated that there are rocks and refuse wood down there. He stated that gravel is inert and it is a naturally occurring material and if you lay a couple of inches on top it provides a fresh appearance and shouldn't involve more than one load with a pickup truck.

Discussion: Amtrak Bypass Project

Mr. Simmons stated that the Amtrak Bypass Project is designed to come into the Town of Stonington at a point just south of the Westerly bypass Route 78. He stated that it crosses the river and then proceeds through the center of the Elm Ridge Golf Course but an interesting thing for our Westerly friends is where does it come from Rhode Island if it crosses the river at Rt. 78 it seems to miss the Westerly train station. Mr. Simmons stated that might be an issue for Westerly's town council at some point. He stated that it proceeds through upper Pawcatuck and onto I-95 where it parallels I-95 down through Mystic's Exit 90 which is the premiere exit to the tourist center of Mystic. Mr. Simmons stated that it's one of the largest tourist destinations for the State of Connecticut. He stated that Old Mistick Village is a wonderful shopping village with over 70 shops. Mr. Simmons stated that it contributes to the grand list but it appears that Amtrak really wants to run through the high speed right through the middle of it. He stated he did not notice on this delineation any stops. Mr. Simmons stated that he is personally opposed to it and he's been in touch with Congressman Courtney and he is preparing a letter for Congressman Courtney, Senators Blumenthal and Murphy. He stated that Senator Murphy is on the Transportation Subcommittee of Appropriations urging them to oppose the Amtrak Bypass.

(8) Comments from the Public

None

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mrs. Rotella stated that the Beautification Committee is moving in a forward moving direction and she thanked everybody for working hard on that. Additionally, the K-12 Building Committee is starting to see some changes in Pawcatuck on the roof that's moving forward.
- Mr. Spellman stated that he wanted to talk about the Amtrak Bypass Project. He stated that there was a point in time that the Mystic Golden Triangle generated a substantial amount of state sales tax revenue. He stated that it has fallen off. Mr. Spellman stated that we want to be part of the solution to the economic problem up in Hartford. He stated that he applauds Congressman Courtney for discussing using the money for improving existing infrastructure. Mr. Spellman stated that we have train stops in the Borough with no warning. He stated that when you go in someone could get hung up on the rail and the train is still coming. Mr. Spellman stated that the town needs to have that improved and we have those in existence so the trains won't have to be blowing the horn when they are going through the Borough. He stated that the town needs to get a stop in Mystic. Mr. Spellman stated that if you build it they will come and it will generate sales tax revenue.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Amtrak Bypass Project is an outrageous expensive example of how the Federal government is not able to respond to local interests. He stated that local interests require that when the Acela program came through the Town of Stonington they would build quad gates and each set of quad gates with bells would also have a vehicle detection device in the crossing because when the train comes down the track the engineer needs to know if there's something stuck on the crossing. Mr. Simmons stated that it's not high tech. He stated stoplights have it on many on the town's intersections and roads. Mr. Simmons stated that Amtrak was supposed to put that equipment in but they tell have told us that they haven't put it in those two crossings.

(10)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary