

August 24, 2016

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, Selectman Mike Spellman and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Also present were members of the public.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 August 10, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Lisa Konicki, President of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce regarding collaborating with the Beautification Committee to create and install flower boxes on the bridge in downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck.

(6) New Business

Creation and appointments of Route 27 RSA Audit Team

After some discussion between the Board members as to whether they need to vote on this matter it was decided that for now the Board would bless the creation of this team if the audit only lasted one day. Mr. Simmons stated that if it is for more than one day, the Board would revisit the matter in the future if needed.

Bid Award – Bayview Avenue Drainage Improvements

Scot Deledda, Town Engineer stated that Pazz Construction, LLC from East Lyme, Connecticut was the lowest qualified bidder in the amount of \$132,590.00. He stated that this is a general contracting firm with experience in both residential and commercial construction with an emphasis on general site development and general construction. Mr. Deledda further stated that their past projects include street-scape projects in East Lyme and Clinton, road projects in Montville and East Lyme and various other projects. Mr. Deledda recommended that the Board of Selectmen award the bid to Pazz Construction, LLC. Mrs. Rotella asked if the project would receive funds from the State or all of it funded from CIP. Mr. Deledda stated that all of the funds would come from CIP. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to award the bid to Pazz Construction, LLC.

Commitment to Fund Bridge No. 058001, North Stonington Road over Whitford Brook

Mr. Simmons stated that this project is very important and that it is a safety issue having the bridge out. He stated that it increases the response time for the Old Mystic Fire Department. Mr. Deledda stated that this is a project between Groton and Stonington. He stated that Groton has to sign the commitment first and then Stonington in order for this project to move forward. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to allow Mr. Simmons to sign the commitment.

Acceptance of 10' Wide Strip of Land Contiguous to Billings Street, Pawcatuck

After some discussion between the Board and Linda Camelio, Tax Collector and James Sullivan, Director of Finance as to who would maintain this property and what risk if, if any, would the Town incur it decided that this matter would be tabled until some questions could be answered. The vote was 3-0 in favor of tabling this matter.

Discussion – Blight Ordinance

Mr. Simmons stated that he received a phone call regarding the condition of the property located on North Stonington Road. He stated that there is a concern about what the Town of Stonington does about blight. Mr. Simmons stated that the Department of Planning has limited tools to enforce the Blight Ordinance. Mrs. Rotella stated that Jason Vincent, Director of Planning should reach out to CCM. Mr. Spellman stated that our ordinance is watered down and that he would highly recommend the town speak with Groton and Norwich to see what their Blight Ordinance states. Mr. Simmons stated that he would ask the Director of Planning to come before the Board in two weeks.

(7) Comments from the Public

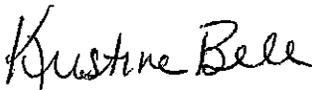
Mr. Tom Fiore stated that he is concerned that with the possibility of the parking lot and sensory garden being moved there will be a loss of green space and storm water runoff will be a problem. Mr. Fiore stated that if the Town bought a lot in back of the school the 40 acres of land that the town owns in back of the school could be opened up.

(8) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mrs. Rotella stated that if the Beautification Committee could work with the Chamber on the planters that would be great. She also stated that maybe they could store the planters at the Public Works Department. Mrs. Rotella stated that the light posts need to be repainted and the Korean Monument needs TLC.
- Mr. Simmons stated that on August 12, 2016 in Old Lyme Senator Richard Blumenthal and possibly Congress Courtney will be convening a meeting of citizens to hear their concerns about the Amtrak Bypass that has captured the headlines in recent weeks. He stated that they invited him to go down and join them to speak about the project on the basis of the fact that he sent them and Chris Murphy letters objecting to the delineation of the bypass through the Town of Stonington. Mr. Simmons stated that what we really need is better commuter rail, Shoreline East to Mystic and Westerly. He stated that what we really need is reliable service where it goes on time and to fix bridges like the Connecticut River Bridge which is close to 100 years old and operates very irregularly. Mr. Simmons stated that after decades of failure to fix the safety problems on the Walker Dock and Elihu Island crossings wouldn't it be nice if they put in loop detectors so that the engineers could know whether or not there was a car on a track and they could stop the train and not just blow the whistle.

(10)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary