

## Town of North Stonington Board of Selectmen Special Meeting 298 Norwich Westerly Road & Zoom Meeting August 31, 2020 6:00 PM

## **MINUTES**

- Call to Order/Roll Call: 6:01pm, First Selectman Mike Urgo, Selectman Bob Carlson, and Selectman Nita Kincaid in attendance with Christine Dias, Administration & Finance Officer.
- 2. Review and acceptance of August 21 petition
  - a. The Board of Selectmen had called a meeting Wednesday, August 19 for Friday, August 21 to discuss the need for a special meeting in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order regarding town meetings. On Friday, August 21, a petition was received at the same time as the special meeting for the same purpose as the special meeting, the leasing of a portion of 298 Norwich Westerly Road. Town Attorney Rob Avena stated the Board of Selectmen meeting was being held in place of a town meeting in accordance with the Governor's order in place.
- 3. Hearing and action on same pursuant to Executive Order 7JJ: Shall the Town of North Stonington enter into a leasing agreement for the one story wing of 298 Norwich Westerly Road?
  - a. First Selectman Urgo presented history regarding the demolition of the middle school wing and the School Building Repurposing Committee.
     Discussion of the use of the property followed. Selectman Carlson stated that the town has 3 options for the building: lease it out, demolish the wing, or to let it sit empty and deteriorate and have to pay for the upkeep of the building.
- 4. Public Comment on 298 Norwich Westerly Road leasing
  - a. The Board of Selectmen took public comment regarding the leasing of the one story wing of 298 Norwich Westerly Road
- 5. First Selectman Urgo presented a referendum question with three options for a portion of the building: Shall the Town of North Stonington take one of the following actions: (choose only one)
  - Enter into a leasing agreement for portions of 298 Norwich Westerly Road?

- Expend up to 1.5 million dollars to demolish parts of the North Stonington Education Center formerly North Stonington Middle/High School?
- Take no action with the North Stonington Education Center formerly North Stonington Middle/High School and continue to pay all utilities and upkeep maintenance cost for the existing vacant space?

A referendum would be held on September 14 to give the registrars time to prepare and to have absentee ballots available through the Town Clerk's office (not by mail due to the time constraints of the vote). Voting hours could be 6am-8pm or 12pm-8pm. Discussion followed.

- 6. Motion by Selectman Carlson to move to referendum with the question as presented: Shall the Town of North Stonington enter into a leasing agreement for the one story wing of 298 Norwich Westerly Road?, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Kincaid. Discussion followed. Motion by Selectman Carlson to amend the original motion to move to referendum on September 14 between the hours of 12pm and 8pm with the question as presented: Shall the Town of North Stonington enter into a leasing agreement for the one story wing of 298 Norwich Westerly Road?, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Kincaid. Motion approved 3-0-0
- 7. Adjournment: Motion by Selectman Carlson to adjourn at 7:34pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Kincaid

Public will be able to attend the meeting by calling in through Zoom. Please call 1 646 558 8656, then enter Meeting ID: 893 9668 6733.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Dias