

June 26, 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) Commendation

- The Selectmen issued a commendation to Mr. Kevin Simmons in recognition of his 44th year of employment with the Town of Stonington in the Department of Public Works.
- The Selectmen issued a commendation to Mr. Michael Spellman in recognition of his being named Citizen of the Year by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce.

Chief Michael Spellman issued an award to the Board of Selectmen for their collaboration with the City of Groton on the Citizens with Autism Safety System (CASS) which serves the unique needs of those individuals who are on the autism spectrum.

(4) Comments from the Public

- Mr. Bill Sternberg thanked Mr. Kevin Simmons for his service to the Town of Stonington. He also stated his disagreement with the Director of Planning on his recent comments to the newspaper regarding developers pulling away from projects in Stonington after seeing reaction to the Smiler's Wharf project.
- Ms. Laura Graham asked for an updated on the Pawcatuck sidewalk project.

(5) Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the June 12, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

(6) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Russell McDonough in the form of an application from for the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the family of Ms. Rudie Beers thanking the Town staff for their condolences.

(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Reappointment – Recreation Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Joseph Ciriello to the Recreation Commission.

Resignation – Thames Valley Council for Community Action

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Ms. Tina Huard from the Thames Valley Council for Community Action Board of Trustees.

(8) Old Business

None

(9) New Business

Discussion – 75 Stillman Avenue Update

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, gave an update on the status of 75 Stillman Avenue stating that due to a presence of lead in the waste additional efforts are being taken to confirm an appropriate waste disposal facility and minimize financial impact on the Town. Recent information received from the past

abatement contractor revealed that past abatement work was performed on the mill building. There is a potential for the asbestos to be modified and removed from the waste stream which helps with overall cost.

Mr. Simmons stated that part of the delay in the debris removal is due to the federal agencies that destroyed the historic documents related to the mill. They put the burden onto the Town to come up with documents that the Town did not have access to as they do not own the property. He added that everyone is eager to move the project forward.

Mr. Prue stated that it should be noted progress is being made everyday although it may not look that way when going by the site. Ms. Kepple stated that more communication should be relayed to the residents about the progress at the site.

Discussion -- Financing Agreement for IT Equipment

Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, stated that the agreement was to finance equipment for Information Technology as approved in the 2019-2020 CIP budget. He stated that the equipment is for the purchase and support of Town wide servers.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to sign the financing agreement for the IT equipment.

Discussion – Acceptance of Open Space Parcel at 126 South Broad Street

The Selectmen received a request from AJ Holdings, LLC granting a 15.8 open space parcel to the Town as part of the Birchwood Farms residential development at 126 South Broad Street. The parcel consists of mostly inland wetlands and is directly adjacent to Spellman Park.

Attorney Harry Heller spoke on behalf of his client AJ Holdings, LLC and added that they would delineate the area with markers.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to accept the open space parcel at 126 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck.

Award of Bid for Full Depth Pavement Repair

Ms. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, stated that Ed French & Sons was the only bidder but that historically has been the low bidder on many past proposals. She stated that they have worked with Ed French & Sons on several projects in the past and they are highly skilled paving contractors.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to award the bid for the full depth pavement patch contract to Ed French & Son, Inc.

Request – Assign Map 4, Block 22, Lot 2, Street Number 50 Fellows Street, Pawcatuck, CT 06379

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

(10) Comments from the Public

None

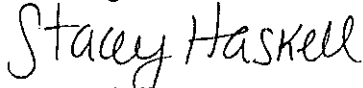
(11) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Kepple had no comments.
- Mr. Prue stated that he does not believe the Director of Planning was out of line in the comments that he made regarding the developers. He also stated that the money that is budgeted for sidewalks is for design work and engineering not for the sidewalk completion.

- Mr. Simmons stated that the Town recently applied for a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant for the sidewalks on a state road, Route 1 in Pawcatuck. Mr. Simmons expressed his disappointment with the results stating that the matrix used by the Executive Committee to evaluate the applications seemed to not take into consideration many factors regarding the Town of Stonington including safety concerns and the necessity for the sidewalks. Further, Mr. Simmons stated that he would be following up with the Chair of SCCOG and request a further review of Stonington's application.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Board of Finance will be discussing the potential of bonding for the sidewalks at their next meeting.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he had reached out to the State Child Advocate to express that the Town will be fully cooperative with the inquiry into the school district's handling of complaints made by female students regarding inappropriate behavior of a teacher. Further, he added that he would reserve any judgement on the issue until receiving the report of the child advocate.

(12) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary