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|  | **Town of North Stonington****Board of Selectmen Meeting****New Town Hall Conference Room****MINUTES for** **January 23, 2018 at 7:00 PM** |

Call to Order/ Roll Call – Selectman Urgo opened the meeting at 7:03 pm. Selectwoman Kincaid, Selectman Carlson, and Selectman Urgo were in attendance.

Executive Session – Strategies and Negotiations. Selectman Urgo mentioned Executive Session was not needed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comments – Comments need to be less than 2 minutes. Attorney Rob Avena presented information about the school building project. Two petitions were circulated by 2 different people and submitted to the Selectmen. Both request the Selectmen hold a special town meeting to discuss the school building project. Selectman Urgo explained bids have already been received and the project is shovel ready for February.

Attorney Rob Avena explained that North Stonington is a non-chartered town and governed by state statute and case law (and referenced Preston, CT 2006 Morris versus Condon). He recommended the Selectmen hold a Town Meeting. Selectman Urgo stated it is difficult timing for the petition, and is nervous it can put our opportunity at risk (the Town is getting a $38 million-dollar project that we are getting for $21 million-dollars). Selectman Urgo has to sign the GMP. If we don’t sign the GMP, we can lose the bids which compromises the GMP.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Position Vacancies have been advertised and applications have been received

Highway Foreman – evaluating the applicants this week

Administrator and Finance Officer – evaluating the applicants next week

1. Budget Fiscal Year 18-19. Selectwoman Kincaid explained the goal is to have the draft budget ready for early April to be presented at the Annual Meeting (the first week of May)

Budget Request Submittals – Selectman Urgo mentioned Finance and Education were instructed to submit their budgets by Monday.

1. Town Projects Update

Sewer Study – Selectman Urgo and Juliet Hodge met with Rob Simmons and WAPC to discuss tying into the Stonington sewer system to Route 2. They are willing to work with us, but they need to update the study previously done on their facility.

Greene Gables – Selectwoman Kincaid explained a referendum was made in Oct that Greene Gables should be demolished. Eagle Environmental went into the building and the cabin building to determine if other hazardous materials were present. The report on Green Gables was 94 pages long. Mystic Air tested in 2012. Materials will be removed prior to demolition.

School Modernization Project – Selectman Urgo mentioned updates were given earlier in the meeting during public comments and thanked the Committee for being good stewards of the Town’s money. Juliet Hodge requested Lenard Engineering be added to a future agenda.

Center for Emergency Services – proposing a no cost extension due to the extreme cold weather which delayed the project. We are anticipating a June completion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Discussion/Call for a Special Town Meeting – motion made by Selectman Carlson that a Special Town Meeting be held on Thursday February 1, 2018 at 7 pm at the Gymatorium to consider and act upon the following resolution: “Resolved, that the Town of North Stonington continue with the construction of a new Wheeler Middle/High School addition and renovations to the Gymatorium, an addition and renovations to North Stonington Elementary School, demolition of portions of the existing Wheeler Middle and High School, and other improvements to be used for the North Stonington Board of Education Central Office, and issue bonds or notes and temporary notes to finance the portion of such appropriation not defrayed from grants”. Seconded by Selectwoman Kincaid, approved 3-0-0.
2. Affordable Housing Committee – is asking for Town support for forming a Housing Trust Appropriation (as listed in the implementation portion of the plan). The committee is applying for 501c3 status and requesting the Town pays for the filing, and partners with the Committee. Salisbury and Falls Village have had similar situations. Juliet added North Stonington has 1% of the 10% mandated affordable housing. The Committee has done everything listed in the POCD action plan. This will be added to the February 2nd Selectmen’s agenda.

Small Cities Community Development Block Grant – Juliet explained the Town was awarded $400K a few years ago to rehab 16 houses. The Town is interested in applying for the second round of funding. Selectman Urgo made a motion to request proposals from firms or individuals to prepare a 2018 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application for submission to the CT Department of Housing and provide professional administrative and technical services if the grant is awarded. Proposals will also include providing professional and technical services for the administration and implementation of the Town’s Small Cities Program Income.” Seconded by Selectman Carlson, approved 3-0-0.

1. Tax Refunds – Selectman Urgo made a motion to approve the tax refunds submitted by the Tax Collector in the total amount of $3,181.94 to the following taxpayers: Lisa Majewski $1,780.89, Douglas Oumitte, Jr. $65.66, Brian Banker $228.83, James Tillinghast $1,074.47, USB Leasing $32.90. Seconded by Selectwoman Kincaid, approved 3-0-0.
2. Town Ordinances-Updates and Recommendations. Juliette is hoping to revise some ordinances that are outdated, and/or committees that have changed their terms. Selectman Carlson volunteered for the group.

Correspondence – report from CT DOT – they inspected our bridges (Boombridge is supposed to start in the Spring). We received a quote for a heater at Holly Greene. State Department of Public Health is charging a $4 fee for public water connection. Invitation to a Gala for the Land Conservancy. Notice of Exempt modification regarding tower installation. MASH is having a Gala. Santandor and Wells Fargo notification about the CRA. Frank and Frank have studios if we want to do video recording. Brad Borden submitted information to the Finance Committee.

Minutes – Selectman Carlson motioned for the approval of the Selectmen minutes for 1/9/2018, Selectwoman Kincaid seconded, approved 3-0-0. Selectwoman Kincaid explained some of the minutes were not approved previously since the Selectmen were not yet in their positions. Selectman Urgo made a motion for the acceptance of the Selectmen minutes for 11/14/2017, Selectman Carlson seconded, approved 3-0-0.

Public Comments and Questions

Adjournment – Selectman Urgo made a motion to close the meeting at 9:10 pm.