

October 27, 2014

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at Stonington Town Hall at 2:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Rob Simmons. Also present were members of the public.

(1) **Call to Order**

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

(2) **Comments from the Public**

None

(3) **Interview for Police Commission**

The Selectmen interviewed Ray DiPaola for the Board of Police Commissioners.

- Mr. Crouse asked Mr. DiPaola if a person calls you from a troubled area and is concerned because police presence isn't there what do you do?
- Mr. DiPaola replied that anyone has the right to complain. Mr. DiPaola stated he would first ask the person what did they see and what haven't they've seen. Mr. DiPaola stated that then he would bring it to the police department and ask them what the plan is.
- Mr. Crouse asked if weeks have passed and nothing has been done and the person calls again, now what.
- Mr. DiPaola replied that he would ask straight out of the police department what is actually happening. He stated that if we're having a consistent complaint that usually means there is some kind of problem.
- Mr. Crouse asked Mr. DiPaola if he gets on the police commission is there is anything that they're doing or not doing that's bothering you that you would want to pursue on the commission.
- Mr. DiPaola stated he does not have an axe to grind.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he noticed that Emergency Management protocols were part of Mr. DiPaola's resume for Pfizer and through the Town of Groton. He stated the Department of Police Services is the center of activity when it comes to hurricanes and storms and emergencies of various sorts. Mr. Simmons asked Mr. DiPaola what is it about your background and experience that uniquely qualifies you for this particular board.
- Mr. DiPaola replied that it's a department and it serves the public. Mr. DiPaola stated that the questions he would ask is are we doing the best we can do with what we have to do it with.
- Mr. Simmons asked Mr. DiPaola if he knows anybody on the Police Commission and if he knows anybody in the department or has he encountered anybody in the department in a positive or negative fashion.
- Mr. DiPaola replied that he has had a couple of speeding tickets in the town in the last 7 or 8 years. He also stated that he knows at least two officers reasonably well and one of the auxiliary officers.
- Mr. Haberek stated that Mr. DiPaola brings a tremendous amount of value with his background. Mr. Haberek stated he is really interested in Mr. DiPaola's IT background. Mr. Haberek stated that besides the salaries and

cars, the next highest amount of our budget goes to technology. Mr. Haberek asked Mr. DiPaola what he thinks the importance or growth of technology in the telecommunications world is.

- Mr. DiPaola replied he has a relative who was on the Danbury police force for many years and they used to talk about technology as it relates to police work. He stated that you need to stay one step ahead of everyone else. He stated it is very similar in the competitive world of industry to stay ahead of the competition. Mr. DiPaola further stated that having the technology is one thing but applying the technology correctly is a completely different problem.
- Mr. Haberek stated that Mr. DiPaola works a lot with youth. Mr. Haberek stated that one of the things we deal with a lot is the dynamics going on with youth and some of the influences with drugs and social media. He asked Mr. DiPaola what he thinks is key to how the town or the police specifically should be involved.
- Mr. DiPaola stated that we live within the community we're in and we need to work with everyone around us.

(4) **Comments from the Public**

None

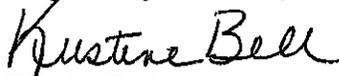
(5) **Comments from the Selectmen**

None

(6) **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary