

November 22, 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, 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 Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue to approve the November 8, 2017 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Rotella voting in favor and Mr. Prue abstaining.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue to approve the November 16, 2017 joint Board of Selectmen and Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee special meeting minutes. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Rotella voting in favor and Mr. Prue abstaining.

(5) Correspondence

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Kevin Beverly in the form of an application for the Stonington Housing Authority.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Frederick Deichmann in the form of an application for the Planning and Zoning Commission.

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Sub-Registrars

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint James O’Boyle, Stephen King, Anthony Dinoto, Patricia Moody and John MacDougall as Sub-Registrars with an office term of January 1, 2018-January 2, 2022.

Appointment – Shellfish Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Peter Moore to the Shellfish Commission as an alternate member. In discussion, Mr. Prue stated that he was at the meeting when both candidates were interviewed and added that they were both excellent candidates. Mr. Simmons stated that the other application from Ms. Kurdziel will remain on file for future consideration if an opening should arise.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Appointment – Stonington Housing Authority

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint of Ms. Megan Falcone as the tenant member of the Stonington Housing Authority.

Reappointment – Economic Development Commission

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Ms. Danielle Chesebrough to the Economic Development Commission as a regular member.

In discussion, Mr. Simmons stated that Ms. Chesebrough had recently been elected to the Board of Finance and the Town Attorney was asked to advise if she could continue her role with the Economic Development

Commission. The Town Attorney's opinion was that there was nothing to prevent her from serving in both capacities.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Reappointment – Economic Development Commission

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

Reappointment – Tree Warden

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Daniel Oliverio as the Tree Warden for a two-year term.

In discussion, Mr. Simmons stated that per the Town Charter the Tree Warden is to be appointed yearly by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Simmons asked the Board to appoint the Tree Warden through their term to end in November of 2018.

Mr. Simmons thanked Mr. Oliverio for doing an excellent job and added that he was a quick study who besides handling tree issues has learned that he has to interact with the public which can be challenging. Mr. Simmons added that Mr. Oliverio has risen to that challenge.

Mrs. Rotella stated that Mr. Oliverio cares so much for the Town. Mrs. Rotella thanked Mr. Oliverio for his service on several other Town committees as well as the Tree Warden.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Reappointment – Board of Selectmen Representative on the K-12 School Building Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted to reappoint Mrs. Rotella to the K-12 School Building Committee as the Board of Selectmen representative. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Mr. Prue voting in favor and Mrs. Rotella abstaining.

In discussion, Mr. Simmons stated that Mrs. Rotella's role as vice chair of the K-12 School Building Committee has been a very productive assignment with long hours which is the largest bonding project in the history of the Town of Stonington. Mr. Simmons added that Mrs. Rotella's appointment is due to her confidence, capability, energy and enthusiasm.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Resignation– Stonington Housing Authority

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Thomas Hyland from the Stonington Housing Authority, with regret.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

Discussion – Key Finance 2017-2018 Lease Agreement

Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, gave an overview of the 2017-2018 Key Finance Lease Agreement stating it is for the purchase of five new pieces of equipment to include three dump trucks and two utility trucks totaling \$575,000 which will be paid at a rate of 2.26% over the next five years.

Mr. Simmons stated that the equipment purchase is essential for the services the Town needs to provide. Mr. Simmons added the reason we do not just purchase the equipment outright is due to the current financial condition of the State of Connecticut as well as the Governor's recent withdrawal of funds from the budget. Mr. Simmons stated by May of next year we should have a better understanding of what the surplus will be and at that time we can pay down without penalty.

Mrs. Rotella asked if the lease was structured by total or by vehicle. Mr. Sullivan stated the lease was structured by total and added that payments will pay down the total not per vehicle.

Mr. Prue stated that he thought the rate was good and he was ready to move it forward. Mr. Simmons stated that the Board of Finance is in agreement and support of the lease.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to sign the lease in approval of the 2017-2018 Key Finance Lease Agreement.

Discussion – Assignment of easement to Eversource to restore electrical power to Pawcatuck Pumphouse

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, gave an overview of the assignment of the easement to Eversource. Mr. Deledda added that this is the last step in a long process that included the Town gaining an easement from the Pawcatuck Business Property and in turn will assign rights to Eversource so that they run the conduit to power up the building.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Pawcatuck Dike System consists of pumps and two gates at the end of Mechanic Street which was built after a major flood in the 1960's resulting in an investment to ensure the manufacturers in that area have a safe, secure and dry space. Mr. Simmons added that completion of the process will bring that facility up to date.

Mr. Prue asked what the timeline would be for completion. Mr. Deledda stated it could be plus or minus thirty days based on Eversource's timeline.

Mr. Simmons asked if the easement was indefinite. Mr. Deledda stated that it is and if the parties withdraw the easement reverts back to the property owner.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to authorize the First Selectman to sign the assignment and any other documents incidental to effectuating the restoration of electrical service to the Town Pump House.

Discussion – Board of Selectmen Representative on the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut (CTACSC)

Mr. Simmons stated that the CTACSC has a vacancy previously occupied by Selectman Spellman. Mr. Simmons added that the CTACSC advocates for the rights of citizens within the cable franchise area.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Simmons and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Prue to the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Rotella voting in favor and Mr. Prue abstaining.

Discussion – Acting First Selectman

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to table the discussion of Acting First Selectman.

(9) Comments from the Public

None

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

Mr. Prue offered Thanksgiving wishes to everyone.

Mrs. Rotella welcomed Mr. Prue to the Board and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Simmons welcomed both Mr. Prue and Mrs. Rotella to the new Board and added that although they are going from being tripartisan to bipartisan he hoped to continue to have the same type of cooperation and collaboration as in the past.

Mr. Simmons stated that in the future he will bring forth the idea of potentially forming a Charter Revision Commission to review if an election process will continue to bring qualified candidates to the roles of Town Clerk and Tax Collector or do these need to become appointed positions. Mr. Simmons added that another area would be to consider adding to the Board of Selectmen as well as the potential addition of a Town Manager.

Mr. Simmons stated that he was looking forward to tomorrow mornings football game and wished the best for the Bears. Mr. Simmons added that he wishes everyone the best this Thanksgiving adding that we are blessed with a beautiful quality of life in a beautiful location surrounded by good schools, people and villages.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary