

December 9, 2015

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

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the November 24, 2015 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence Resignation

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Pete Robinson expressing his interest in serving on the Economic Development Commission.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Trust for Public Land regarding the acquisition of property located at 123 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, Connecticut.

(6) New Business

Presentation: Prescription Drug Drop-Box

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to table this matter until the next regular meeting.

Discussion: Flood Insurance-Stonington Landing Condominium Association

Mr. Simmons stated that he received a letter from Judith Czuba as a member of the Stonington Landing Condominium Association Board. The letter stated that Ms. Czuba personally will see the costs for her condominium flood insurance go up \$3,000.00 plus \$700.00 for personal coverage. Mr. Simmons stated that the town will be meeting with FEMA in the next two weeks.

Discussion: Pawcatuck Fire District Dispatch Service Reimbursement

Chief Kevin Burns stated that the agenda item is not just the Pawcatuck Fire District but Wequetequock and the Stonington Borough Fire Departments are also interested. He stated Pawcatuck moved to Westerly dispatch in 1998 and the Wequetequock and Stonington Borough Fire Districts are looking to move there now. Chief Burns stated that the issue is who pays for it. He stated that Westerly dispatch is a private dispatch company. Chief Burns stated that the cost for that is \$10,400.00 a year. He stated that Pawcatuck has been paying that since 1998. He stated that the taxpayers in the Pawcatuck Fire District have been paying twice for dispatch service. He stated that because they left the previous two Chiefs before him never sought to get reimbursed for these funds. Mr. Simmons thanked Chief Burns and his department for their service and for providing an important public safety measure to the community. He stated on the issue of whether or not Stonington Borough Fire Department wants to change, he talked to the Chief today, and in his opinion the Chief of a fire department has the right and a responsibility to make that judgment. Mr. Simmons stated that

in the case of the Borough they are a separate municipality so funding is not an issue. He stated that he has not talked to the Wequetequock Fire Chief and they are not a separate municipality so funding may be an issue. Mr. Simmons stated that he would be more than happy to collaborate with Chief Burns and the Board of Finance to discuss these issues. Mr. Spellman thanked Chief Burns and the Pawcatuck Fire Department for great service to the town. Mr. Spellman stated with the movement of them to the 911 dispatch in Rhode Island occurring in 1998 and looking at the double taxation or paying twice for the same service we have to take a serious look. He stated that also we have had these discussions before with the volunteers being such, there is significant coverage for the Pawcatuck Fire Department assisting Wequetequock and Borough during the day. He said they all need to be on the same page working together. He said that communication is crucial and we need to have something that is geared toward to the Fire Departments. Mr. Simmons stated that he is on board with this and public safety is the priority.

Request from Greater Stonington Realty Corporation for Board of Selectmen's Support

Mr. Simmons read a letter from Thomas Hyland, President of the Greater Stonington Realty Corporation which is attached as Exhibit A. Mr. Simmons stated that his feeling is he would be more comfortable securing this site. Mr. Hyland stated that in the past year the Stonington Housing Authority has formed and created a non-profit corporation looking to find property to develop affordable housing. Mr. Simmons stated that he understands that there may be some environmental issues. Ms. Elaine Schmitt stated that there would be a Phase I Environmental Study. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella and seconded by Mr. Spellman to approve sending a letter to the State in support of the Greater Stonington Realty Corporation. Discussion: Mr. Spellman stated that the town's expression of interest gives us control of the outcome of the situation. The vote was 3-0 in favor of sending a letter of support.

Relinquish Ownership of Old Mystic Fire Station Trailer

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the request of Chief Kenneth Richards, Old Mystic Fire Station for the town to relinquish ownership of the white enclosed trailer being kept at the Old Mystic Fire Station to the Old Mystic Fire District.

Policy Statement for the Town of Stonington Ombudsman

Mrs. Rotella stated that with the time constraints that she been under she would request to move this item to another meeting in January. She stated that she would like to speak to Attorney Londregan. Mr. Simmons agreed to table it to the next regular meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to table this item.

Notice of Lease between the Town of Stonington and Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the Notice of Lease be recorded on the land records.

Stonington Borough Request for Building Permit Fee Waiver

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the request of Jeffrey Callahan, Borough Warden to waive the building application permit fees for the repairs of the roof at the Borough Hall.

(7) Comments from the Public

Mr. Ed Hart stated that with regard to the request from Stonington Realty Corporation he suggested that the town think about keeping that open. He stated that the town should get the property but don't pick a specific use. Mr. Simmons stated that the State requires that it has to have some specific purpose. Mrs. Rotella stated that she agrees that the State requires it to have a specific purpose. Mr. Hart stated that instead of using an Ombudsman he would get the town attorney should get involved and let him make the decisions.

(8) Comments from the Selectmen

Mr. Simmons stated that this week he met with homeowners and attorneys to discuss the issue of the so called dog park in Stonington. He stated he met with the homeowners at 13 Front Street and their attorneys to discuss their lawsuit relative to the so called dog park in Stonington Borough. Mr. Simmons stated that it was a productive meeting and they explored ideas and opportunities to resolve the dispute. Mr. Simmons stated that based on that discussion, they plan to offer a proposal at the next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on December 23rd. He stated that in the meantime the lawsuit will be held in advance pending the outcome of their discussions. Mr. Simmons stated that he was pleased to be joined in the meeting by Warden Callahan of the Borough of Stonington and feels that they have an opportunity to move forward in their discussions in a productive fashion.

(9) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary