

January 23, 2019

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m. First Selectman Rob Simmons was present and Selectman John Prue was available by phone. 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) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the January 9, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

None

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

None

(7) Old Business

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

Mr. Simmons stated the Board voted previously to request a review and recommendations by the Town Attorney on reengaging the committee. Attorney Jeff Londregan gave an overview of his findings stating that the committee is advisory to the Board of Selectmen and makes recommendations on Town public buildings to the Board. He added that the resolution allows the purpose and responsibilities to be set by the Board of Selectmen.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved the repopulation of the committee.

In discussion, Mr. Prue suggested that the Board discuss the issue again at an upcoming meeting to further clarify the scope and parameters of the committee. Mr. Simmons agreed.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Discussion – Plastic Bags and Straws Ordinance

Attorney Jeff Londregan gave an overview of recommended changes that are needed in the ordinance to include enforcement, clarification on the term single use carryout bag and deletion of language regarding waivers.

Mr. Simmons stated that once the recommended changes have been added into the final draft the Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing prior to moving the item to a Town Meeting to ensure the public has had the opportunity to be heard. He added that seeking compliance through rewards is preferable. Mr. Prue was in agreement.

(8) New Business

Discussion – Democratic Town Committee Recommendation for Board of Selectmen Vacancy

Mr. Simmons stated that in light of Representative Rotella's resignation from the Board of Selectmen, the Democratic Town Committee has made a recommendation to fill the vacancy. Under Town Charter and Connecticut General Statutes the vacancy needs to be filled by a democrat to maintain minority representation.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Ms. Jocelyn Kepple by the Stonington Democratic Town Committee to fill the vacant democratic seat on the Board of Selectmen with a term ending at midnight on November 19, 2019.

In discussion, he added that he and Mr. Prue have met with Ms. Kepple. Mr. Prue stated that he thinks she is an excellent choice to fill out the remainder of the term. Mr. Simmons agreed. The Board congratulated Ms. Kepple and stated they look forward to working together with her.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

The Board recessed at 7:23 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

Discussion – CHS Homeowners Association/Carriage Drive Issue

Mr. Simmons stated this is a complicated issue which was brought to his attention by Mr. Don Rowley who is a homeowner on Carriage Drive. A few years prior the homeowners in the area of Carriage Drive requested that a portion of the road be taken over by the Town. The homeowners all signed a petition and Mr. Rowley was the spokesperson who was listed on the paperwork as the president of the homeowner's association which is no longer in existence. He is looking for a solution as the assessment and tax fee of nine dollars goes to him which he feels exposes him to potential legal action and/or liabilities. Attorney Londregan gave an overview of several options which could be considered to resolve the issue.

Mr. Simmons stated that since he has only spoken to Mr. Rowley, he believes a meeting to bring all homeowners together is warranted to allow for open communication with all parties. Mr. Prue stated that potentially the Town could relieve the association of the nine-dollar tax fee for one year to allow time to sort out the issue but did not want to set a precedent.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to send notices to each of the homeowners and invite them to a meeting to discuss the issue.

Request – Permit Waiver Fee

Mr. Simmons stated that Mr. Anthony Nenna applied for a permit with Planning and Zoning as the engineer of a project located at 62 Volutown Road. The application was withdrawn to allow for approval from Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission which he received. Mr. Nenna requested that the permit fee be waived when he reapplies to Planning and Zoning.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve permit fee waiver through Planning and Zoning for the project not to include fees associated with the State of Connecticut.

Request – Assign Map 13, Block 1, Lot 38, Street Number 3 Shea Drive Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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

Discussion – 2019-2020 Budget Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the 2019-2020 budget meeting schedule.

(9) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Bill Sternberg stated that he sat on the Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings for two years and thinks the resolution could be amended to change the name. He added that the Town of Ledyard has a standing committee that oversees all buildings not separate committees.
- Mr. Nick Kepple commended the Board on approving Ms. Kepple for the vacancy on the Board stating that she is smart, energetic, dedicated and truly loves the Town of Stonington. He added that the Board of Selectmen and community will be well served by her appointment.

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mr. Prue apologized for not being able to attend in person as he was out of state on a family matter.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he met with Ms. Kepple a few weeks ago and shared with her some previous remarks that he made during the debate regarding working in a bipartisan fashion and putting Stonington and its residents first. He stated that Ms. Kepple was in agreement with Mr. Simmons and considered herself lucky to work with the Board of Selectmen in that fashion.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary