

April 11, 2018

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 5:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Rob Simmons and Selectman John Prue. Selectwoman Kate Rotella was absent. Also present were members of the public.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Prue called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

Mr. Jim Lathrop spoke on behalf of the Economic Development Commission regarding the "Circus Lot" which is a 5.7-acre parcel of land located in Pawcatuck, CT. He noted that the land was originally deeded to the Town of Stonington and was conveyed to the Town of Westerly to be used exclusively for water production purposes including distribution to the Town of Stonington. Mr. Lathrop continued that since the property had not been used in the manner described in the deed, the clause allows the property to revert back to the Town of Stonington at a cost of \$35,000. Mr. Lathrop added that the Economic Development Commission would like to have further discussions in the hopes to potentially reacquire the property to utilize in the revitalization of Downtown Pawcatuck.

(4) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the March 28, 2018 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

(5) Correspondence

None

(6) Old Business

None

(7) New Business

Award of Mobile Radio Bid (Pending Board of Police Commission Approval)

Stonington Police Chief Darren Stewart stated that they are in the process of upgrading the radios. He stated that he received two bids. One bid came in low and the other, which was higher, did not meet the specification of the bid. Chief Stewart asked that the Board of Selectmen award the bid to Marcus Communications of Manchester, CT in the amount of \$115,607.20 pending the Board of Police Commission's approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the award of bid to Marcus Communications pending the Board of Police Commission's approval.

After some discussion, the motion carried.

CDBG Small Cities Homelessness Set Aside

Mr. Simmons stated that the Town of Stonington was approached by a group of individuals who currently work on activities related to homelessness to ask if the Town would be willing to discuss working with them to apply for funding from CDBG as Stonington falls into the local access area within the boundary of New London County.

Ms. Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services, stated that this past fiscal year her office has assisted 600 contacts which were related to homelessness or potential homelessness (eviction, housing/homelessness, rental assistance, etc.). She added that she supports the grant application.

Ms. Cathy Zall of the New London Homeless Hospitality Center, stated that this regionalized effort will help to provide services to those in need in a cost-effective manner and strengthen their partnerships.

Mr. Jeff Anderson of Always Home stated that his group works to divert family homelessness and to ensure that they don't ever enter a shelter. He added that they are currently at a 97% rate of diversion locally and 87% regionally. Mr. Anderson continued that receiving this grant will allow them to provide extra members to the diversion staff.

Ms. Lisa Tepper-Bates of the CT Coalition to End Homelessness, stated this group has set the standard in the State of Connecticut and have outperformed all of the other regions within the State as they work to prevent homelessness, offer shelters and exit the homeless into housing. She added that the grant opportunity will offer a way to continue doing the work that our providers have done separately but will have them work together regionally.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, about meeting the June 15th deadline of the grant. Mr. Vincent stated that they will need to find someone to assist with the grant writing as it is an intensive application and added that he and his department will do what they can to assist with little time available prior to the deadline submission of the grant.

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

In discussion, Mr. Prue stated that he is proud to endorse the request.

Mr. Simmons read the following statement from Mrs. Rotella:

"I am sorry I cannot be with you tonight to discuss this important issue.

However, I want to let you know that I am in favor of the Town of Stonington participating in the CDBG opportunity to apply for grant funding for Youth homelessness and Diversion. This effort supports our commitment to regional approaches to solutions

I have discussed with Director Theodore and received positive feedback on the efforts. She confirmed we already have a good working relationship with Cathy Zall and this will be a good resource for our staff.

In reviewing the proposal, the grant will be funding personnel to manage and administer the programs in addition to much needed social workers.

I am so proud to be involved with our Town's staff and our citizens that reach out to help and solve problems. I am fully in support of this effort on behalf of our Town."

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Request – Assign Map 3, Block 5, Lot 3 & 4, Street Number 61 Robinson Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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

Request – Assign Map 135, Block 2, Lot 1H, Street Number 1215 Pequot Trail, Stonington, CT 06378

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

Request – Use of Town Dock for Blessing of the Fleet Events

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Town Dock for the 4th Annual Blessing of the Fleet 5K Run on July 26, 2018.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Town Dock for the Blessing of the Fleet Social Event on July 29, 2018.

Discussion – Earth Day Resolution and Challenge

Mr. Simmons stated that although this resolution had been approved in the past it is still a good reminder of the importance of Earth Day. He added that Earth Day is on April 22, 2018 and stated that taking actions no matter how small to honor the earth that we all love makes an impact.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the Earth Day Resolution and Challenge.

(8) Comments from the Public

None

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

Mr. Prue stated that the information from Mr. Lathrop is a really great jumping off point and he would like to do more research to see if this is something to pursue.

Mr. Simmons stated that when Mr. Lathrop approached him regarding the issue he immediately sent an email to Mr. Derrik Kennedy, Westerly Town Manager, to ask if they would want to convey the property back to the Town of Stonington. He added that Mr. Kennedy stated that it may be an opportunity. Mr. Simmons added that there would be a cost to the Town of \$35,000 and that would need to be considered in the future as the Board is deep in budget discussions at this time.

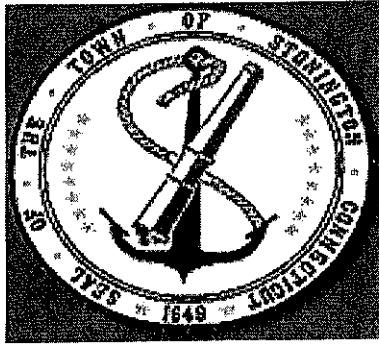
Mr. Simmons stated that the Town of Stonington voted three years ago to approve renovations to two elementary schools which is the biggest bonding project in the history of Town. The cost of bonding added a well-known burden of a 28% increase to this year's budget. He added that what was not well known was fiscal collapse of the State of Connecticut and their failure to meet obligations of state aid. Mr. Simmons stated that the Town is obligated by the Charter to complete a budget with big unknowns which has resulted in serious examination of every line item. He added that the participation of department heads with their knowledge, experience and willingness to continually look for ways to make cuts on behalf of taxpayers is commendable.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary



Earth Day Resolution and Challenge

Whereas, April 22, 2018 is Earth Day in Stonington, CT; and

Whereas, Earth Day has been celebrated in America since April 22, 1970; and

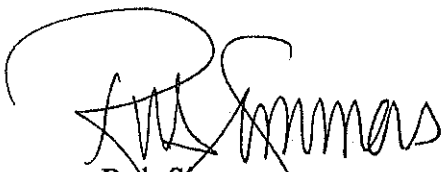
Whereas, over 20 million Americans from all walks of life have responded to the 'challenge' of Earth Day and launched the modern environmental movement; and

Whereas, that movement has worked for clean water, clean air, endangered species protection, modern farming and forestry practices and a healthier way of life; and

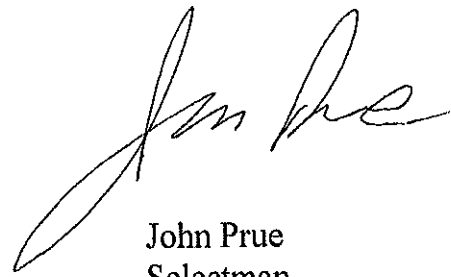
Whereas, all living beings share just one Earth; and

Whereas, there is much more that can be done to 'save the earth' if we all do our part;

Now therefore, the Stonington Board of Selectmen resolve to celebrate this day and challenge the citizens of the Town of Stonington to do the same by taking an action no matter how small to honor the Earth that we all love.


Rob Simmons
First Selectman


Kate Rotella
Selectwoman


John Prue
Selectman