

June 13, 2018

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, Selectwoman Kate Rotella and Selectman John Prue. 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**

Mr. Donald Maranell commented on his objection to spraying for weeds; questioned why the mower wasn't fixed; the timeline for the investigation into the Director of Public Works; believes there should be an investigation into steps that led to weed spraying; questioned why MSDS sheets were not available on the Town website; believes there should be policies created regarding weed spraying and notification to residents.

**(4) Public Hearing – 2018 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application**

Mr. Simmons called the public hearing to order at 7:19 p.m. Mr. Simmons stated that the Town received two applications from the Stonington Community Center and Greater Stonington Realty Corp. Mr. Simmons asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the 2018 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Application.

Ms. Phylcia Adams, Stonington Housing Authority Executive Director, spoke regarding the applications submitted from the Greater Stonington Realty Group for energy upgrades at the Edith K. Richmond Home.

Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the program.

Mr. Simmons adjourned the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

**(5) Discussion - 2018 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Applications**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the application from the Stonington Community Center and Greater Stonington Realty Group.

**(6) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the May 23, 2018 regular meeting minutes.

**(7) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Elliott Clarke in the form of an application for the Retirement Board.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Economic Development Commission regarding reduction of blight lien.

**(8) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment - Stormwater Task Force**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Sally Cogan to the Stormwater Task Force.

**Appointment – Tree Warden**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Margaret "Maggie" Jones to the position of Tree Warden.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Kathy Weinberger to the position of Deputy Tree Warden.

**(9) Old Business**

**Discussion – CDBG Grant Items**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add the Resolution Establishing the Fair Action Plan.

**Fair Housing Resolution**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the Fair Housing Resolution.

**Small Cities Program**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the Small Cities Program Resolution authorizing submission of the grant application.

**CDBG Financing Plan & Budget**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the CDBG Financing Plan and Budget.

**CDBG Subrecipient Appointment**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint the United Way of Southeastern CT as the CDBG Subrecipient (Program Administrator) in the total amount of \$17,400 for the duration of the grant with compensation coming from grant funding.

**Resolution – Establishing Fair Action Plan**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the Resolution Establishing the Fair Action Plan.

**(10) New Business**

**Discussion – Amendment to Bus Depot Lease/ Resolution – Bus Depot**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to table the items.

**Resolution – Supporting Participation in the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to table the item.

**Discussion – Sidewalk Easement**

Mr. Keith Brynes, Town Planner, submitted a request from Spruce Meadows, LLC to grant a sidewalk easement to the Town. The Spruce Ridge residential development will include construction of a new sidewalk along Route 1.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the sidewalk easement from Spruce Ridge Development.

**Resolution – Neglected Cemetery Grant**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the Neglected Cemetery Grant Resolution.

**Request – Award Bid to Contractor True Blue Environmental for Underground Storage Tank Replacement Project**

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, stated the lowest bidder of the six bids received had a record of being subject to arbitration and the President had been involved in criminal proceedings. Therefore, the recommendation by Tighe & Bond was to award the bid to the next lowest bidder. Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, stated that the lowest bidder also was not certified in Connecticut.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the award of bid to contractor True Blue Environmental in the base amount of \$905,924.00 for the underground storage tank replacement project.

In discussion, the Board decided that if alternate funding was found to be a necessity they would call a special meeting to approve at a future date.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Request – Use of Donahue Park**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park on Saturday, October 13, 2018 by St. Michael School for their 5K pre/post-race activities.

**Request – Assign Map 81, Block 1, Lot 2, Street Number 393 North Main Street, Stonington, CT 06378**

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

**Discussion – Waiver of Fee for Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corp**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve a waiver of permit fees for the Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corp in the amount of \$44.00.

**(11) Comments from the Public**

Mr. Donald Maranell commented on a broken pole at 240 North Water Street; the way the Board communicates with the public at meetings; spraying of weeds; and questioned if the street number assigned had gone through the Town Clerk for review of 911 assignment.

**(12) Comments from the Selectmen**

Mr. Prue stated that it is his understanding that comments from the public is meant at the beginning of the meeting to speak to items on the agenda and the one at the end of the meeting is more for public comment. He agreed that MSDS sheets should have been made available to the public and also the issue of how to control the weeds needs to be addressed.

Mr. Prue congratulated Shane Smith on winning the State Decathlon Championship.

Mrs. Rotella stated that the back and forth in public comment is not typical but feels that the Board has tried most recently to meet those needs of the public.

Mr. Simmons stated that the format for how a Board of Selectmen meeting is conducted has been the same for the past few seated boards. He stated that he did not want to reduce or alter comments as to not hinder public

comment. He added that the only requirement through the open meeting laws is that the public is made aware of a meeting in advance and has the opportunity to attend. Public comment is not required at a regular meeting as it is not a public hearing or town meeting.

Mr. Simmons stated that he is ultimately responsible for all that the Town does or fails to do. He stated that he was not aware of the spraying and once he was he had it stopped but ultimately it is his responsibly. The State of Connecticut and Amtrak both spray their areas which do not fall under the Town.

The Board of Finance has approved 60K for a new Flail Mower. This item was originally part of the 18-19 budget and was moved to 19-20 but has now been approved for purchase.

Street Number Assignment is a standard item on the agenda. It is reviewed and approved by the Police, Tax Assessor, Zoning Official and the Planning and Zoning Department. It does not come before the Town Clerk.

Mr. Simmons will look into the issue with the broken pole on North Water Street. Eversource sometimes moves quickly and other times does not. He will request that they take a look at the issue.

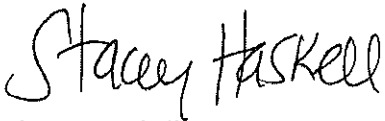
The investigation into the Building Officials was completed. They have the right to grieve if they choose. No further comments at this time.

The investigation into the complaints regarding the Director of Public Works has been completed and Mr. Oliverio will review it tomorrow morning.

Mr. Simmons stated that he attended the awards ceremony at Stonington High School where over 100 scholarships were distributed at close to one million dollars. He added that the Town Hall employees put money aside yearly for students to receive a scholarship and this year three students benefitted from their generosity.

**(13) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary