

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting – July 20, 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 7:01 p.m. Present were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, Bergin O'Malley, and Shaun Mastroianni. Also present was Tiffany Cook, serving as Clerk-Treasurer. Prior to taking up the agenda, Warden Callahan asked for a moment of silence to honor our former Highway Department employee, Roger Collelo, who died July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes and seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 15, 2020, by way of Zoom conferencing, were approved.

**3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Received from Town: \$153.14 in June taxes; Received \$3500 for dumpster fees; Requested disbursement from Town for FY21 street maintenance refund.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Property Use Applications: Milagro Café: tables on sidewalk; Water Street Café: extension of temporary permit for outdoor dining; Noah's Restaurant: extension of temporary permit for outdoor dining

Meetings: None

Other: Stonington Free Library: request of disbursement for FY-21; Eugene Pfeifer: thank you from Black Lives Matter rally committee; Hollycroft Foundation: Certificate of Insurance for Sculpture Park; NESS: 2013 letter to P&ZC ; Milone & MacBroom: Floodplain Management & CRS Assistance Proposal

Outgoing: None

**5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER -- None**

**6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills for June 16 through July 16, 2020 totaled \$148,851.

Net income for July 2019 through June 2020 (FY-20) equals \$60,083. Net income for July 2020 (FY-21) equals (\$118,865), with very little property tax revenue received at this time.

**7. WARDEN'S REPORT**

1. Participated in bi-weekly Zoom COVID-19 updates with SCCOG and local health districts

2. Assisted restaurant owners on Water Street with outdoor dining arrangements
3. Received report from tax collector indicating that only two Borough residents had requested tax deferrals.
4. Tracked Governor's executive orders (60 and counting)
5. Weekly disinfecting of fire house and Borough Hall continues; both remain closed to public
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. Investigated putting an Employee Assistance Program in place for Borough employees and fire fighters

**BOROUGH CLOCK – None**

## **8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

### **a. STREETS & SIDEWALKS**

1. Installed grate at outfall near Harbor Edge
2. Aquarion continued Summit/Elm water main replacement project
3. Started refreshing yellow curb paint
4. Monthly brush pickup
5. Repaired street signs
6. Issued 3 dumpster permits
7. Removed weeds and swept gutters

### **b. Fire and Safety**

There were 12 Alarms in June 2020, they were as follows:

- 1) 6-1-20 8:46am Fire Alarm Activation 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (water flow)
- 2) 6-2-20 2:20pm MVA Rt.1 @ Elm St. (no injuries, 2 refusals)
- 3) 6-5-20 9:42am Odor of gas 261 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (knob accidentally turned on, on gas stove with no pilot light on)
- 4) 6-6-20 7:04pm Structure Fire 163 Elm St. (flames & sparks shooting up side of house from electrical meter)
- 5) 6-12-20 12:51am Wires down on High St. between Water @ Main St. (EVERSOURCE responded)
- 6) 6-12-20 1:08am Fire Alarm Activation 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (water flow)
- 7) 6-15-20 1:38pm Wires down IFO 22 Watch Hill Ave. (cable tv wire)
- 8) 6-22-20 5:19pm Medical assist with SAC 262 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (worker fell off of a roof)
- 9) 6-23-20 12:35am Fire Alarm Activation 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (water flow)
- 10) 6-24-20 8:35pm Outdoor Fire 40-42 Salt Acres Rd. (bonfire on beach next to ocean)
- 11) 6-25-20 10:10pm Fire Alarm Activation 105 Elm St. (burnt food)
- 12) 6-26-20 4:48am Fire Alarm Activation 5 Water St. (burnt food)

Chief Hoadley noted that training is going slow due to Covid and residents are hesitant to allow fire marshal into their homes, again due to Covid.

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

A few trees are to be evaluated; discussed pesticide awareness via flyer after Covid – Bartlett would be happy to come talk to us about the treatment and seek advice from CUSH regarding pesticides used for Boro property.

**d. Public Buildings**

A tree will be trimmed on the east side of footbridge.

**e. Public Information**

Bergin will put out press release on sculpture park. Bergin commented that Employee Assistance Program is a very good idea

**f. Police**

During the month of June 2020 there were 65 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 15 Business Checks/Check Buildings, 7 Burglar Alarms all of which was false, 7 Fire related calls, 5 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 5 Assist Citizens, 4 Nuisance reports, 3 Pistol Permits, 3 Harassment, 2 Medical Assists and 2 Found Items. There was one incident each of Vandalism, Suspicious Activity, Finger Print, Keys in Vehicle, Suicidal, Accident with no injury, Alarm Panic, 911 Misdial, Motor Vehicle Infraction, Welfare Check, Domestic Disturbance and Larceny.

There was one arrest related to the accident.

**g. Utilities & Sanitation**

Purell Stands have been ordered and 4 out of 5 have been distributed. They are located outside the library, outside Noah's, outside NESS and at Du Bois Beach. The stands will be taken in each night to avoid vandalism, etc. I am hoping to find someone in the Velvet Mill that can take responsibility for the last one. Two merchants have agreed to stop feeding wild animals in an effort to keep feral animals in control. Several garbage notifications have been given with good compliance, so far.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Griffin touched on parking issues at NESS but fuller discussion is under New Business (b).

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. State of Connecticut and our region: we are in good shape relative to Covid. New London County hospitalizations down to 1 or 2, no deaths in more than two weeks.

b. Addressing Jessica Morrisey's email of April 22, golf carts are not allowed in the Borough; SPD gave warning to one person seen driving golf cart around Borough. Amanda has herbicide info sheet, and she will send it to all members of Board.

- c. Chief Hoadley is still working on fire pit restrictions/ordinance. Having difficulty getting other fire chiefs to work with him.
- d. Discussed setting a limit on number of sculptures in Sculpture Park. Burgess O'Malley will work on signage for the Park.
- e. Discussed reopening of Borough Hall for meetings. As of now, State of Connecticut has not issued orders to reconvene public meetings so we will continue to hold regular meetings via Zoom. SVIA requested permission to use Borough Hall for their annual meeting. The request was respectfully declined.

## 11. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Requests to use Borough Property: Noah's Restaurant and Water Street Café outside dining: Extension of sidewalk dining through end of September; and Milagro Café to add two tables for outside dining through end of September. Burgess Mastroianni moved to approve all 3 requests and Burgess Barnes gave the second. All 3 requests were approved unanimously. Andrew Field noted that the outdoor dining at Noah's was going very well.
- b) Parking issues with NESS were discussed with Bill Griffin and Spike Lobdell. Staff of NESS feel they are being singled out for parking on public streets. They have also been criticized for parking at Town Dock. The only option for staff is on-street parking, which is difficult to come by in summer. Stonington Commons has excess parking, but attempts to utilize some of it have so far been unsuccessful. Spike suggested a Borough-wide parking study. "Resident Parking" system has been suggested in the past, but that would have its own administrative and enforcement issues. Basically, it was agreed that the problem is a 19<sup>th</sup> century village with 21<sup>st</sup> century vehicles.
- c) In considering revision of SBO-08, Public Property: Warden Callahan moved to amend the Public Property ordinance to make clear that anyone wanting to use Borough streets, sidewalks, buildings, or parks must seek permission from the Board of Warden & Burgesses. Burgess Nicholas seconded. All were in favor; none opposed.
- d) Warden Callahan moved to accept the proposal from Malone & McBroom Consultants to assist with FEMA's Community Rating System and Floodplain Management issues. Burgess Mastroianni seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
- e) The Borough lost long time employee and resident, Roger Collelo, this month in a boating accident. Warden Callahan informed us that there will be a reception at the Portuguese Club on July 21<sup>st</sup>. Discussion on his replacement will resume after a suitable amount of time. Currently, Phoenix Grimes is filling in as a temporary employee, and Sue says it's working out well.
- f) Burgess Barnes moved to approve the resolution giving Warden Callahan authority to sign documents re: CT Homeland Security Grant. Burgess Nicholas seconded. Passed unanimously.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION ---**

Warden Callahan moved to approve the Anthem Employee Assistance Program proposal for Borough employees and fire fighters. The cost is very reasonable: \$1.11 per employee per month. Burgess Mastroianni seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Rogers, adjournment of the regular meeting at 8:25 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer  
July 26, 2020