

November 8, 2017

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 Mike Spellman and Selectwoman Kate Rotella. Also present were members of the public and press.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Proclamation

Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Rotella issued a proclamation to Mr. Spellman for his years of service to the Town of Stonington as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board recessed at 7:03 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:06 p.m.

(4) Comments from the Public

Chief Darren Stewart wanted to thank his officers who used technology to find and arrest the two suspects who substantially damaged the Piver Field at Stonington High Schools when they purposefully drove a vehicle on the field. He added that the suspects are under eighteen and therefore juveniles so no further information can be shared.

(5) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the October 2, 2017 Joint Board of Selectmen and Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee special meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the October 25, 2017 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to approve the October 28, 2017 Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes.

(6) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Ms. Julie Savin from the Stonington Housing Authority stating that the tenants held a commissioner election for membership on their Board and voted Ms. Megan Falcone as the tenant representative.

(7) Interview – Shellfish Commission

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Mr. Peter Moore and Ms. Sonia Kurdziel for a seat on the Shellfish Commission. Mr. Simmons stated the Board would consider the appointment at the next regular meeting.

(8) Appointment

Appointment – Climate Change Task Force

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Dana Hewson to the Climate Change Task Force as a regular member.

Appointment – Economic Development Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. James Lathrop to the Economic Development Commission as a regular member.

Appointment – Board of Police Commissioners

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint of Mr. Robert E.P. Elmer III to the Board of Police Commissioners.

In discussion, Mr. Spellman stated that we are very fortunate to have such qualified people apply for our Boards and Commissions. Mr. Spellman added that he wanted to recognize and thank Mr. Harry Holt for his years of service as the Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners. Mrs. Rotella thanked Mr. Holt for his service. Mr. Simmons stated that as a former member of the Board of Police Commissioners himself he understands the commitment Mr. Holt made and thanked him for his years of service.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

(9) Old Business

None

(10) New Business

None

(11) Comments from the Public

Ms. Ann Watkins of 13 Rivercrest Drive Pawcatuck stated that she wanted further information on what the Board meant when they said that Pawcatuck was blossoming. Mr. Simmons stated that the Board hears comments from the public but doesn't respond. He added that he believed that they would address her concerns during comments from the selectmen.

(12) Comments from the Selectmen

Mrs. Rotella thanked Mr. Spellman for being a good friend and a great peer. She added that it was a joy to work in a true tri-partisan effort. She continued that the support of the Board during a time in which she had experienced great loss meant so much. Mrs. Rotella thanked the voters for putting her back in office and looked forward to working with Mr. Simmons and Mr. Prue.

Mr. Spellman stated the City of Groton recently had autism responders training. He requested if the Board will permit him to reach out to Mr. Roger Kizer to assist the City of Groton on autism software as he did for the Town of Stonington. Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Rotella agreed.

Mr. Spellman stated that he has lived here his whole life and when Yardney's left many people thought Pawcatuck would never come back. He added that together the current Board of Selectmen hired a Director of Planning, Jason Vincent, who helped to push forward the implementation of the Plan of Conservation and Development and believes that in the future the hiring of Mr. Vincent may be the premier accomplishment of the Board. Mr. Spellman continued that the PV-5 zone in downtown will bring welcomed changes as it is intended for mixed-use development and to encourage investment. Mr. Spellman ended by saying he is proud to say he is from Pawcatuck.

Mr. Simmons stated that Pawcatuck Village is a community that is shared with Westerly, RI as two states, two towns and one community. He added that many things happen between both towns such as the local parades as well as repairs to the Stillman Avenue bridge due in part to the good relationship we have with Westerly. Mr. Simmons stated that there is a tremendous interest in Pawcatuck which has the most promise to grow productively. He added that he appreciates the partnership that Mr. Spellman and his family engaged in a few years ago when he ran for office as being in politics can be difficult for the entire family.

Mr. Simmons acknowledged that Stonington High School boys' and girls' soccer teams have both been crowned ECC Champions and offered congratulations on their accomplishment.

Mr. Simmons stated he is proud of our police department and thanked them for their swift response in regards to the issue at Piver Field.

Mr. Simmons stated he will be leaving to attend a family wedding and that Mr. Spellman will be acting in his absence through Monday afternoon.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Spellman for his years of service. He added that the swearing in ceremony will be held at the Pawcatuck Fire Department on November 17, 2017 and hope citizens would join in to help welcome in the new team.

(13) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Haskell".

Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary