

September 12, 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

None

(4) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted to approve the August 22, 2018 regular meeting minutes. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Mr. Prue voting in favor and Mrs. Rotella abstaining.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Attorney Londregan regarding exploring the possibility of establishing a Storm Water District within the Town.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Frederick Allard on behalf of Bay Street property owners regarding their objection to the Town fixing and reopening the Isham Street Boat Launch.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Martin Rutchik regarding his concern that CVS in Mystic is not allowing customers the use of their restroom facilities.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Acting First Selectman

Mr. Simmons stated that he will be away from September 19th – October 3rd. Therefore, both Mr. Prue and Mrs. Rotella would each be acting in his absence.

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve Mr. Prue as acting First Selectman from midnight September 18th through noon September 28th and Mrs. Rotella from noon September 28th through midnight October 3rd.

Appointment – Plastic Bags & Straws Ad Hoc Committee

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Stacey Wilbur as an alternate to the Plastic Bags and Straws Ad Hoc Committee.

Reappointment – Board of Police Commissioners

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Robert O'Shaughnessy to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Reappointment – Architectural Design Review Board

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Ms. Susan Cullen to the Architectural Design Review Board.

Reappointment – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Nicholas Salerno as an alternate to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

Resignation – Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Mr. Matthew Berger from the Zoning Board of Appeals as he had met term limits. The Board thanked him for his service as the Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Resignation – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Mr. Jon Mitchell and Mr. Nathaniel Trumbull from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to move the items regarding the generator replacement and HVAC forward on the agenda.

Request – Additional Appropriation for Generator Replacement

Ms. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, stated that the generator that services the Town Hall, Highway Garage and Fueling Facility had an internal fire resulting in damage greater than the cost to repair. She added that a loss of power could also result in issues with the IT Department and the servers that they maintain at Town Hall. Mr. Simmons stated that the item had already gone before the Board of Finance and was approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the additional appropriation in the amount of \$71,600 to SNS Electric for the Department of Public Works Generator Replacement.

In discussion, Mrs. Rotella wanted to note that this was an emergency additional appropriation.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Request – Award of Bid for Police Department HVAC

Captain Todd Olson stated that the HVAC is a standalone unit which will be used in the Police Department's server room. The server room becomes extremely hot due as it stores many different pieces of equipment and services not only the Police Department but School Department as well.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the award of bid to New England Tradesmen.

In discussion, Captain Olson noted that the Board of Education would be funding this project.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Discussion – Westerly-Pawcatuck Harmony Trail

Mr. Tim Lebling from the Bricks and Murals Committee gave an overview of the proposed Harmony Trail which would include placing 8-12 musical instruments throughout the Westerly-Pawcatuck area for public usage to enhance the art and music scene.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Lebling and stated that the Board would need further information before acting on this item. He added that it may require input from a number of entities including the Police Department, Planning and Zoning, Beautification Committee as well as others.

Discussion – Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Stonington and Stonington School District

Mr. Simmons stated the Stonington School District has been utilizing the Town's fueling station since 2013 which was to be on temporary basis as they were awaiting the creation of their own fueling station. He added that Superintendent Riley requested that the district continue fueling at the Town's station which would be a cost savings to both the Town and the District.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Stonington and the Stonington School District.

Request – Use of Town Dock

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Town Dock for parking on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 10:00 a.m-4:30 p.m. for the Stonington Historical Society's Historic House Tour event.

(9) Comments from the Public

None

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Mr. Prue stated that there are pros and cons to forming the Storm Water District and would like further information.
- Mr. Prue stated that although he understands the issues with the residents of Bay Street, the boat ramp fits the area and has been there for a long time.
- Mrs. Rotella agreed that more information was needed regarding the establishment of a Storm Water District and added that there is a reason that the four communities involved in the pilot program declined participation.
- Mrs. Rotella stated that the opening of the new schools was very successful and that everyone seemed very happy. She added that work had begun on the renovations of the older sections of the schools.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the looming issue regarding the state mandated MS4 is a very expensive requirement and that the Town is continuing to gather more information.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he spent 9/11 with the family of Josh Piver at a memorial and added that the family has turned the tragedy into something good by creating a scholarship fund.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Mystic River Boathouse Park is for all in the community. He stated that once opened it will allow water front access to the residents and as well as a rowing center for the SHS crew team.
- Mr. Simmons stated that the Yankee Institute named the Town of Stonington as ranking 20th out of 169 CT Towns for their fiscal health and added that if the Town had not been bonding for the schools he believes the number would be higher.
- Mr. Simmons stated that in the history of the Board of Selectmen, Mrs. Rotella's appointment as the Acting First Selectman will make her the first woman appointed to that position. Congratulations were noted by all.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary