

January 25, 2017

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

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Rick Olisky spoke about the Bright Ideas Grant sponsored by Eversource. He stated that he believed \$10,000 was set aside for Stonington residents. He hoped more residents would take advantage of the opportunity as it will allow for a savings on their electric bill. Mr. Olisky stated he was looking for the support of the Board on getting further information out to residents. Mr. Simmons stated that this is an ongoing program run through Human Services.

(4) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the January 11, 2017 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the October 17, 2016 the Westerly Town Council and Board of Selectmen joint special meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Robert Maurice in the form of an application for Board/Commission/Authority.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Ms. Ayo Bryant in support of the Town Tree Warden and maintenance of neighborhood trees.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Senate President Len Fasano and Senator Heather Somers to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in support of local fisheries along with concern for the impact the proposed Long Island Wind Farm would have on fishing interests.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence to the Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission from the Stonington Short-Term Rental Association requesting that they become a formal trade group and self-policing organization to oversee the issue of short-term rentals in the town.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services in regard to updating street name and address number contact information for Connecticut's 9-1-1 system.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mystic Seaport President, Stephen White, regarding support of the Mystic River Boathouse Park. Mr. White asked that the Town remain cognizant of the Seaport's easement rights of the "Second Tract" of the Baumgarten land which is used to support operations at Latitude 41 Restaurant. Mr. Simmons stated that Mystic Seaport will be represented by a member when the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee (MRBPIC) is formed.

(6) Old Business

Memorandum of Understanding for Planning Agreement

Mr. Simmons gave a brief overview of the Memorandum of Understanding for Planning Agreement which involves the Friends of Stonington Crew (FOSC) and the Town of Stonington. Mr. Simmons stated that the draft agreement was based on the recommendation of the Town Attorney as the long term plan for the Mystic River Boathouse Park to build a boathouse using private funds raised by Friends of Stonington Crew. Mr. Simmons states it is anticipated that the Friends of Stonington Crew would have a working relationship with Town on use of the property. Mr. Simmons stated that the draft was reviewed and previously approved by Town Attorney and Friends of Stonington Crew. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for Planning Agreement. Mr.

Simmons stated the legal status of the Friends of Stonington Crew was under discussion as the Friends of Stonington Crew states that they are a 501(c)(3) only. The State of Connecticut has the Friends of Stonington Crew listed as both 501(c)(3) and INC. in their listing. Friends of Stonington Crew do not believe that is correct. Mr. Simmons suggests that in the motion correction to the legal status be allowed as appropriate as part of the condition of passage. Mrs. Rotella stated that if correction to the legal status is needed both parties should cross out the incorrect legal status and sign again next to the crossed out item. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Davis Standard Property Tax Assessment Agreement Signing

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to amend the agenda and move new business item, Davis Standard Property Tax Assessment Agreement Signing, up on the agenda to accommodate the representative from Davis Standard.

Mr. Michael Roe of Davis Standard and Ms. Marsha Standish, Director of Assessment, were present for the signing. Mr. Simmons gave a brief overview of the agreement with Davis Standard. Mr. Simmons stated that over a year ago, Davis Standard was in the process of purchasing a high tech Massachusetts based plastics company. The Town went to Davis Standard and agreed to a tax cut for two year period of time to show that they were willing to step forward and provide an incentive for them to bring the Massachusetts based company to Town. Mr. Simmons stated that the Town went to the State of Connecticut and secured a 1.3 Million dollar grant to assist in the construction and transition of the company. Mr. Roe stated that the building will be done by the end of the quarter and that fifteen of the thirty-one jobs that they committed to have been fulfilled thus far. Mr. Roe stated he was very excited with the acquisition. Mr. Simmons and Mr. Roe signed the agreement.

The meeting recessed at 7:21 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

Discussion – Department of Public Works Projects Fleet Management and Replacement

Mr. Simmons states that the Board was given a copy of the Fleet Management and Replacement at the meeting of January 11, 2017 at which time the Board agreed to table the item to give time for further review.

Ms. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, gave an overview of the DPW Fleet Management and Replacement Schedule. Ms. McKrell stated that the DPW Fleet Management Program will promote an orderly system of purchasing and funding all vehicles and equipment \$5,000 or greater. The primary objectives are to control the overall cost of operating and maintaining the Town fleet of vehicles and equipment in a manner that extends their useful life; to control growth in size of the fleet, standardize the composition of the fleet and to accurately budget for the maintenance and replacement costs.

Definition of service:

- Maintenance and repair of over 74 DPW vehicles and pieces of equipment
- Management of parts and inventory
- Purchasing of new vehicles and equipment teamed with Finance Department

The Stonington Department of Public Works is assigned the overall responsibility for managing the fleet of Public Works vehicles and construction/maintenance equipment. The Public Works Departments Fleet Management Program is intended to be a living document designed to:

- Develop vehicle equipment replacement schedules according to the needs;

- Acquire vehicles and equipment balancing ever-changing priorities with available budget;
- Develop vehicle and equipment specifications standards;
- And to reassign and disposed of vehicles and equipment.

Fleet Summary:

- Total Replacement Value of the fleet: \$4,347,350.
- Thirty-six (36) percent of our trucks are past their useful lifespan.
- 20 year Replacement Value of \$8,639,981.

Ms. McKrell stated that Highway Equipment CIP should be funded \$432,000 per year over the next twenty years. Ms. McKrell stated that within six years the equipment could be brought out of the red and to a point where every piece of equipment is within its lifespan. Mr. Simmons stated that this project gives a more scientific method in evaluating where the Town stands with the equipment and how to bring it all into alignment. Mr. Simmons stated that this will allow the Board of Selectmen along with the Board of Finance the opportunity to make a judgement call on what the figures will be during the fiscal year. Mrs. Rotella asked if the costs included all equipment on the vehicles. Ms. McKrell stated that it did. Mrs. Rotella stated that she was in full support of the fleet plan. Mrs. Rotella stated that typically you can hire a company to take all of the information to oversee the project and ensure proper replacement. Mrs. Rotella suggests the formation of a Fleet Management Committee to include representatives from different departments. Mrs. Rotella stated that she is not in favor of leasing any further equipment and asked how many items are currently leased. Mr. Tom Curioso, Highway Supervisor, stated that approximately five pieces of equipment are currently leased. Mrs. Rotella stated the Town should have ownership of its equipment. Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, stated that they were financing agreements and at the end of the lease the Town will own the equipment outright.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted to accept the plan as the starting point and as a work in progress for Fleet Management and replacement. Mr. Simmons stated that he would like to expand conversation with the Police, Education and Recreations Departments. Mrs. Rotella added that she would like to discuss the state and national contract process for the purchasing of equipment. All in favor and the motion carries.

(7) New Business

Resolution – Master-Lease Sublease Agreement with Key Government Finance, Inc. for the Financing of equipment to outfit four police vehicles in the Amount of \$30,043.00

Mr. Simmons asks if Mr. Sullivan, Director of Finance, would like to speak in regards to the resolution. Mr. Sullivan states the resolution is similar to the last three resolutions that were voted upon. Mrs. Rotella states she would like to table the resolution at this time. Mr. Simmons asks if tabling the item would result in a public safety issue. Mr. Sullivan states that the vehicles have been outfitted but are awaiting payment. Mrs. Rotella asks for confirmation that there is no public safety implication. Mr. Sullivan states that there is not. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons to table the Resolution to allow the time to figure out the funding mechanism.

Discussion – Stonington Beautification Committee

Ms. Julie Holland, Chairperson, and Mr. Dan Oliverio, Tree Warden, were present to request and discuss the following:

- The Department of Public Works to create a spraying schedule for removing weeds on sidewalks in Town.
- The Beautification Committee is in support of Mr. Oliverio's request that a line item of \$5,000 for tree replacement is added to the Town budget.

- Replacement of damaged light posts in downtown Pawcatuck and questioned the timeline for light post replacement.
- Clean up to the all purposed field in the back of Spellman Drive.

Mrs. Rotella asks Ms. McKrell who is responsible for mowing/trimming of the schools. Ms. McKrell states that Public Works maintains all areas with the exception of two fields at the high school and the front of the high school building.

Mr. Simmons states that spraying of sidewalks is not a common practice due to the run off and asks for further information. Ms. McKrell states that in her tenure no spray has been used on sidewalks due to the runoffs. Ms. McKrell discusses the use of organics and how state certification is needed in order to utilize organic products. Ms. Holland clarified that the committee was advocating for solutions but not spraying. Mr. Simmons stated that a maintenance schedule for alleviating weeds is needed. Mr. Curioso stated that a dedicated crew will be formed and will manually remove the weeds.

Mr. Simmons stated that a \$500.00, not \$5,000.00, line item had been approved for tree replacement and would be used as a placeholder until the end of the budget process. At that time, Mr. Simmons will decide if further funding will be available.

Mr. Simmons agreed that the light posts need to be fixed for public safety reasons. Ms. McKrell stated that three light posts are out in Pawcatuck and Eversource is responsible for the replacement. Ms. McKrell has requested through Eversource that they be fixed. Mrs. Rotella asked if Eversource will agree to fix. Ms. McKrell stated they would however the Beautification Committee is requesting a decorative light instead of a cobra head light. Mr. Eric Beverly of Pawcatuck asked if there was a contact from Eversource that the Town could work with directly. Mr. Simmons stated he will contact his representative from Eversource regarding the issue to see if he can assist the Town with getting the light posts replaced.

Mr. Simmons asked for further understanding on the area in need of clean up. Mr. Oliverio clarified that the area is located behind the Human Services Department. Mr. Curioso stated that the area in discussion seems to be wetlands but that the debris and brush can be removed. Ms. McKrell discussed that the area cannot be filled due to it being wetlands. Mr. Simmons stated that it seems to be under control and that the work that can be completed will be done by month end. Mr. Simmons thanked the Beautification Committee.

Discussion – Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee – added to agenda

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add the population of the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee (MRBPIC). Mr. Simmons stated that the MRBPIC was approved by voters of the Town at a Special Town Meeting on January 17, 2017. Mr. Simmons stated that the Town does not yet own the park but the transition is imminent. Mr. Simmons stated that according to the resolution the committee will consist of all three members of the Board of Selectmen as ex-officio members, nine committee members and four alternates. The following have requested to serve:

- BOF Member, Bryan Bentz
- BOE Member, Frank Todisco
- Recreation Commission Member, Mike Crowley
- Attorney Member, Nick Kepple
- Real Estate Member, Tom Switz
- Pawcatuck Member, Steve Planchon
- Stonington Member, Scott Bates
- Mystic Member, Steve White or his designee from the Seaport

- Unassigned 9th Member, Mike O'Neill

Mr. Simmons stated that there has been much interest in the four alternate member spots which have not been assigned at this time. Mrs. Rotella recommends leaving the alternates open at this time. A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to appoint the nine individuals to members of the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Town will solicit on its website for individuals interested in becoming an alternate member.

Request for Use of Donahue Park for the 19th Annual Duck Race

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park on Saturday, April 29, 2017 for the 19th Annual Duck Race.

Request for Use of Donahue Park for the Pawcatuck Lions pre and post-race activities

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park on Saturday, June 3, 2017 for the Pawcatuck Lions pre and post-race activities.

(8) Comments from the Public

Mr. Eric Beverly asked if there was a Town policy on sidewalk clearing after a snow storm. Mr. Simmons stated that he was in receipt of an email from Mr. Beverly regarding his question. Mr. Simmons apologized for the delay in his response and stated he would follow up with the Department of Public Works to collaborate and respond to his request.

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mrs. Rotella stated that it was nice to hear about the light bulb audit items and was curious if there was a time deadline. Mrs. Rotella added that she would like the information added to the Town's website.
- Mrs. Rotella stated that she was excited about Davis Standard and especially about new jobs being brought to the area.
- Mrs. Rotella stated with the Boathouse Park moving forward she believes the town has settled into knowing it is a public park and not just for crew members.
- Mrs. Rotella reiterated that she would like to work with the Board of Finance in regards to how the Town goes about working with and awarding state and national contracts.
- Mrs. Rotella stated she is very excited to hear about the Fleet Management Program and glad Mr. Simmons is in support of it.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Town is going through the initial process of budget preparation and it has been disrupted somewhat by the State of Connecticut making cuts to funding, education cost shares and LOCIP. Mr. Simmons added that each department head has been asked to submit any overages to be applied to the state shortfall. Mr. Simmons stated that new methods of management will be very important when looking toward the 2017-2018 budget. Mr. Simmons added that he is gratified that each department is so engaged in the process.
- Mr. Simmons thanked all of the town employees who were in attendance at the meeting along with the press and public.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary