September 28, 2016

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.

CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK
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**(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**

Ms. Lisa Konicki and Mr. Jeff Pucci spoke about the need to have broadband services in downtown Pawcatuck. Attached as Exhibit "A" is an e-mail from Melanie Goggin, owner of Mel's Downtown Creamery who could not attend, expressing the same opinion.

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

- A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the September 12, 2016 Board of Selectmen regular meeting minutes.
- A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to approve the September 14, 2016 Board of Selectman regular meeting minutes.

**(5) Correspondence**

Mr. Simmons took in correspondence from Rick Fiore regarding 116 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, Connecticut.

**(6) Appointment/Resignation**

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to appoint Shaun Mastroianni from an alternate to a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Commission on Aging**

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to accept the resignation of Andrea Carey to the Commission on Aging.

**(7) Old Business**

**Discussion – Distressed Premises Ordinance**

Mr. Jason Vincent presented a 2016 Blight Enforcement Report and discussed it with the Selectmen. Mr. Simmons stated that some citizens who have distressed buildings is because they are distressed. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman and seconded by Mrs. Rotella to study and implement the Blight Enforcement Report. Discussion: Mrs. Rotella stated that instead of having two or more issues to be considered blight there should only be one. The vote was 3-0 in favor of the study and implementation of the Blight Enforcement Report.

**(8) New Business**

**Ratification of Labor Contract/Local 1303-120 of Connecticut Council 4, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)/Clerical Union**

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Vincent Pacileo, Director of Administrative Services if he thought it was fair for the Town. Mr. Pacileo stated yes. Mr. Simmons asked Ms. Leslie Packer, President of the Union if it was fair for the union. Ms. Packer stated that it was fair. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to ratify the contract.

**Ratification of Labor Contract/Local 137 of the Connecticut Organization for Public Safety (C.O.P.S.)**

Mr. Simmons stated that the subject of the light duty policy is the first time it has been initiated in the contract. He stated that people who are ill, can't drive or perform their duties can sit behind a desk instead.

Mr. Spellman stated that this is a healthy policy. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to ratify the contract.

**Request to Abate Taxes Listed Under James Romanella & Sons, Inc.**

A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to abate the taxes in the amount of $521.54.

**Request to Abate Taxes Listed Under Engaging Heaven Ministries, Inc.**

This matter was tabled as it was approved by Ordinance at the Special Town Meeting on September 20, 2016.

**Discussion – North Stonington Road Bridge Project**

Mr. Scot Deledda, Town Engineer requested that the Board of Selectmen authorize Groton to continue to utilize Stonington's share of funds held in escrow toward the design and permitting phases. A motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to approve the request.

**Discussion – Stillman Avenue Bridge**

Mr. Spellman stated that a solution has to be rapid. He stated that it sustained significant damage from the 2010 flood. Mrs. Rotella stated that she agreed with Mr. Spellman and it is a main point of contact between Westerly and Pawcatuck. She stated that safety is of the utmost importance. Mr. Simmons stated that it is not only the issue of rust but also scouring. He stated that it is difficult working with two towns in two different states. Motion was made by Mr. Spellman, seconded by Mrs. Rotella and voted unanimously to convene a meeting with the Westerly Town Council to discuss this matter.

**Discussion – Broadband Internet**

Mr. Spellman stated that an immediate fix to the problem would be to install two poles and string wire. Jason Vincent, Director of Public Works stated that he would love to bring WiFi and the internet into that neighborhood. He stated that Plainville has LED lighting and they put receptors and mesh in the lights. Mr. Vincent stated that he would look into the matter further and report back to the Board at the next regular meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Rotella, seconded by Mr. Spellman and voted unanimously to add new business to the agenda.

**West Vine Street Pond**

Mr. Simmons stated that the pipe leading to the pond is clogged and obstructed and that he is concerned about the increasing water capacity. Mrs. Rotella stated that she will advise the K-12 School Building Committee that the drainage will be handled by the Town. Mr. Spellman stated that some of the vegetation is protected by DEEP. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works stated that she will consult with Candace Palmer, Inland Wetlands Enforcement Officer. Mrs. Rotella stated that she would like Mrs. McKrell to come up with a plan for maintenance of the pond and to report back to the Board.

**(9) Comments from the Public**

Four downtown Pawcatuck business owners spoke about how the lack of internet is hurting their businesses. Susan Jones asked if the Town is plowing the roads deeded to Edythe K. Richmond Homes why the residents and tax payers can't walk on these roads.

**(10)Comments from the Selectmen**

Mrs. Rotella gave kudos to Mr. Spellman for pushing the internet issue and that the Board is very supportive. She stated that they were doing their best and that internet is an integral part of life. Mrs. Rotella stated that the Beautification Committee is making progress with the flower boxes on the bridge. He stated that the town needs to expedite the Stillman Avenue bridge process. He stated that he has going to the bridge on numerous occasions since the announcement. Mr. stated that the bridge didn't get in that condition overnight but the solution has to be rapid to near immediate. Mr. Spellman stated that the bridge is the supply route of commerce into downtown Westerly/Pawcatuck. Mr. Spellman stated that it is unconscionable that the town

has four buildings in the dark. He stated that we need to refinance bonds if possible. Mr. Spellman stated that the Board of Finance, Education and Selectmen need to receive updates on bond projects. Mr. Simmons stated that the Board of Selectmen is in complete support of bringing broadband to Pawcatuck. He stated that the Director of Planning position has been vacant for many years and we have filled this position with a competent person. He stated that it's frustrating because it takes time to get it done.

**(11)Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary