

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – August 17, 2020**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeff Callahan called the regular meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order, by way of Zoom conferencing video at 7:00 p.m. Present were Burgesses Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, Bergin O’Malley, and Amy Nicholas, who arrived after meeting had commenced. Also present was Tiffany Cook, serving as Clerk-Treasurer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes and seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 20, 2020, by way of Zoom conferencing, were approved.

3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Received from Town: \$267,828.00 for FY21streets reimbursement
- Received from Town for July property taxes: \$600,000 and \$114,041.40
- Received from CIRMA: \$972.00 for Member’s Equity

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Property Use Applications: None

Meetings: None

Other:

CIRMA- letter accompanying equity check

Stonington Library- thank you letter for annual donation

COMO- thank you letter for annual donation

Information sheet on lawn care

Columbia Ford- quote for 2020 dump truck

5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

Nothing to report.

6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for Jul 20 – Aug 13 totaled \$62,274. Annual contributions to COMO and Ambulance Corps plus annual insurance premiums contributed almost \$25k to total.

I&E Report: Almost 90% of anticipated annual revenue has been received. Net income stands at \$773,697.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Participated in bi-weekly Zoom COVID-19 updates with SCCOG and local health districts
2. Attended Town Hall department head monthly meeting
3. Sent out fire protection service invoices to Wamphassuc, Lord's Pt, and Stonington FD
4. Tracked Governor's executive orders (65 and counting) and local covid statistics; hospitalizations remain low (2-3) and total deaths stable at 104.
5. Weekly disinfecting of fire house and Borough Hall ends 28 August; both remain closed to public except for drills and election
6. Contacted Amtrak again about keys to Water Street crossing gates; still working on it
7. Responded to FEMA questions about two flood map revision requests
8. Implemented EAP for Borough employees and firefighters

BOROUGH CLOCK – Set clock after power outage on July 28th

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. STREET & SIDEWALKS COMMISSIONER REPORT

1. Clean up after Isaias; new temp employee Phoenix Grimes is working out well
2. Summit/Elm water main project nearing completion. Finish paving early September
3. Continued refreshing yellow curb paint and white cross walks
4. Monthly brush pickup
5. Repaired 30' section of sidewalk at Wayland's Wharf
6. Issued 1 dumpster permit
7. Removed weeds and swept street gutters

b. Fire & Emergency Management

There were 15 Alarms in July 2020, they were as follows:

- 1) 7-1-20 3:11pm Fire Alarm Activation 13 Bayview Ave. (faulty smoke detector)
- 2) 7-3-20 5:09pm MVA Rt. 1 @ Shell Station (no injuries)
- 3) 7-10-20 10:54am Smoke Detector Activation 10 Quanduct Cove Ct. (shower steam)
- 4) 7-10-20 9:11pm Head on MVA IFO 324 Elm St. (1 injury to hospital)
- 5) 7-12-20 10:58am Cardiac Arrest Walker's Dock (God bless you, Roger ☐)
- 6) 7-15-20 1:01am Fire Alarm Activation 11 Hancox St. (nothing found)
- 7) 7-19-20 8:29am Fire Alarm Activation 147 Wampassuc Pt. Rd. (heavy fog ?)
- 8) 7-25-20 9:29pm Mutual aid to QFD, MVA IFO 8 Rose Lane (1 injury to hospital)
- 9) 7-28-20 6:10pm Odor of gas 4 Northwest St. (bait barrels, town dock ?)
- 10) 7-28-20 6:13pm Fire Alarm Activation Stonington Pizza (ansul system activated)

- 11) 7-29-20 8:20am Fire Alarm Activation Ston. Free Library (workers)
- 12) 7-29-20 8:02pm Fire Alarm Activation 105 Elm St. (faulty activation)
- 13) 7-30-20 8:32pm MVA North Main St. @ Rt. 1 (1 injury to hospital)
- 14) 7-30-20 8:40pm MVA Elm St. @ Alpha Ave. (fluid spill)
- 15) 7-31-20 7:47pm Fire Alarm Activation 1 Omega St. (burnt food)

Chief Hoadley also addressed the following:

Inspections are picking up now – people are feeling more comfortable allowing fire marshal into their homes

Regarding the issue of young people climbing the tower at the end of the jetty, Long Island Sound Coast Guard will be creating and installing signs for no climbing/jumping.

A Town ordinance for fire pits is still being discussed with other fire chiefs

Harold Mitchell, who served as Deputy Fire Chief for many years, is stepping down. The nomination of his replacement is addressed under New Business -- 11(d).

Chief is concerned about voting at the Firehouse on November 3rd, due to Covid. It was suggested that District 1 be combined with District 3 (Dean's Mill School). Warden Callahan has relayed the concern to the First Selectman. The First Selectman and Town registrars are considering it.

Burgess Rogers expressed his thanks to Chief Hoadley for including him on work with Coast Guard on the tower signs and including him in the interview process for Deputy Chief.

c. Parks, Trees, Rights-of-Way:

Nothing to Report, with the exception of two trees are pushing up from the sidewalk at 25 Elm St.

d. Public Buildings – Nothing to report.

e. Public Information –

Signage is up at the Sculpture Park; Burgess O'Malley is looking into getting local media coverage about the Park.

f. Police

During the month of July 2020 there were 75 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 7 Business Checks/Check Buildings, 7 Medical Assists, 6 Fire related calls, 6 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 6 Assist Citizens, 5 Nuisance reports, 5 Accidents 1 of which was a hit and run, 4 911 Misdeal/Hang up, 4 Burglar Alarms 3 of which were false alarms, 4 Animal Control, 3 Welfare Checks, 3 Found Items, 3 Larceny Reports, 2 Suspicious Activity and 2 Raffle Applications. There was one incident each of Suspicious Motor Vehicle, Vandalism, Harassment, Keys in Vehicle, Lost Item, Community Policing, Juvenile, Forgery and Alarm not Registered.

There was one arrest related to an Accident with Injury; a possible racial incident at the viaduct is being looked into and further discussion addressed the cost of cameras for better recordings of cars, drivers, etc.

g. Utilities & Sanitation

Several garbage notifications have been given. Please thank Indulge for regularly emptying the garbage bins near the library and at the corner of Water and High Street.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Residents Doug and Pam Mola addressed the parking issues at Wayland's Wharf; overflowing trash bins; and lack of Community Services Officers. The Town only has one CSO this summer due to Covid concerns and side effects of anti-police attitude nation-wide. Regarding the parking, while the busy season is nearing the end for this summer, these concerns will be looked into so that a viable plan can be put into place for 2021.

A rotted tree at the corner of Temple and Main may be a liability.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Regarding the status of COVID-19 in region and State reopening plans, Warden Callahan stated that New London County and the State overall are doing quite well. We'll see what happens when school starts again and people start spending more time indoors. For now, we're looking good.

b) In discussing the issue of toxins, raised in Jessica Morrissey's email of April 22, it was stated that it is difficult to restrict pesticides, because we cannot enforce on private property. The best way to communicate the concern over pesticides is through education and an option could be to offer better alternative choices to property owners via the Borough website. As with the seasonal parking issues, it was decided that the problem will be discussed over the winter and a plan will be in place for 2021.

c) A firepit ordinance was addressed by Chief Hoadley in the monthly fire report (Item 8 (b)). Also noted was The Town of Stonington does not have a burn ordinance

d) In discussing plans to reopen Borough Hall and the firehouse for public meetings, Warden Callahan stated that until Governor Lamont comes out with clear guidance regarding in-person meetings, the Board will continue to use Zoom for monthly meetings. September's meeting is confirmed virtual, via Zoom.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a) There were no requests for use of Borough property.

b) Burgess Rogers addressed possible change in the flow of traffic on lower Water Street, leading to the Point. The traffic is becoming increasingly congested and people are not reading the signs regarding which direction has preference. There is a noticeable increase in chaotic driving; road rage; and possible accidents. Burgess Rogers suggested a possible remedy could be to keep Water Street one-way (south) all the way down Omega Street. The way out would then be Omega to Hancox to Diving and then exiting from Main Street. Warden Callahan expressed concern because of the traffic impact on residents on that route. Burgess Nicholas will look into police conducting a traffic count, and a survey would also need to be done to inform residents of possible change and to get their feedback. Further discussion will be had at September's meeting, under Unfinished Business. Warden Callahan noted that changing traffic flow on lower Water Street would require modification to SBO-02, and that full discussion of the matter would have to wait until in-person meetings were allowed.

- c) Warden Callahan announced that he had received two bids to replace the Street Department dump truck from Columbia Ford and Valenti Ford. Columbia's bid is about \$3k less than Valenti. Burgess Nicholas moved to accept the bid from Columbia Ford (\$41,009 with trade-in) for the new Borough dump truck, and Burgess Barnes gave the second. All were in favor; none opposed.
- d) Warden Callahan, upon the recommendation of Chief Hoadley, moved to approve the promotion of Assistant Fire Chief, Theresa Hersh, to Deputy Fire Chief, effective September 1st. Burgess Rogers seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

12. OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION --- None

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess O'Malley, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer
August 24, 2020