



TOWN OF
North Stonington, CT
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020

SPECIAL MEETING

**NEW TOWN HALL
CONFERENCE ROOM
40 MAIN STREET
NORTH STONINGTON, CT 06359**

MINUTES APPROVED ~ FEBRUARY 18, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair James Lord called the Special Meeting of the North Stonington Zoning Board of Appeals to order at 7:00 p.m. at the New Town Hall, Conference Room.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: James Lord, Vice-Chair, Candy Palmer, Shawn Murphy, Joan Kepler and Bruce Smith; **Alternate Members:** Gary Thompson, Colleen Thompson & John Varas, Jr.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Planning, Development & Zoning Official Juliet Hodge, Administrative Assistant Cheryl Konsavitch and Town Attorney, Robert Avena

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Zoning Board of Appeals shall elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary each to serve for a term of one year and will be subject to reelection. The Chairman or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, shall have the power to administer oaths, and compel the attendance of witnesses.

MOTION by J. Lord, SECOND by S. Murphy to nominate C. Palmer as Chairman. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by B. Smith, SECOND by S. Murphy to close nominations on Chairman. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Palmer is Chair

MOTION by J. Lord, SECOND by J. Kepler to nominate S. Murphy as Vice-Chair. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION by C. Thompson, SECOND by C. Palmer to close nominations on Vice-Chair. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

S. Murphy is Vice-Chair

The Board will elect a secretary at their next ZBA Meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Town Attorney report on FOI complaint and Ward vs Town of North Stonington lawsuit.

Atty. Avena reviewed and updated the Board on the FOI complaint in regard to the Special Meeting that was held on October 24, 2019. Atty. Avena stated that the FOI Hearing originally scheduled for January 24, 2020 has been postponed.

Atty. Avena reviewed the timeline of events surrounding the Ward Case beginning with his Appeal to the ZBA, Superior Court decision, and failed request for Certification of Appeal at the Appellate Court. He explained that the ZBA's job with that case is now done and that the Superior Court Decision stands.

The new legal action that has been taken was initiated by Mr. Ward who is claiming violations of certain civil rights and is seeking redress. He has named prior Board members, J. Hodge and M. Urgo. Avena stated the Town forwards these types of complaint to the Town insurance company. Atty. Avena stated that he and ZEO Hodge will be meeting with the Insurance Counsel tomorrow to go over the claims and start to gather all the records and paperwork needed to proceed. The Board was asked to direct all questions to the Attorney and not discuss with anyone else.

The Board asked questions and Atty. Avena stated he will update the Board with respect to future proceedings and actions as appropriate.

4. REVIEW MINUTES:

Review minutes of 10/24/19 Special Meeting. S. Murphy requested that the minutes be amended to accurately reflect the motion he made at the 10/24/19 meeting to go into executive session.

MOTION by S. Murphy, SECOND by J. Lord to approve the minutes of 10/24/19 as amended. MOTION CARRIED

Abstained: J. Kepler, J. Varas, Jr., C. Thompson, B. Smith

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by J. Lord, SECOND by S. Murphy to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Konsavitch

Cheryl Konsavitch, Administrative Assistant,
Zoning Board of Appeals