

January 23, 2013

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington High School Commons at 6:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Edward Haberek, Selectman George Crouse and Selectman Glee McAnanly. Also present were members of the public.

(1) Call to Order

Mr. Haberek called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

(2) Comments from the Public

None

(3) Public Hearing -- Discussion Regarding the Proposed Revised Health Department Fee Schedule

Mr. Haberek presented the Town of Stonington Analysis of Fees – Health Department. There was discussion between the Selectmen, Director of Administrative Services Vincent Pacileo and Sanitarian Karen Weiss about how the fee structure and what it was based on. Mr. Haberek stated that the kind of cleaned up the fee schedule a little where they are not really getting into seating capacity so much but more into the classes. Mr. Haberek also stated they we are adding on salons and daycare centers every two years and public pools. Mr. Crouse stated that he had a call from a small Mom & Pop and the seating capacity is 0-25 and she said she was going to get hit because she makes soup. Ms. Weiss stated that if she is making it from scratch it would probably be a Class IV. Ms. Weiss further stated most restaurants and most licensed kitchens are in a Class IV group. Mr. Crouse stated that it was harsh when the fee jumps from \$75.00 to \$260.00. Ms. Weiss stated that the classification system is a measure of risk of food borne illness which is a function of your menu so Class I is just maybe a bar serving beverages which has lower risk and Class IV cooks everything under the sun from meats to seafood. Ms. Weiss stated that they may start a roast on Monday and then are still serving it in another form on Friday. Mr. Crouse stated that she is really taking a hit and he doesn't think that's fair. Mr. Crouse further stated that her point is she is not a big restaurant she is just making soup. Ms. Weiss stated that you have take out restaurants serving the same kinds of food as a full-fledged sit down restaurant that in the eyes of the State the risk has nothing to do with whether you are eating the food on-site or taking it home. Ms. Weiss stated that she thinks it's a good idea to remove the seating parameter because it has no bearing on risk. Mr. Crouse stated that this was going to get in the craw of the small Mom & Pop because you are really jumping them but you are not significantly jumping someone who's running a restaurant. Mr. Crouse further stated that he thinks it is unfair and the reason we didn't go to Ledge Light because Ledge Light was going to really impact these small places and we have impacted these small places just as badly as Ledge Light so we might as well go to Ledge Light. Mr. Crouse stated that he thought there would be a modest increase for these people and not a tremendous increase. Mrs. McAnanly stated that when we had that meeting everybody was in favor of no Ledge Light and if you need to increase our fees, increase our fees. Mr. Pacileo stated the committee did some market research to see what the going rate I order to do this kind time of work and granted the fee structure has not been adjusted for a number of years. Mrs. McAnanly asked how many Class VI's from 0-25 are there? Mr. Haberek stated that there are 87 Class IV's, 11 Class

III's 15, Class II and 3 Class I. Mrs. McAnanly asked how many of those 87 are 0-25 because that's where it would be interesting. Mr. Haberek stated that the fees are measured not by how big or little you are but the risk of contaminating someone. Mr. Haberek further stated that in preparation for the next town meeting we break it down to those 0-25, etc. Mr. Haberek stated he had no problem going from \$260.00 to \$225.00. Mrs. McAnanly asked Ms. Weiss how she defines public pools. Ms. Weiss stated that that are generally pools in hotels and marinas. She further stated that they are not for private, the unrelated public can utilize them. Ms. Weiss stated that they aren't your backyard pools. Mr. Haberek stated that Stonington is actually below every single other health district as far as fees.

(4) Comments from the Public

Mr. Hart asked why we didn't have Ledge Light fees for May 2012. Mr. Haberek stated that it is because they haven't changed. Mr. Hart also asked whether the fee is for that year or per inspection. Mr. Pacileo stated that these were annual fees.

(5)Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristine Bell
Recording Secretary