RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT.
15 DEC -2 AM 11:27
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

November 24, 2015

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington High School 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.

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Comments from the Public

None

(3) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman and seconded by Mrs. Rotella to approve the November 12, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that there needed to be a correction on the time on the second line. The vote was 3-0 in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

(4) Appointments

Police Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint Henri Gourd to the Police Commission.

Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint Carol Huskes to the Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission.

Acting First Selectman

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Simmons to appoint Mr. Spellman as the Acting First Selectman per Chapter 5, Section 5-4 of the Charter. The vote was 2 in favor of the appointment. Mr. Spellman abstained.

CIP Committee

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint the following to the Capital Improvement Program Committee:

Board of Selectmen	Rob Simmons
Board of Education	Bill King
Board of Finance	June Strunk
P&Z Commission	John Prue
Administrative Officer	Vin Pacileo
Finance Officer	James Sullivan
Director of Public Works	Barbara McKrell
Director of WPCA	Doug Nettleton
Planning Director	Vacant

Department of Police Services	Darren Stewart
Human Services Manager	Leanne Theodore
Solid Waste Manager	John Phetteplace
Town Engineer	Scot Deledda
IT Director	Roger Kizer

Sub-Registrars

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint James P. O'Boyle, Stephen M. King, Anthony Dinoto, Patricia Moody and John D. MacDougall as sub-registrars.

Director of Health

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Spellman to reappoint Dr. Michael Blefeld as the Director of Health. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that Dr. Blefeld was his children's pediatrician and now they are grown and married.

K-12 School Building Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint George Crouse to the K-12 School Building Committee as a member of the community.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Planning and Zoning Department regarding a Regulation Text Amendment application to add Micro Brewery/Brewpub as a use allowed by Special Permit in DB-5, LS-5 and M-1 Zoning districts.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from himself to Kelly Boling requesting technical advice and assistance from her organization in connection with the Town's efforts to develop a program to finance land conservation and recreation and a potential related ballot measure.

(6) New Business

- **Sub-Lease Agreement #3901025 between Message Center Management and the Town of Stonington Police Department**

  A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve Sub-Lease Agreement #3901025 for the Police Department repeater.
- **Adopting Policy Statement for the Town of Stonington Ombudsman**

  Attorney Tom Londregan stated that he had all of the confidence in the world that the three selectmen that have been elected will be able to solve every problem that comes before this town in the next two years. Attorney Londregan stated however, from past experience there are issues that sometimes do not get resolved by elected officials. He stated that what he drafted was a policy statement to say that before disputes escalate beyond Town Hall, that there be a type of mediator who would step forward and give some neutrality and objectivity to the situation, to review with the parties involved what the issues are, identify the issues and

perhaps mediate a resolution. He stated that this would just be a tool that the Board of Selectmen may employ at a given time when they think that there is an issue in town that they are having trouble with the art of communication. Mr. Simmons asked for a motion to accept the policy as drafted and the Board can discuss it further before taking a final action. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to accept the policy statement for the Town of Stonington Ombudsman for the purpose of discussion. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that at the present time the town has half a dozen issues that are pending out there are some in litigation and some heading our way and hopefully some at the beginning of a resolution. He stated that the purpose of having a policy statement with regard to an Ombudsman is it gives the Board of Selectmen some flexibility as to how they address these issues. Mr. Simmons stated that he is of the opinion that we are not looking for a permanent person to occupy the office but what he is looking for is language to allow them to select a person at a certain time in the future if necessary to address a specific issue with a discussion with the Board of Finance and the Finance Director and others to determine funding if funding is involved in such a selection. Mr. Simmons stated then there would be specific language directing that person to go after particular issues as opposed to appointing someone who sits there permanently in this office waiting for something to happen. Attorney Londregan stated that once you have the policy you can implement it on an ad hoc basis. Mr. Simmons stated that in taking this action they are not expending funds, they are not intending to designate any particular person at any particular time but it gives them an option at some future time to move relatively quickly given the fact that the policy is in effect. Mrs. Rotella stated that she looked at what Attorney Londregan drafted and what she is seeing is not what she is hearing and her main concern is that they are a new board and she thinks they are going to make a great team and they are going to work well with the Department heads and the employees and the citizens. She stated that they should allow themselves a little time to see how things work. Mrs. Rotella stated that she understands that there is some history that is uncomfortable and some history that is going on but they weren't the Board then. She stated that the Charter specifically says that the First Selectman is the CEO of this Town and that the Board of Selectmen works with the First Selectman. She stated that when she reads through the policy under the duties and powers what is written here is that the Ombudsman will have sole discretion as to whether a complaint warrants. Mrs. Rotella stated that the Ombudsman shouldn't have sole discretion that should be something that the Board of Selectmen has discretion. She stated that if someone has a complaint they have to come to us and they have to talk to us we have to talk to them. Mrs. Rotella stated that we all stated that we have an open door policy. Mrs. Rotella further stated that if she is correct this doesn't apply to any employee in union

negotiated things because the employees have contracts that they work under. Mrs. Rotella stated that she has gone through the policy over and over again and made some comments line by line and she would have to be happy to review them with Attorney Londregan. She stated that the language that Attorney Londregan talked about is kind of a tool to use at some point if we want to. Mrs. Rotella stated that's not what she is looking at here. Attorney Londregan stated that he would be happy to meet with her and review the language and see how they can tighten it up so that it is only on an ad hoc basis. Mr. Simmons stated that he recommends Mrs. Rotella withdraws her second and Mr. Spellman withdraw his motion and he would like to hear a motion to table this item until the next regular meeting. Mr. Spellman withdrew his motion and Mrs. Rotella withdrew her second. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Spellman to table the item. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that he would anticipate that each of the Selectmen would share with the Town Attorney their concerns. He stated that he thinks they are in agreement that they want this to be clearly stated to be a policy which creates an opportunity but not a permanent paid position. The motion was 3-0 in favor of tabling the item.

(7) Comments from the Public

Lt. Peckham stated that he had said that the property that the Selectmen voted on for the Sub-Lease was on Pequotsepos but it's on Broadway Extension.

(8) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mrs. Rotella stated that she was very happy to be there and she looks forward to their opportunity to serve together and she thinks that the Ombudsman Policy gives them the opportunity to talk about different ways they can serve the citizens.
- Mr. Spellman welcomed Mrs. Rotella to the Board and stated that he was in support of the Ombudsman concept on an ad hoc basis. He stated he does at the same time support a strong Board of Selectmen for leadership. He stated that they went to Stonington Arms when Congressman Courtney came down and brought a flag down that was flown at the Capitol to put up. Mr. Spellman stated that the senior citizens were there and he joked with them that they had artifacts from the Westerly Stonington series going all the way back to the 1930's. He stated that it was very nice seeing how engaged they were in their community.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to bring the public up to date about his first week in office and this is the first meeting they have had and he is pleased with the team they put together. He stated that he spent the first week meeting every department head, every administrator, every member of the administrative staff, all three union groups and union heads talking about his vision for what they want to accomplish over the next two months. Mr. Simmons stated that he has asked all of them for priority lists to provide him with a written set of priorities which they will then discuss individually in the coming weeks to try to realign and refocus some of the things that have been going on in town hall over the recent months

and years. He stated that he met with some of the town attorneys to discuss some of the legal issues. Mr. Simmons stated that he has also been engaged in some issues relative to economic development for the Town of Stonington. He stated that one of things that he shared with the town hall employees is the fact that the Selectmen, under state law Chapter 91, are obligated by their duties to superintend concerns of the town and it says under section 7-12 "they shall superintend and manage the concerns of the town". Mr. Simmons stated that he fully expects that the Selectmen will engage themselves and he encourage them to engage themselves as they move forward.

(10)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary