

March 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 7:00 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Comments from the Public**

None

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the February 22, 2017 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes. After some discussion regarding the section of the minutes pertaining to the Eversource meeting, the motion carried.

**(5) Correspondence**

- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from the Mystic Little League, a non-profit organization, requesting the waiver of fees required for a Building Permit. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the waiver of Town fees associated with permits to complete a teardown/rebuild of Rossie 1 Clubhouse.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Old Mystic Baptist Church in regards to closing the facility and potential usage by town.
- Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Programs & Project Management Division in regards to Stonington Point Breakwater being de-authorized.

**(6) Interviews for Stonington Harbor Management Commission**

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Mr. David Young and Ms. Melanie Degler for the vacant seat on the Stonington Harbor Management Commission.

**(7) Appointment/Reappointment**

**Stonington Beautification Committee**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint David Wade to the Stonington Beautification Committee as a volunteer.

**Conservation Commission**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint James Kading to the Conservation Commission.

**Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Howard (Lee) Reichart to the Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Commission.

**Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Sandy Grimes to the Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission.

**(8) Old Business**

**Interview for Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee**

The Board of Selectmen interviewed Mr. Ben Davol as an alternate on the Mystic River Boathouse Implementation Committee.

**Discussion – Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission**

Mr. Simmons stated that the Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission had its first meeting since 2015 and discussed revitalizing the Commission. Mr. Simmons added that the Acting Chairman intends to reach out to stakeholders regarding preserving and protecting the river.

**(9) New Business**

**Discussion – State Surplus Property at 37 Church Street, Mystic**

Mr. Simmons stated that he had no inquiries from Department Heads regarding any interest in the property. Mrs. Rotella stated that she didn't think buying the property was in the best interest of the Town. Mr. Spellman agreed. Mr. Simmons stated that he also didn't believe the property was of interest to the Town.

**Request for Waiver of Fees**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to waive Town fee's associated with the Planning and Zoning application and building permit in regards to the Stonington Como's construction of the two paddle/platform tennis courts. During discussion, Mrs. Rotella noted that the Stonington Como will still have to pay for State fees. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Request for Street Number Assignment**

**Assign Map 166A, Block 6, Lot 25A Street Number 6 Haley's Way, Old Mystic, CT 06372**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the request.

**Request for Use of Stonington Town Dock Fields**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the Stonington Farmers Market use of the Town Dock Fields on Saturdays from May 27, 2017 through October 28, 2017. The approval was contingent on an updated Certificate of Insurance submittal to the Town by June 1, 2017.

**Discussion – Sanitarian and Health Officer Vacancies**

Mr. Simmons stated that Ms. Karen Weiss, Sanitarian and Dr. Blefeld, Health Officer have both submitted resignations. Mr. Simmons added that currently the Town of Stonington runs a stand-alone system as a Municipal Local Health Department at an approximate cost of \$130,000. Mr. Simmons stated that if the Town were to replicate continuing as a stand-alone system the cost would average \$183,000 due to new requirements for certification and education. Mr. Simmons continued that the Town has reached out to Ledge Light Health District as well as Uncas Health District for pricing and information on joining the health district. Both submitted figures for review. Ledge Light Health District was meeting to vote and see if they want to solicit the Town of Stonington's membership. Mr. Simmons stated that at this time no action will be taken by the Board until they have further information.

**2017-2018 Budget Schedule**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to open the agenda to consider scheduling of 2017-2018 budget. The dates are as follows:

April 19, 2017	BOF Public Hearing – Stonington High School
April 24, 2017	Special BOS Meeting to Set Call – 3:00 p.m.
May 1, 2017	Annual Town Meeting – 7:00 p.m. Stonington High School
May 9, 2017	Referendum

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Schedule.

**(10) Comments from the Public**

- Ms. Michelle DiCesare of Mystic stated that she was disappointed that the report created by Mr. Chapman has not been made public and that taxpayers have the right to know what is in the report.

- Mr. Ed Hart of Pawcatuck stated that he was disappointed that the budget was not on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Hart added that the status of the consultant's report needs to go on the agenda and be discussed.
- Ms. Michelle Degler asked when the Board of Selectmen would vote on the vacant seat on the Stonington Harbor Management Commission.

**(11) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mrs. Rotella had no comments.
- Mr. Spellman stated that there will be a community planning forum at the Pawcatuck Fire House on March 27, 2017 in regards to the proposed DB-5. Mr. Spellman added that he took a tour with Beautification Committee to see all the changes happening in Pawcatuck and added the importance of growing the grand list.
- Mr. Spellman stated that he had the honor of going to Washington, D.C. to discuss issues surrounding our fishing community. Mr. Spellman added that Stonington has the last commercial fishing fleet in the State and the Town Dock is the heart and soul of Stonington. Mr. Spellman stated that they need to do whatever they can to ensure it stays part of the fabric of the Town of Stonington.
- Mr. Simmons stated that preserving and protecting fishing families has been a bipartisan priority for the Board of Selectmen for as long as he can remember. Mr. Simmons commended Mr. Spellman for his trip to Washington, D.C. to fight for the fishing community. Mr. Simmons added they need to get federal regulations off the backs of the fishing community and their families.

**(12) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

*Stacey Haskell*

Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary