

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 17, 2023
MINUTES**

Warden Michael Schefers called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Hall. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, and Kevin Bowdler; and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 13 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of June 20, 2023, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

- a) Paul Collette offer to be a member of P&Z. (email)
- b) State Homeland Security Agreement Authorization
- c) Town Basketball Court at Town Dock (email)
- d) Letter on Farmers Market at Town Dock
- e) Ocean Community Center application for Wad. Square Movies.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period June 17, 2023 through July 14, 2023 totaled \$52,786.33. I&E through July 14, 2023 shows total revenue to date of \$1,397,514.35, which is \$45,028.352 over budget; and net income to date of \$123,785.34. Balance of ARPA unobligated funds is \$30,538.32.

WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Met with CT Dept of Labor OSHA Rep on two minor corrected violations
2. Attended monthly Town Department Head meeting
3. Attended Monthly COG meeting
4. Attended meeting with Chief, myself, Town Director of Public Works and Town Engineer to further discuss and document viaduct concerns for July 17 mtg with CT DOT.
5. Amy and I discussed additional Police presence in the Borough going forward.
6. Attended SVIA Annual meeting.

BOROUGH CLOCK –

Emerson corrected 2-minute early clock toll

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup.
2. Continued Work on painting/repainting Road Stop Signs and Cross Walks

3. Continued road-sweeping and lawn maintenance
4. Ryan our summer temporary helper started June 20th.
5. Addressed pothole on Water Street at Pearl

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

June Police Incident Report

In June, the police responded to 52 calls in the borough including 6 Parking Complaints, 6 Fire Related calls, 6 Burglar Alarms 5 of which were false, 5 Assist Citizen, 5 Check Buildings, 4 911 Hang up/Misdial, 3 Suspicious Activity, 3 Animal Control, 3 Keys in Vehicle, 2 Accidents one of which was a hit and run, and 2 Medical Assists. There was one incident each of Motor Vehicle Stop, Raffle Application, Alarm Panic, Check Bank, Found Item, Pistol Permit, and Found Item. There was one arrest related to the Motor Vehicle Stop.

Data from the viaduct speed detector was that 25,376 vehicles crossed in one direction from 7/3-7/14. Speeding was found at all hours of the night and day. Average speed was 27 MPH; Average Maximum speed was 33 MPH. There was discussion about putting in speed bumps again.

June Fire Report

- 1) 6-6-2023 11:27am Fire Alarm Activation 151 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (workers)
- 2) 6-6-2023 6:36pm Fire Alarm Activation 22 Diving St. (burnt food)
- 3) 6-11-2023 8:49pm Fire Alarm Activation 41 Orchard St. (burnt potato in microwave)
- 4) 6-14-2023 3:46pm Oil spill 32 Water St. Stonington Commons parking lot (container of oil fell out of a truck spilling onto asphalt, 1/2 gallon)
- 5) 6-17-2023 10:48am Unknown Alarm Stonington COMO (low battery alarm, computer)
- 6) 6-19-2023 6:37pm Fire Alarm Activation 40 Grand St. (workers)
- 7) 6-23-2023 1:06pm Rescue, Town Dock Playground (child stuck in equipment)
- 8) 6-25-2023 11:24am Fire Alarm Activation 30 Church St. (burnt food)
- 9) 6-26-2023 1:18pm Fire Alarm Activation 40 Palmer St. (sprinkler tech)

The fire department responded to the Point for the porta-potty being blown apart. There have been four events involving firecrackers and other explosives. Chief Hoadley asked if it can be locked.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Received a request for pruning of two cherry trees in front of 8 Broad Street. They were pruned by Bartlett within the week. Met with Megan Kacenski from Bartlett again to talk about plans for some planting in the fall.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Getting estimates on the fire escape. Because the steel is such good quality, the companies suggest repair. The wheels on one of the cannons are being picked up tomorrow and will be returned at a future date. Met with Warden Schefers, Burgess Bowdler and I will meet with an EV company for additional information.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Have been going back and forth with Eversource regarding redundant poles. Once Eversource puts up a new pole, the other companies that have lines have up to 18 months to move from the old pole to the new pole. Eversource suggested Burgess Bowdler contact the other utility companies directly. Burgess Bowdler will contact Town of Stonington engineers for their contacts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Sibby Lynch asked about whether there are speed signs on the viaduct. Warden will ask Town of Stonington to post a sign reading "Reduced Speed Ahead" on the viaduct.

Resident Tom Sargaent of Main St. objects to the comfort station. Burgess Nicholas mentioned that SVIA has a FAQ on the comfort station on their website, that businesses are collecting data on how often they are asked to use their restrooms and there will be a presentation at the August 21st Warden and Burgesses meeting.

Resident Albert Razzano remarked we don't have all the questions on the need for a comfort station answered. And he commented that the Point is zoned RL, with no commercial business use. Thirdly, he asked Burgess Nicholas about the use of the tracker and the data collection.

Burgess Kevin Bowdler has done a spreadsheet regarding comfort station. He said there are letters from approximately 20 individuals and community groups in Borough Hall.

Resident Doug Mola remarked on spending taxpayer's money on the comfort station while we don't know how much it is going to cost every year.

Resident Judith Hanratty remarked that the comfort station has been reviewed over and over and thinks residents should defer to the Warden and Burgesses and the Comfort Station committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Draft Vendor Ordinance

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to table the vote on approving the Draft Vendor Ordinance, was unanimously approved.

Comfort Station Update

Letter sent by Warden Schefers to Governor Lamont on bonding for the Comfort Station and cc'd Senators Bumgardner and Somers. There are also STEEP funds for small town economic advancement that is being looked into.

Viaduct Update

Warden Schefers, Chief Hoadley, First Selectwoman Chesebrough, Burgess Nicholas met with DOT today and they presented a fifth option which is replace the existing structure as it is now, the design and pilings might be different. It may be four feet higher and six feet wider (due to Amtrak). DOT will present a design next summer.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider appointing Paul Collette alternate member of P&Z

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to appoint Paul Collette as an alternate member of Planning and Zoning, was unanimously approved.

Consider State Homeland Security/SCOG Memo of Agreement Authorization

A motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the State Homeland Security/SCOG Memo of Agreement Authorization with one correction adding the word "of" between the words Borough and Stonington, was unanimously approved.

Town Dock Basketball Court

Burgess Barnes gave a report on a basketball court possibly being put at the Town Dock.

Farmer's Market

Letter received from Sandy Fromson, among others, to return the Farmer's Market to the Town Dock.

Budget error correction

A \$10,000 mistake on the approved excel spreadsheet was not included in the 2023-2024 budget.

Consider requests to use Borough property**Consider application for Wad Square Movie Nights**

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the request by Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce to hold free movie nights on Wadawanuck Square on July 25 and August 8, 2023 from 8 pm – 11 pm, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

Pam Mola asked if there was an update on the engineering study for Water Street Flooding and the Wayland Wharf outfall (?) This item will be added to the August agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:26 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
August 13, 2023