

December 16, 2014

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at Stonington Police Department at 3:00 p.m. Present were Acting First Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Rob Simmons. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) **Call to Order**

Mr. Crouse called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(2) **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Crouse presented the November 25, 2014 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes and asked Mr. Simmons if there were any omissions or correction. Mr. Simmons stated that he would like to make one addition on the third page, last paragraph where there is a recording of a vote that was 2-1 in favor of adopting the resolution. Mr. Simmons asked if they could add "with Mr. Simmons opposed" just for clarification of the record. A motion was made Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

(3) **Comments from the Public**

None

(4) **Correspondence**

- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Henri Gourd expressing his interest in serving on the Ethics Commission. Mr. Simmons stated that the Ethics Commission is the only commission currently listed by the Town Charter of the Town of Stonington that has no individuals assigned to it. Mr. Simmons stated that this is an issue for next year.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Judd Rosen regarding the Memorandum of Understanding for the placement of security cameras on the roof of Riverwalk Condominiums.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Glenn Frishman advising the Board of Selectmen that Tim O'Brien was unanimously nominated by the Board of Finance to fill the vacant position on the Retirement Board.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Chief Darren Stewart to Christopher Clarkin regarding the performance of Station T.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Chief Darren Stewart to Chief Kenneth Richards, Jr. regarding the performance of Station T.
- Mr. Crouse took in correspondence from Chief Darren Stewart regarding an Easement for cable/internet east of Mechanic Street and a Memorandum of Understanding with Riverwalk Condominiums for security cameras.

(5) **Appointments/Reappointments/Resignation**

Appointment of 1st Selectman to Board of Selectmen

Appointment of Acting 1st Selectman

Appointment of Selectman to Board of Selectmen

Mr. Simmons read the following resolution:

Whereas, the Office of First Selectman of the Town of Stonington, CT, was vacated on December 5, 2014; and

Whereas, Selectman George Crouse was sworn in as the Acting First Selectman at 3:30 p.m. on December 5, 2014; and

Whereas, Section 9-222 of the Connecticut General Statutes describes the filling of a vacancy in the Office of First Selectman or Selectman as follows:

"When a vacancy occurs in the office of selectman it shall be filled within thirty days after the day of its occurrence by the remaining members of the board of selectmen. Said remaining members may appoint one of themselves to fill a vacancy in the office of first selectman, if they so desire, and shall then fill the ensuing vacancy in the office of selectman as herein provided."

And Whereas, the same Section 9-222 of the Connecticut General Statutes allows for a special election to fill vacancies if the sitting Selectmen cannot agree to an appointment after 30 days; and

Whereas, a special election held in an election year adds additional complications to the responsible management of the Town of Stonington and potential turmoil in the Town Hall – something that Acting First Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Rob Simmons wish to avoid;

Now Therefore, Acting First Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Simmons have mutually agreed that Acting First Selectman George Crouse of Mystic will become First Selectman; Selectman Rob Simmons of Stonington will remain Selectman but will become Acting First Selectman serving in the event that First Selectman Crouse is absent or cannot serve for any other reason in accordance with Section 5-4 of the Stonington Town Charter titled "Acting First Selectman;" and Mike Spellman of Pawcatuck will be appointed Selectman; and the duration of all three selections will be for terms ending in November 2015.

Mr. Crouse stated that he is from Old Mystic not Mystic. A motion was made by Mr. Simmons and seconded by Mr. Crouse to adopt the Resolution. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that the Resolution speaks for itself. Mr. Crouse stated that he does to. The vote was 2-0 in favor of the appointments.

Mystic Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to appoint Don Procko from alternate member to regular member of the Mystic Harbor Management Commission.

K-12 School Building Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to appoint Michael Fauerbach to the K-12 School Building Committee.

Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to reappoint Lynn Conway to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Commission on Aging

- A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to reappoint Billie Ward to the Commission on Aging.
- The Selectmen acknowledged the resignation of Betty Henry from the Commission on Aging.

(6) New Business

Suggested Quiet Zone

Mr. Ed Sauers and Mr. John Malmros presented the Selectmen with a Suggested Stonington Quiet Zone Plan of Action Going Forward. Mr.

Simmons stated that he would be happy to take on this project working with the citizens, Mr. Brown, Amtrak and the FRA. Mr. Crouse stated that Mr. Simmons would be the liaison on this project.

Stonington High School Building Permit Fee Waiver

Mr. Crouse presented a memorandum from Bill King, Business Manager for Stonington Public Schools requesting a building permit application fee waiver in the amount of \$258.00 for building six sheds on the athletic complex at the Stonington High School. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the request.

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Resolution

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution allowing Mr. Crouse to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Board of Selectmen and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to adopt the Resolution.

Stanton Davis Homestead Museum Building Permit Fee Waiver

Mr. Crouse presented a letter from William Langman of the Stanton Davis Homestead Museum requesting a building permit fee waiver in the amount of \$802.00 for the preservation and restoration of the 17th century plantation style home of Robert Stanton. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse and seconded by Mr. Simmons to approve the request. Discussion: Mr. Simmons stated that the Stanton Davis Homestead Museum occupies a piece of property that holds he believes the oldest house in Stonington and one of the oldest houses in the State of Connecticut and the property has been occupied more or less by the same family since the founding of the town. Mr. Simmons also stated that if you have looked at it recently it's not in great shape and if there is anything we can do help them preserve and protect it he thinks is in the public interest. Mr. Crouse stated that he agreed. The vote was 2-0 in favor of approving the request.

Discussion of Town Publications in Local Newspapers

This matter was tabled.

(7) **Comments from the Public**

None

(8) **Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mr. Simmons stated that he is looking forward to a productive year and thanked Mr. Crouse for his courtesy in extending to him certain privileges and he is pleased to stand in support of Mr. Crouse. Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Crouse and he have actually worked together over the years beginning in 1986 when they both served on the Board of Police Commissioners in difficult times for the Town of Stonington. He did that in a bipartisan fashion for the benefit of the town. Mr. Simmons stated that he hopes that this relationship will continue and that it will represent a new beginning for the Town of Stonington.
- Mr. Crouse stated that their main viewpoint is for the Town of Stonington. He stated that they want to get over the past and go to the future and push Stonington forward to a better Stonington.

(9) **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine Bell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary