

September 13, 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 7:03 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Commendation**

The Selectmen issued a commendation to the Blessing of the Fleet Committee in recognition of their restoration of the St. Mary's Church Blessing of the Fleet Celebration in 2010 and dedication to continuing this meaningful tradition in the Town of Stonington. Mr. C. Michael Crowley accepted the commendation on behalf of the Blessing of the Fleet Committee. Mr. Crowley stated that the event would never happen without the Town being so involved. He thanked the Blessing of the Fleet Committee, Stonington Police Department, Town of Stonington Public Works, Mr. Tom Curioso, Highway Supervisor, as well as his daughters who arranged a road race in Stonington Borough which raises funds to support the event.

The Board recessed at 7:08 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

**(4) Comments from the Public**

None

**(5) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the August 23, 2017 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.

**(6) Correspondence**

Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Bill Hobbs in the form of an application for membership on the Economic Development Commission.

**(7) Reappointment/Acknowledgement**

**Recreation Commission**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. C. Michael Crowley and Mr. Frank Prachniak, Jr. to the Recreation Commission as regular members.

**Shellfish Commission**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Donald Raffo to the Shellfish Commission as a regular member.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Mark Mitsko as a regular member and Mr. James Kading as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Simmons stated that he had received some complaints about the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding applicant hardships not being taken into consideration. Mr. Simmons interviewed both Mr. Mitsko and Mr. Kading and stated that they both take their roles on the Zoning Board of Appeals very seriously and added he was glad to have a chance to speak with them.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

### **Economic Development Commission**

Mr. Simmons acknowledged that Mr. Mark Dupont's term on the Economic Development Commission ended on March 31, 2017 and he did not wish to seek reappointment. The Board thanked him for his service to the Commission.

### **(8) Old Business**

None

### **(9) New Business**

#### **Discussion – Memorial and Library Association of Westerly**

Mr. Simmons stated that he met with Mr. Holland the President of the Memorial and Library Association who asked that he serve as an ex-officio member as stated in their charter. Mr. Simmons added that he would be happy to volunteer his time to the Association through the election in November at which time they will reconsider the appointment if necessary.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Simmons as an ex-officio member of the Memorial and Library Association of Westerly.

#### **Request for Use of Donahue Park for Bricks & Murals**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park from September 13-17, 2017 from 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. for Bricks & Murals.

#### **Authorization of the First Selectman to sign indemnification clause for proposed electrical easement on property owned by Pawcatuck Business Park, LLC-Pawcatuck Dike**

Mr. Simmons stated that the hurricane protection system in Pawcatuck is a huge asset to the Town. Mr. Simmons added that the pump house no longer has a reliable source of power and therefore the indemnification agreement is necessary for the electrical distribution easement from Eversource. Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, stated that the Town Attorney had reviewed and approved the documents.

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve signing of the indemnification clause by the First Selectman.

#### **Discussion – Request to Amtrak regarding Drainage Issue**

Mr. Simmons stated that a compromised drainage system which crosses under the Amtrak railroad in Mystic has had an ongoing flooding issue. Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, stated that the issue has to do with a partially obstructed culvert under the Amtrak railroad and tidal marsh overgrowth filling in an existing drainage ditch. Mr. Deledda added that the Town will need to pursue a Certificate of Permission from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for work within the tidal marsh area. Mr. Simmons stated that in order to complete that work the Town will need to get permission from Amtrak to work on their property adjacent to the railway. Mr. Simmons added that he has sent a letter requesting a site visit with officials from Amtrak as well as permission to work on their property.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to endorse moving forward with this project.

#### **Citation Hearing Officer**

Mr. Jason Vincent, Director of Planning, discussed the Citation Hearing Officer requirement in which the Town needs to appoint someone to oversee the appeal process. Mr. Vincent stated that the Town has not had anyone appeal a blight issue, however, he feels that the Town should be ready if and when an appeal happens.

Mr. Shaun Mastorianni, Planning and Zoning Commissioner, expressed an interest in serving in the rôle. Mr. Simmons stated that he would like to set up a meeting to discuss further with Mr. Mastorianni and Mr. Vincent.

**Discussion – Town of Stonington Investment Policy**

Mr. James Sullivan stated that the Board of Finance voted to approve the Investment Policy after it was reviewed by the Town Finance Advisor, Pension Attorney, and one of their bankers. Mr. Sullivan added that he believes it addresses all of the Town's needs and is ready to be adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the Town of Stonington Investment Policy.

In discussion, Mrs. Rotella asked if the Town Treasurer would make the decisions on investments. Mr. Sullivan stated that per the policy the Director of Finance will make the decisions. Mr. Sullivan added the Town may need the services of a financial advisor in the future and will put out a request for proposal when the need arises.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Discussion – Painting of Westerly/Pawcatuck Bridge Border Line**

Selectman Spellman stated that he had a discussion with Lisa Konicki from the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce about a potential gateway project where the Towns of Pawcatuck and Westerly meet on the bridge to help draw more attention and tourism to both towns. Mr. Simmons stated it was a great idea but that it is a state road so it may take time to get the Department of Transportation from both States on board.

A motion was made Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to table the discussion until the next meeting when further information about the potential project may be available.

**(10) Comments from the Public**

None

**(11) Comments from the Selectmen**

Mrs. Rotella stated that the Bricks & Murals event was underway and very exciting. She hoped that all within the community would have the opportunity to enjoy the event. Mrs. Rotella stated that the first day of school went smoothly, with the construction projects still moving forward.

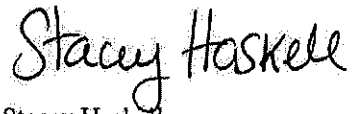
Mr. Spellman stated that he was glad that the pump house issue will finally be resolved as this has been ongoing from a previous administration. He added that the protection of the hurricane barrier is so important and it brings business into the community which helps to grow the grand list. Mr. Spellman added that he wanted to recognize and thank Ensign Seagrave and Lieutenant Commander Everest from the USS Cole who volunteered in Pawcatuck assisting the Beautification Committee with clean up ahead of the Bricks & Murals event.

Mr. Simmons stated that the State of Connecticut has continually changed around its budget numbers and have been negotiating the budget in secret. He added that the Town of Stonington has no idea what they will or will not receive from the State of Connecticut once they agree on a budget. Mr. Simmons stated he is profoundly disappointed that the Connecticut General Assembly which has a fundamental obligation under the Constitution of the State of Connecticut to come up with a budget by the end of June and has failed to do

so into September which has left all Towns hanging. Mr. Simmons added that if the State of Connecticut cannot begin to work together in the same manner that the Town of Stonington works together, the troubles will only get worse.

**(12) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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

Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary