October 12, 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, Selectman Mike Spellman and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Also present were members of the public and press.

CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK
16 OCT 21 PM 2:35
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STONINGTON, CT.

(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

Mr. Rudy Pancaro stated that with regard to the broadband problems in Pawcatuck, a fiber optic solution is available. Mr. Dan Oliverio stated that he was speaking on behalf of Charlie Ballato regarding whether the West Vine Street pond would either be cleaned out or dug out.

(4) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the September 28, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Connecticut Farmland Trust which the Board will take up for discussion at the next regular meeting.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Stonington Garden Club regarding its tri-annual Gardens by the Sea Tour on Friday, June 9, 2017 and Saturday, June 10, 2017.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Matthew Spoerndle of Phoenix Advisors, LLC regarding the Town of Stonington overview of potential refunding bond issuance.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Michael Finiguerra expressing his interest in serving on the Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission.

(6) Appointment/Resignation

Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Virginia McCormack to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Planning and Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to reappoint Curt Lynch to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Economic Development Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to reappoint Ed Planeta to the Economic Development Commission.

(7) Old Business

West Vine Street School Pond Report

Mrs. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works and Mr. Tom Curioso, Highway Supervisor presented a West Vine Street Pond Drainage report explaining the drainage system and recommending a study be done to review the entire system and recommend improvements to the system to potentially reduce flooding in 100 year storms events.

(8) New Business

Discussion-Human Services Summer Programming Report

Ms. Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services gave a brief presentation to the Board of Selectmen regarding the Human Services Summer 2016 Program Report. Ms. Theodore spoke about special events and trips, adult sports leagues, sports camps and clinics and the Summer Food Service Program which is up 17%

from last year. Mr. Spellman stated that the outreach at the highs school has increased dramatically. Mrs. Rotella stated that Ms. Theodore has done a great job. Mr. Simmons thanked the Board members for reaching a consensus on the fees and joining him in promoting Ms. Theodore to head the department. He stated that he would encourage Ms. Theodore to collaborate with the COMO and the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center so that there is no duplication of effort and there is collaboration and not competition.

Discussion-Broadband in Pawcatuck

After discussion between Jim Lathrop a Pawcatuck business owner, Rex Buettgenbach, General Manager, of Thames Valley Communications and the Board of Selectmen it was unanimously agreed that the short term solution for broadband in Pawcatuck would be to string a line from behind Best Energy across West Broad Street between the former West Broad Street Bistro and the Connecticut Community Credit Union. The Board is also studying other options for the future. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to authorize the Department of Public Works to rework the lot and address the telephone pole so it would maintain these lines and improve the option of drawing the line across pending easements on a state road as proposed by TVC.

Discussion-Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee

Mr. Simmons stated that as members of the Board of Selectmen know the Mystic River Boathouse Park funding was approved at a Town Meeting in late September and no effort was made to petition for a referendum. Mr. Simmons stated that an information committee had been meeting over the summer to talk about the project but now that the citizens have approved the expenditure of 2.2 million of funds and he thinks it's incumbent upon the town to consider forming a permanent committee which would be called the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee. He stated that it would be made up of citizens with diverse backgrounds and capabilities to bring the park to fruition. Mr. Simmons stated that we are dealing with a bifurcated project. He stated that the park is to be designed and funded by the town and the boathouse will be designed and funded by private donations. Mr. Simmons stated the Boathouse Committee and the Park Committee have to collaborate to avoid any waste of resources, time or effort. He stated that his idea is with approval of the Board is that they move forward with a process to create a Boathouse Park Implementation Committee.

Assign Map 133, Block 6, Lot 5E Street Number 296 Jerry Browne Road, Stonington, CT

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

Assign Map 67, Block 2, Lot 2 Street Number 620 Taugwonk Road, Stonington, CT

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

Assign Map 160, Block 8, Lot 8 Street Number 14 Joyce Street, Mystic, CT

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

Approval of the 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Board of Selectmen

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

Approval of the 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Stonington Resource Recovery Authority

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

(9) Comments from the Public

None

(10)Comments from the Selectmen

Mrs. Rotella stated that it was very exciting about the downtown internet and the opening of a few new businesses. Mr. Spellman stated that when people get involved in the community long term it will benefit the town. He stated that making sure people have internet is crucial. Mr. Spellman stated that for hundreds of years the economic edge for individuals and companies was transportation. He stated that now it is communication.

(11)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary