

January 9, 2019

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 John Prue. Also, present were members of the public. There were no members of the press present.

**(1) Call to Order**

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

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Commendation**

The Selectmen issued a commendation to Keith Brynes, Stonington Town Planner, in recognition of being named the first planner in Connecticut to receive the Above and Beyond Award for his work evaluating a proposed zoning regulation amendment which was adopted and used for the Town's TC-80 district.

The Board recessed at 7:01 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

**(4) Comments from the Public**

- Mr. Paul Sartor stated that he was disappointed with the Planning and Zoning Commission's recent approval of accessory dwelling units which went completely against what was recommended by the Planning and Zoning Department. He stated this approval will impact ever property in the Town.
- Ms. Nancy Watson stated that the recent paving project on scenic Wheeler Road left milling along the sides of the road to accommodate the height of the road surface which is now higher than the shoulder. She stated she hoped the shoulders would get backfilled.

**(5) Approval of the Minutes**

- A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the December 12, 2018 regular meeting minutes.

**(6) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Department of Economic and Community Development stating that the Town did not receive Brownfield grant funding for the remediation project at 75 Stillman Avenue.

**(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment – Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Fred Wagner to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council as the Town of Stonington representative.

**Appointment – Thames Valley Council for Community Action**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Tina Huard to the Thames Valley Council for Community Action Board as the Town of Stonington representative.

**Reappointment – Commission on Aging**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to reappoint Ms. Louise Bray to the Commission on Aging.

**(8) Old Business**

**Discussion – Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings**

Mr. Simmons stated that the committee was formed in 2006 to review the use of Town Hall but at the time the project never passed. The committee has not meet for quite some time. Mr. Simmons proposed that it may be time to reengage the committee as many Town buildings need to be studied. For example,

the central office building may come back to the Town and a plan for its use should be under consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to send the item to the Town Attorney for review and request recommendations on reengaging the committee.

**(9) New Business**

**Discussion – Banners in Pawcatuck Village Commemorating Westerly's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to purchase four (4) banners which will be hung in Pawcatuck Village commemorating Westerly's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Discussion – Capital Lease Agreement for Small Dump Truck**

Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the capital lease agreement for a Ford F350 dump truck in the amount of \$53,695.88.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the capital lease agreement.

In discussion, Mr. Prue stated that he is against the continuation of leasing. Mr. Sullivan stated that the upcoming CIP budget is being created with the assumption of no leased vehicles. Mr. Simmons discussed how leasing came about in the Town and agreed with Mr. Prue.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Discussion – Capital Lease Agreement for Police Cars**

Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the capital lease agreement for the financing of four (4) police cars in the amount of \$104,436.38.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the capital lease agreement.

**Discussion – Charter Revision Commission**

Mr. Simmons stated that the last time there was a Charter Revision Commission they made changes to the Board of Finance as well as extended terms for the Town Clerk and Tax Collector. He stated that there have been several inquires over the year regarding if the Town should move to having a Town Manager, if the Board of Selectmen should go from three members to five and if the Town Clerk and Tax Collector positions should go from elected to appointed. Mr. Simmons stated that twenty-two people had expressed interest last year in serving on the Commission.

Mr. Prue stated that currently the Charter spreads power and authority throughout the Town where having a Town Manager would limit that to just the Town Manager. He stated as an example that the Board of Police Commissioners could potentially be removed as the Town Manger would take on that role. He stated that he thought some consideration could go into the membership of the Board of Selectmen as well as the Town Clerk and Tax Collector issue but didn't agree with having a Town Manager.

The Board decided to take no action on this item and would discuss at a future meeting.

**Request – Use of Donahue Park for 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Duck Race**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Duck Race on April 27, 2019.

**(10) Comments from the Public**

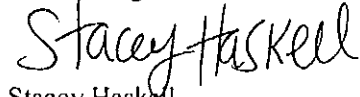
None

**(11) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mr. Prue stated that he appreciated Mr. Sartor's concerns which he believes are shared by many residents. He added that he hoped the Planning and Zoning Commission would reconsider their decision.
- Mr. Prue stated that he was aware of Ms. Watson's concerns and thought that the road itself seemed much flatter. He did not believe that they would be getting additional top soil to back fill into the shoulder. He added that he thinks the Town can do better.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he understands Mr. Sartor's point of view and added that the Planning and Zoning Commission do not always take the recommendations of the staff. He agreed that the accessory dwelling issue can be very disrupted to those who live in nearby properties and that the issue needs to be addressed.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he would drive Wheeler Road to take a closer look. He added that he values scenic roads and their character.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he attended the swearing in ceremony of Representative Kate Rotella who resigned from the Board of Selectmen on January 1<sup>st</sup>. He added that we all have an obligation regardless of party affiliation on the best way to serve the Town. He commended Representative Rotella for her time served with the Board. He added that the Democratic Town Committee would be recommending a replacement which he and Mr. Prue would give due consideration.

**(12) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary