

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION
STONE HARBOR PLANNING BOARD**

January 12, 2015

4:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hand, who stated that all requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act of 1975" had been met with the Press of Atlantic City having been notified of the Board's schedule for 2015 on December 20, 2014, and the schedule having been posted on Stone Harbor's website and the Municipal Clerk's Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Mayor Suzanne Walters
Jill Gougher
Thomas Hand, Chairman
Robert D. Bickford, Jr.
Al Carusi
Wayne Conrad, Vice-Chair

Board Solicitor

Andrew Catanese

Board Secretary

Diane Frangiose

Zoning Officer

Joanne Mascia

Members Not Present:

Perry Conte
David Coskey, Jr. (Alternate)
Lynne Dubler (Alternate)

Approval of December 15, 2014 Minutes

Motion by Mr. Hand to admit the meeting minutes and seconded by Mayor Walters. Affirmative votes: Mrs. Gougher, Mr. Hand, Mr. Bickford, and Mr. Conrad. Mr. Catanese stated that Mr. Carusi would abstain on voting because he was not present at the meeting.

Nomination for 2015 Board Chairman and Vice Chairman

Nomination by Mr. Bickford to appoint Thomas Hand as Board Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Carusi. All members present voted affirmatively.

Nomination by Mr. Hand and seconded by Mr. Bickford and Mrs. Gougher to appoint Wayne Conrad as Vice Chairman. All members present voted affirmatively.

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Approval of Professional Services Contract Board Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Hand and seconded by Mr. Bickford to approve Professional Services Contract for Andrew Catanese, Board Solicitor, for the year 2015. Mr. Bickford stated that Mr. Catanese makes an enormous contribution to the Planning Board and the contract represents a bargain of huge proportions, and we thank you for that. All members present agreed and voted affirmatively. For the record, there were no abstention votes.

Approve Resolution 2015-001 Appoint Board Solicitor

Motion by Mr. Hand, moved by Mayor Walters and seconded by Mrs. Gougher to appoint Andrew Catanese as Board Solicitor. All members present voted affirmatively. For the record, there were no abstention votes.

Nomination for 2015 Board Secretary

Motion by Mr. Hand, moved by Mr. Bickford and seconded by Mrs. Gougher to appoint Diane Frangiose as Board Secretary for the year 2015. All members present voted affirmatively.

Board Discussion

Mr. Hand started the discussion regarding the nomination and appointment of a Professional Planner. Mr. Bickford stated that he is pleased with and impressed with the services provided by Heyer, Gruel and would encourage the Board to stay with them because they have some background and familiarity with the issues being considered and they do a great job. Mr. Conrad agreed and stated that originally when the Board interviewed 5 potential firms, it was apparent that Heyer, Gruel was better qualified and has served the Board well. Mr. Catanese stated he did not recall the terms of their contract and asked if the Board wanted to hold off for a month and request a Contract from them for the upcoming year for the Board to review. Mrs. Gougher stated they were well within the budget for the previous year. Mrs. Mascia stated she would get a Contract from them for 2015. The contract will be discussed at the February 9, 2015 meeting.

Public Comment

No one spoke. Public Session Closed.

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New Business

Mr. Bickford had a question about the Waterfront Business District Ordinance being presented to Council. Mayor Walters confirmed that it has been given to Council and is tentatively on the Agenda for discussion on January 20th. Mrs. Gougher agreed that as far as she knows, it will go through the way it was recommended and that it was sent to Mr. Donohue for review. Mr. Conrad said the Board should actively resolve the hotel/motel special district issue and look at it again but not let it linger because that would not be in anyone's interest, that it should be put on the Agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Catanese stated that the issue has moved forward and questioned if there are any other items hanging out there other than the hotel/motel parking conversation. Mr. Carusi asked if height was an issue and Mr. Conrad stated there was a height issue, a parking issue and a setback issue in terms of the visual obstructiveness of the blank wall and also understandably, concern about the neighbors having an imposing structure in their view. Mrs. Mascia asked if something was received from Heyer, Gruel on that and Mr. Conrad stated yes and he was impressed by what they said. Mr. Conrad asked if it would be possible to get the meeting minutes from before to review what was previously discussed and Mrs. Gougher stated that she will have all meeting minutes from Patti Wagner on January 20th.

Mr. Catanese advised that he will be unable to attend the February 9th meeting but will have someone cover for him.

Adjournment

Having no further business at hand Mr. Hand called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Walters seconded the motion.

APPROVED: February 9, 2015

ATTESTED: Diane Frangiose
Diane Frangiose, Secretary Stone Harbor Planning Board