

March 14, 2012

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 Edward Haberek, Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Glee McAnanly. Also present were members of the public and press.

**(1) Call to Order**

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

**(2) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mrs. McAnanly and voted unanimously to approve the February 22, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes.

**(3) Comments from the Public**

None

**(4) Correspondence**

- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Paul Sartor dated March 13, 2012 stating that he was resigning as Chairman of the K-12 School Building Committee effective immediately.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Blake Lamothe, Project Manager/Chairman of Central Corridor Rail Coalition, dated March 7, 2012 requesting that the Selectmen adopt a resolution to bring central corridor rail passenger service from Brattleboro, Vermont to New London, Connecticut.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Donald Gerwick of Gerwick Mereen, dated March 14, 2012 expressing his support of Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence Attorney Nick Kepple dated March 14, 2012 expressing his support of Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Stefan Ambrosch of Mango's Wood-Fired Pizza Co., dated March 12, 2012 expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Attorney Richard Cody, dated March 14, 2012, expressing the concern of his clients with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Mike Barney of the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society, dated March 6, 2012, expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Rich Vetrano of Valentino's Restaurant, dated March 14, 2012, expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Elliot Cohen of Wide World of Bagels, dated March 1, 2012, expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Art Hayward, dated February 11, 2012, expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from George Blahun, dated January 25, 2012, expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.

- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Richard Prisby of The Whaler's Inn, dated March 1, 2012 expressing his concern with the town joining Ledge Light Health District.
- Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Wendy Fox van Harwegen den Breems, dated March 1, 2012 expressing her interest in being appointed to the Economic Development Commission.

**(5) New Business**

A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mrs. McAnanly and voted unanimously to move the Elementary School Building Project Discussion to the first item under new business.

**Elementary School Building Project Discussion**

- Mrs. Gail MacDonald stated they, as a Board of Education, are becoming increasingly concerned about the project being kept on the back burner. Mrs. MacDonald stated that she was part of the original school building committee and that they were first called together in 2000. She stated that the Building Committee always said that there was a recognition that all of the elementary schools were in need then. Mrs. MacDonald further stated that in twelve years the need has only gotten more so. She stated that there are issues with ADA compliance, issues with ventilation and basic facility needs. Mrs. MacDonald stated that they really want to emphasize that there is a real sense of urgency now and that there is also programming needs they need to address. She further stated that the State is putting a lot of emphasis on increasing preschool opportunities and all-day kindergarten which the town cannot offer unless something is done with these buildings. Mrs. MacDonald stated there is a need for about \$50,000.00 to be able put together information packets and bring the specifications that were already put in place by the Building Committee and have been put on the shelf for about 5 or 6 years now. She stated that the plans are still probably pretty good but will have to be reviewed by a reconstituted Building Committee.
- Mr. Haberek stated that some of the facts deter the opportunity now to reconvene the Building Committee. Mr. Haberek stated that he and Paul Sartor were requested to come before the Board of Ed. He stated that Mr. Sartor clearly stated at the Board of Ed meeting in February that he was currently chairing the Athletic Fields Task Force and that he would look at reconstituting the K-12 Building Committee in May. Mr. Haberek stated that he was disappointed that Mr. Sartor was chastised at the Board of Ed meeting. Mr. Haberek stated he didn't know who is going to chair now that Mr. Sartor has resigned. Mr. Haberek also stated that he had great concern about the bonding and the town already has an \$18,000,000.00 dollar bonding for Waste Water. Mr. Haberek stated that the task force is now working on a smaller bonding which will not have a significant impact. Then the \$35,000,000 bonding on top of that on top of a 4.1% budget increase, he felt that more bonding would be unfeasible right now. Mr. Haberek said there is a lot of homework to do - reconstituting a committee, trying to find a chair and going to the Board of Finance to find an additional appropriation of \$50,000.00.
- Mrs. MacDonald stated that reconstituting the Building Committee should not be a huge hurdle. Mrs. MacDonald stated that it is a liability having a handicapped child or their parents or family trying to get around our schools effectively. Mrs. MacDonald further stated that there are liabilities in schools as well and that the air quality at Deans Mill School is quite poor.

- Mr. Haberek stated that he would put it out there if anyone is interested on being on a reconstituted K-12 Building Committee that's fine. He further stated that if we get interest, then that's something they will take into consideration. The next stop will be to the Board of Finance to see if they can find \$50,000.00 to fund this to go forward. He doesn't think that a \$35,000,000.00 bonding will go forward in the town right now at this time.
- Mr. Kevin Bornstein asked Mr. Haberek if there was a reason that he was putting it forward as we'll see if people are interested in serving on a reconstituted board. He further asked if Mr. Haberek could say we are reconstituting a building committee and then put out a request for names to serve on that committee to have a more active statement as opposed to a passive statement.
- Mr. Haberek stated that there's not that much enthusiasm and he doesn't know if there is seed money to go forward.
- Mrs. McAnanly asked Mrs. MacDonald what the steps are that we are looking towards.
- Mrs. MacDonald stated the first step is reconstituting the Building Committee.
- Mr. Crouse stated that Mr. Wojtas and Bree from Patch should put it in there and if it comes to fruition, the Selectmen will do what they can to assist you because he has been in the schools and some of these schools need TLC or something better than what they are right now. Mr. Crouse also stated that they need to get their committee going and then they are going to have sell the project to the parents and to the taxpayers.
- Mrs. MacDonald stated the reason why they are here is because the Building Committee serves at the pleasure of the Board of Selectmen. Without the Board of Selectmen's approval that this is something they would allow to happen and agree to let happen, they can never move forward.
- Mr. Haberek stated that his vote and the Board of Selectmen will be an approval if there is a proper Building Committee formulated of individuals.

#### **Additional Appropriation to Repair Tennis Courts**

A motion was made by Mr. Haberek, seconded by Mr. Crouse and voted unanimously to move the Additional Appropriation to Repair Tennis Courts up on the agenda.

Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from the Recreation Commission, dated February 23, 2012, requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$19,550.00 for the repair of the tennis courts at Spellman Recreation Complex. A motion was made by Mr. Haberek and seconded by Mrs. McAnanly to approve the additional appropriation. The vote was 2-0 in favor of the additional appropriation. Mr. Crouse abstained.

#### **Disposal of Unused or Broken Inventory**

Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Captain Jerry Desmond, dated March 7, 2012, requesting permission to dispose of broken and antiquated inventory at the Police Station. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mrs. McAnanly and voted unanimously to approve the request.

#### **Virtualization Bid**

Roger Kizer, IT Manager, briefly explained why he was recommending that the bid go to Consolidated Computing, Inc. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mrs. McAnanly and voted unanimously to approve Mr. Kizer's request to award the bid to Consolidated Computing, Inc.

**Planning & Zoning and Building Permit Application Fee Waivers**

Mr. Haberek took in correspondence from Bill King, Operations Manager requesting that the Planning & Zoning and Building Permit Application fees for the installation of a new scoreboard at the softball field at the Stonington High School. The fees are \$160.00 for Planning & Zoning application and \$98.00 for the Building Permit application. A motion was made by Mr. Crouse, seconded by Mrs. McAnanly and voted unanimously to waive the fees.

**(6) Comments from the Public**

None


**(7) Comments from the Selectmen**

None

**(8) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell

Recording Secretary