

March 14, 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 unanimously to approve the February 28, 2018 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the March 5, 2018 joint Board of Selectmen and Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee special meeting minutes.

In discussion, Mr. Simmons stated that the meetings are currently posted jointly. He added that if the other members of the Board of Selectmen will not be attending the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Meetings they could be posted as regular meetings. Mrs. Rotella and Mr. Prue were in agreement but noted that on some occasions they may want to attend.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**(5) Correspondence**

None

**(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment – Stonington Commission on Aging**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Jennifer Young to the Stonington Commission on Aging as a regular member.

**Reappointment – Stonington Harbor Management**

- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Jay Spaulding to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission as a regular member.

**(7) Old Business**

None

**(8) New Business**

**Discussion – Nuisance Ordinance**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to amend the agenda and move the discussion regarding the Nuisance Ordinance up on the agenda.

Members of the public who were in attendance to discuss the issue were Ms. Karen Mohr, Mr. Robert Wolfe and Mr. Matthew Beaudoin.

Mr. Simmons stated that he received an email from a resident requesting that an ordinance be created to state that during the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. landscaping and snow removal may not be performed for commercial businesses.

Mr. Simmons stated that the Town does have a Nuisance Ordinance which includes an exemption for snow removal equipment.

Mrs. Rotella stated she needed further information on the issue and suggested tabling the item.

Mr. Prue stated that he is comfortable with the ordinance as it exists and believes changing it would be difficult for the contractors who spend all night in their vehicles trying to clear the snow.

After some further discussion, a motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to table the item.

**Discussion – Stonington Soccer Club Abatement of Taxes**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to table this item to a future meeting as the Stonington Soccer Club had not submitted completed paperwork to the Assessor's Office.

**Discussion – Request from Stonington Village Improvement Association**

Mr. Simmons stated that the Stonington Village Improvement Association (SVIA) would like to install a Little Free Library inside the gates of the children's playground located by the Town Docks.

A motion was made by Mr. Prue seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the request to install a Little Free Library inside the gates of the children's playground by the Town Docks.

In discussion, Mrs. Rotella asked who owned the structure. Mr. Simmons stated that the SVIA would own and manage the structure.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Discussion – Pedestrian Signing Project on Locally Owned Roads**

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board of Police Commissioners have reviewed and approved the request and needed his signature to complete the process. He added that the project would upgrade existing signage at crosswalks located on Pequotsepos Road and West Vine Street.

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

**Discussion – Installation of Centerline Rumble Strips**

Mr. Simmons stated that the Board of Police Commissioners have reviewed and approved the request and needed his signature to complete the process. He added that the project would add centerline rumble strips in certain sections of Route 1 to Route 1A but would not install them in passing zones.

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

**Request – Assign Map 13, Block 4, Lot 3, Street Number 66 Pawcatuck Avenue, Pawcatuck, CT 06379**

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

**Request – Assign Map 13, Block 4, Lot 2, Street Number 68 Pawcatuck Avenue, Pawcatuck, CT 06379**

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

### **Appointment of Legal Counsel**

A motion was made by Mr. Prue, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add an item to consider taking action under Section 7-20 of the Town Charter regarding the appointment of legal counsel.

Mr. Simmons stated that under Section 7-20 of the Town Charter, the Board of Selectmen will retain a Town Attorney to serve at the will and pleasure of the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted to approve that Attorney Meredith Diette, Esquire, of the firm Berchem Moses, PC be retained as the Town Labor Attorney with all the powers and authority which the appointment implies to include any matters relative to the suspension and termination of town employees. The motion passed with Mr. Simmons and Mr. Prue voting in favor and Mrs. Rotella abstaining.

### **(9) Comments from the Public**

None

### **(10) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Mr. Prue stated that the Board of Selectmen do not have the authority to make a change to any ordinance and added that it would have to be done at a Town Meeting where it would be voted on by citizens.
- Mrs. Rotella did not have any comments.
- Mr. Simmons stated that during this past snowstorm it was decided to open the Emergency Operations Center with partial staff although they were in full communications with Department Heads, Fire, Emergency, Police and others that would be needed to respond to a call from the community. He added that for example, the Director of Public Works was at the Highway Department and was able to answer calls and monitored trucks utilizing the technology that has been integrated within the past few years. Mr. Simmons stated that in years past opening the EOC with a full staff would have been costly. He thanked his colleagues and the Board of Finance for funding efforts to bring new technologies and efficiencies to the table without reducing services that are provided to the public during these events.

### **(11) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary