

August 28, 2019

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 John Prue and Selectwoman Jocelyn Kepple. 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**

Mr. Paul Sartor, Stonington Facilities Committee Chair, gave an update on the progress of the committee stating that the lease with St. Michael regarding West Broad Street School was being negotiated. Further, the committee is currently focusing on uses for the School Administration building and are hoping to use it as a way to provide additional community services. He stated that they met with the Stonington Housing Authority who proposed elderly housing on the site and is awaiting a proposal from Stonington Human Services.

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the August 14, 2019 regular meeting minutes.

**(5) Correspondence**

Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Mr. Robert Guzzo in the form of an application for the Waterfront Commission.

**(6) Interview – Planning & Zoning Commission**

The interview will take place at an upcoming meeting.

**(7) Interview – Eastern CT Regional Tourism Board**

The Board interviewed Mr. Christopher Regan and Ms. Peggy Roberts for the Eastern CT Regional Tourism District Board.

**(8) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment – Eastern CT Regional Tourism District Board**

- A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Christopher Regan as the Stonington representative to the Eastern CT Regional Tourism District Board.
- A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to recommend Ms. Peggy Roberts to the Eastern CT Regional Tourism District Board as an individual representing tourism interests for their consideration per Section IV, Paragraph 2 of their bylaws.

**Reappointment – Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. J. Jeffery Walker to the Zoning Board of Appeals from an alternate to a regular member.

**Acknowledgements of Term Expirations/Not Seeking Reappointment:**

**Planning & Zoning Commission**

The Board acknowledged Mr. Curt Lynch as a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission as he has met his term limits effective August 31, 2019.

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

The Board acknowledged Ms. Virginia McCormick as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals as she has met his term limits effective August 31, 2019.

**Citation Hearing Officer**

The Board acknowledged Mr. Shaun Mastroianni and his time as the Citation Hearing Officer. His term ends on September 27, 2019 and he does not wish to seek reappointment.

**Conservation Commission**

The Board acknowledged Mr. James Kading and his time on the Conservation Commission. His term ended July 31, 2019 and he does not wish to seek reappointment.

**(9) Old Business**

None

**(10) New Business**

**Discussion – Creation of a Stonington Pop-Up Book Presented by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce**

Ms. Lisa Konicki, President of the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, gave an overview of the recent pop-up book created by the Ocean Community Chamber Foundation about Westerly which highlights several areas throughout the Town. Ms. Konicki expressed interest in creating the same type of book for Stonington as the Westerly book has been very successful. She stated that she is working to find local Stonington artists to create the pages and the Stonington Historical Society is helping to compile a timeline of historical events to be featured. Further, the book would highlight each of the villages within the Town of Stonington. Fifty cents from each book sold would go to the Stonington Historical Society and Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. If any funds were remaining after paying for the cost of creating the book the monies would go back to the Ocean Community Chamber Foundation to be used for other local charities of their choice. Ms. Konicki stated that many residents and local businesses have offered their support and sponsorship of the book. Ms. Konicki asked for financial support from the Town.

In discussion, Mr. Prue stated that he thought it would be money well spent and as long as there were no overwhelming objections. The Board discussed sponsoring the book in an amount under \$5,000 as anything above that amount would need to go before the Board of Finance. The Board will discuss it further at a future meeting.

**Discussion – Request for Additional Appropriations**

Mr. Roger Kizer, Information Technology Manager, gave an overview of the request stating that the former UPS system in the Town Hall was damaged by a power surge causing the equipment to fail. The request is to install a new uninterruptible power system (UPS) with a cost of \$25,497.00

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the appropriation moving it to the Board of Finance for their review and consideration.

**Discussion – Bond Refunding**

Present were Town Attorney Jeff Londregan and Bond Counsel Attorney Joseph Selinger to discuss Bond Refunding. The Town's Financial Advisor, Matthew Spoerndle, recommended a refunding bond analysis which could save the Town \$500,000. Attorney Selinger explained that this process is similar to refinancing a home. Bonds from 2012 will be refunded at a lower interest rate and final maturity will be tied to the original term of the 2012 bond.

Mr. Simmons stated that the process of refunding the bonds must be done through the Board of Selectmen and not the Board of Finance. The Board of Selectmen have the authority to move the process forward and would need to approve a resolution appropriating up to \$8,000,000 for the purpose of refunding and refinancing bonds of the Town that are issued and outstanding and authorizing issuance of up to \$8,000,000 bonds of the town to meet said appropriations.

A motion was made by Ms. Kepple, seconded by Mr. Prue and voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

**(11) Comments from the Public**

None

**(12) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Ms. Kepple had no comments.
- Mr. Prue noted that Eversource was doing a lot of work on Pequot Trail and Greenhaven Road.
- Mr. Simmons stated the Town was notified that mosquitoes tested positive for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in the area behind the high school, Spellman Park and Barn Island. He stated that it is very serious as there is a 25%-50% fatality rate for those who get infected. The Town has cancelled all nighttime outdoor activities scheduled through the Recreation Department/Human Services until further notice and/or until the first frost. The Town authorized the current contracted mosquito management company to spray the area behind the high school and Spellman Park recreation fields.

**(13) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary