

November 12, 2014

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Station at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Rob Simmons. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) **Call to Order**

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

(2) **Approval of the Minutes**

- A motion was made by Mr. Crouse and seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the October 22, 2014 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes. Mr. Simmons requested that the following be inserted to the minutes:

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Trebisacci if he planned to serve the full five year term on the Board of Police Commissioners. Mr. Trebisacci said yes. The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the October 27, 2014 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

(3) **Commendation**

Not addressed at this meeting.

(4) **Comments from the Public**

None

(5) **Correspondence**

- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Ed Sauers, John Malmros and William Dohrmann regarding the application to the FRA for a quiet zone at Walker's and Freeman's crossings. Mr. Sauers provided some background as to the history of trying to obtain quiet zones for these two crossings. After some discussion between the Board and these individuals, a motion was made by Mr. Haberek, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to put together a diagnostic team and that the Board of Selectmen need to go to the Board of Finance and ask for an additional appropriation.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Attorney Jeffrey Londregan concerning the lawsuit regarding drainage on Collins Road.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Linda Camelio, Tax Collector regarding jeopardy collection for the following taxpayers: Swooner, Jakes Wayback Burgers and La Luna.

(6) **Appointments**

Board of Police Commissioners

- Mr. Crouse stated that after pointed questions related to the Town of Stonington, Mr. Trebisacci's answers were the Town of Stonington will always come first. Mr. Crouse stated that Mr. Trebisacci will admonish anyone from the highest officer to the patrolman level and he will also congratulate those from the highest position to the lowest. Mr. Crouse stated that eased his mind. Mr. Crouse further stated that being a lawyer, Mr. Trebisacci understands commitment to law and Mr. Crouse feels that

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there is no question that Mr. Trebisacci will perform and protect the Town of Stonington. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse and seconded by Mr. Simmons to appoint Ray Trebisacci to the Board of Police Commissioners.

- *Discussion:* Mr. Simmons stated that in his analysis of the Town of Stonington, at this point in time, it seems to him that our department and the department in Westerly, Rhode Island have an issue, real or imagined, but it certainly has been raised in the press about drug use, drug abuse perhaps sales of drugs down near the bridge on both sides of the river. Mr. Simmons also stated that with Mr. Trebisacci's background being a native of both Pawcatuck and Westerly and the fact that his father was on the Board of Police Commissioners in times past argues that he is probably better situated than the other candidates for this position at this time. Mr. Simmons stated it seems to him, given the immediate problems that we are facing, Mr. Trebisacci is the best of three very good people.
- Mr. Haberek stated that we have three great candidates and they all did very well. Mr. Haberek stated that Mr. Gourd is a terrific person and a great candidate. He also stated he has great admiration for Ray Trebisacci's community work. Mr. Haberek further stated that he thinks Ray DiPaola did a great job too. He feels that Mr. DiPaola at this point in time is the more preferred candidate. Mr. Haberek stated that he finds it extremely advantageous to have a specialist in IT transferability and network adaptation available to us. He stated that we have one lawyer already on the board. He stated that he has great admiration for Mr. Trebisacci for his community work. He also stated that one of the things that he struggles with is the difference between the appointment to the Police Commission and the sustainability of his party in his other role. Mr. Haberek stated that he is very concerned with the loss of leadership in the committee with his appointment and no successor in sight. He further stated that at this point in time, I am personally in favor of Mr. DiPaola. The vote was 2-1 in favor of appointing Mr. Trebisacci.

Finance Director

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse and seconded by Mr. Simmons to appoint Nicole Stajduhar as the Director of Finance.

Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that he would appreciate it if Mr. Frishman could say a word or two about the process and about the individual.

- Mr. Frishman stated the process was very thorough. Mr. Frishman stated that there were 16 candidates which was narrowed down to five. He stated that two of the candidates were both CPAs. He further stated that they were very qualified candidates. Mr. Frishman stated that the interview process which was particularly thorough and Nicole Stajduhar was heads and shoulders above her peers. He stated that she was an auditor for 15 years and has audited town's books and she is of course is a CPA. Mr. Frishman stated that Ms. Stajduhar is presently the Finance Director in Old Lyme. He stated that her resume was exemplary and he believes she possesses the ability to translate some arcane and sophisticated accounting terms into ways that a layman can understand.

- Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Frishman will be dealing with her on a regular basis and asked him if he is comfortable with that relationship.
 - Mr. Frishman stated that he is comfortable with that relationship.
- The vote was 3-0 in favor of appointing Nicole Stajduhar as Finance Director.

(7) **New Business**

Removal of Tax Lien for property located at 6 School Street, Mystic (Broadway School, LLC)

Mr. Haberek presented a letter from Linda Camelio requesting the Board of Selectmen to abate \$10,113.72 with regard to the above property. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the request.

Southern New England Fisherman's and Lobstermen's Association (SNEFLA) request for Building Permit Fee and Demolition Fee Waiver

Mr. Haberek presented a letter from Michael Grimshaw, President of SNEFLA, requesting a building permit fee and demolition permit fee waiver for work being done at the Town Dock. A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to waive the \$18.00 demolition permit fee and the \$362.00 building permit fee.

(8) **Comments from the Public**

None

(9) **Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mr. Crouse explained that Mr. Haberek was extending his resignation date because he (Mr. Crouse) was having minor surgery at the end of November or early December.
- Mr. Simmons stated that family comes first he has always felt that an individual's health is critically important to that individual and to that family. He stated that extending a decision to resign for this kind of purpose is an excellent excuse for extending a decision to resign.
- Mr. Haberek stated that with all due respect to the unfortunate inaccuracies that were conveyed his change in date reflected a conversation that he had with George and Vin Pacileo, the Director of Administration Services regarding transition Monday afternoon and the ongoing activities going on in the town. He stated they had a consensus because of the budget process, the new Director of Finance coming on board, pending litigation with some land use issues and the town hall overhaul. Mr. Haberek stated that he thought the additional week would provide a seamless transition.

(10) **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary