

February 27, 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, Selectman John Prue and Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple. 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

Several members of the public spoke in opposition of permitting the Town of North Stonington to tie into Stonington's sewer system citing the long history of numerous similar requests from North Stonington. Further, those that spoke stated that North Stonington needs to meet their obligations to the Stonington Taxpayer and requested that the Town not seek short term revenue streams and should ensure Stonington's needs are met first. The following individuals made comments regarding the request from North Stonington:

- Mr. Glenn Frishman who submitted a written statement which is on file at the Town Hall in the First Selectman's office.
- Mr. Michael Spellman who submitted a written statement which is on file at the Town Hall in the First Selectman's office.
- Mr. Donald Maranell

Comments on other topics:

- Mr. Jason Hinc, Plastic Bags & Straws Ad Committee member, requested that the ordinance move to a Town Meeting as soon as possible as the Committee wants be able to have the spring and summer as their roll out period. Further, they are hoping to not lose the momentum they have created surrounding the ordinance.
- Ms. Elizabeth Terico stated that as a tenant of Edythe K. Richmond she is very concerned about the proposed expansion and how it will affect the residents. She does not believe it is necessary.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he received notification of a community meeting to be held at Edythe K. Richmond with the residents on March 19th in the community room at 45 Sisk Drive to discuss the proposal further.

(4) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the February 13, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Jean Fiore in the form of an application for the Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers stating that the U.S. Senate approved the Public Lands package which includes designation of the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Act.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Ms. Katherine Kraschel in the form of an application for the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee.

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Norman Erlendson in the form of an application for the Commission on Aging.

(6) Interviews – Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings

The Board interviewed Mr. Andrew Kowal, Mr. Paul Sartor, Mr. Christopher Donahue and Mr. Stuart Schwartzstein for the Permanent Committee to Study the Needs and Use of Town Public Buildings. It was noted that Mr. Peter O'Connor withdrew his application.

(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Board of Assessment Appeals

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Pamela Johnstone to the Board of Assessment Appeals as an alternate.

Appointment – Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Brian Bottaro as an alternate to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council.

Reappointment – Shellfish Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. John Swenarton to the Shellfish Commission.

Resignation – Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Mr. Scott Bates from the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee with regret.

(8) Old Business

Discussion – Plastic Bags and Straws Ordinance

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to move the final version of the Plastic Bags and Straws Ordinance to a Town Meeting.

(9) New Business

Ms. Marsha Standish, Director of Assessment and Ms. Linda Camelio, Tax Collector, gave an overview of the following organizations that are requesting abatements and/or exemptions due to late or no filing of their personal property declarations.

Request – Mystic Ballet Abatement of Taxes

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the abatement of taxes associated with the Mystic Ballet at their property 325 Mistuxet Ave in Stonington.

In discussion, Mr. Prue stated that although he understands that mistakes happen, he does not want to continually permit the same organizations abatements or exemptions yearly. The Board was in agreement with Mr. Prue. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Request – Williams-Mystic Abatement of Taxes

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the abatement of taxes associated with the Williams-Mystic at their property 17 Greenmanville Ave in Mystic.

Request – Shoreline Stone Tax Exemption

Ms. Standish noted that this item should be listed as an exemption not an abatement.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the tax exemption associated with Shoreline Stone at their property 12 Alice Court in Pawcatuck.

Request – Cottrell Brewing Tax Exemption

Ms. Standish noted that this item should be listed as an exemption not an abatement.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to approve the tax exemption associated with Cottrell Brewing at their property 100 Mechanic Street in Pawcatuck.

Request – Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Ms. Kepple and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park on Saturday, June 1, 2019 by the Pawcatuck Lions for their 5K pre/post-race activities.

(10) Comments from the Public

- A student from Stonington High School named Aaron spoke in opposition of the Town of North Stonington tying into Stonington's sewer system noting that he lives in Pawcatuck with his parents.
- Mr. Paul Sartor commended Ms. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, for the level of integrity she has shown over the past several years.

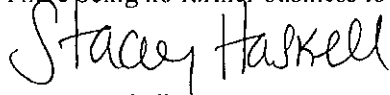
(11) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Kepple had no comments.
- Mr. Prue stated that in response to those speaking about the tie in there are benefits to adding the revenue but at same time Stonington is not distressed and will not jump into an agreement with North Stonington.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the tie in issue will go before the WPCA and added that Mr. Rich Cody, WPCA Chair, is an expert in that area. He added that he appreciated the comments which gave a good history of the past issues with North Stonington requesting the tie in previously. Further, all involved must be open, candid and transparent.

Mr. Simmons stated that a year ago Governor Malloy's budget cut municipal aid to Stonington by 73.9% and zeroed out both adult education and education cost sharing. He added that he received Governor Lamont's budget which has a 27% cut to municipal aid, 5.5% cut to adult education, and a 26% cut to education cost sharing. Mr. Simmons added that although having funds cut is never ideal the cuts are within the realm of creditably.

(12) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary