

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting – January 21, 2020**

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Jeff Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m. Present were Burgesses Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, Bergin O'Malley, Karen Von Ruffer-Hills. Burgess Nicholas arrived late. Also present was Tiffany Cook, serving as Clerk-Treasurer

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting held December 16, 2019 were approved.

**3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

- a. Received December property taxes from Town: \$397
- b. Received from state: \$2.28 for disability and \$24 for veterans
- c. Received donations to Williams Fund: \$250
- d. Processed W-2 forms and reports

**4. CORRESPONDENCE**

Request: Michele Crowley- request for annual Blessing-of-the-Fleet 5K on 7/23  
Meetings: None  
Other: Avena & Kepple- announcement that firm has joined Suisman Shapiro law firm  
Outgoing: None

**5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER -- Resident received assistance through the Williams Fund.**

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

Bills for period 16 December, 2019 through 16 January, 2020 totaled \$51,143.  
Net income as of 16 January was \$443,705. Reserve was \$341,000..

**7. WARDEN'S REPORT**

- 1. Oversaw final stages of standby generator installation at Borough Hall.
- 2. Submitted paperwork for LoCIP reimbursement for Borough Hall generator installation
- 3. Attended second hearing at probate court for merger of Waldron & Williams Funds
- 4. Participated in MS4 meeting at Town Hall with Director of Public Works and consultants

5. Prepared input to annual MS4 report
6. Attended SCCOG meeting with SE CT legislators: SCCOG 2020 legislative priorities are education funding, recycling improvements, and MS4 utility authority
7. Responded to Census 2020 queries

**BOROUGH CLOCK –**

Seeking value appraisal of Borough Clock. No new information on status of United Church.

**8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

**a. STREET & SIDEWALKS COMMISSIONER REPORT**

1. Leaf cleanup
2. Brush pickup
3. Plowed/salted roads after storms on Dec 17, Jan 7 & 18.
4. Issued 1 dumpster permit
5. Responded to annual CT DoT road survey

**b. Fire & Emergency Management**

We responded to 9 Alarms in December 2019; they were as follows:

- 1) 12-6-19 8:23pm Transformer/Pole issue IFO 145 Water St. (connection short)
- 2) 12-9-19 6:26pm Box 5026 Velvet Mill (Water flow issue)
- 3) 12-10-19 9:54pm No power in residence 46 Gold St. (worker had shut off)
- 4) 12-12-19 9:15pm Fire Alarm activation 65 Cutler St. (burnt food)
- 5) 12-14-19 7:17pm Fire Alarm activation Stonington Commons (burnt popcorn)
- 6) 12-16-19 1:01pm Fire Alarm activation 53 Church St. (accidental by workers)
- 7) 12-17-19 8:04am Wires down Meadow ave. @ Chesebro lane (EVERSOURCE fixed)
- 8) 12-22-19 10:50pm Propane issue Water St. Cafe (shut off, called gas co.)
- 9) 12-26-19 11:19am Mutual Aid to Quiambaug FD (structure Fire)

**2019 YEARLY REPORT**

SBFD Responded 126 Alarms in 2019, Down from 149 in 2018. Breakdown is as follows:

Stonington Borough.....78 Alarms  
 Stonington Fire District.....34 Alarms  
 Wampassuc Point.....6 Alarms  
 Lord’s Point.....5 Alarms  
 Mutual Aid.....3 Alarms

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

Burgess Barnes and Warden Callahan will meet with Robert Ricard of the CT Tree Warden Certification Program on February 14<sup>th</sup>, to discuss assessment of Borough trees. Other consultants will be interviewed as well.

**d. Public Buildings** – None.

**e. Public Information** – Working on the Borough seal, which is literally a seal (the mammal)

**f. Police**

During the month of December 2019 there were 35 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 8 Fire related calls, 4 Medical Assists, 4 Assist Citizen, 4 Burglar Alarms 2 of which were false, 3 Parking Complaints, 2 Alarm not Registered and 2 Check Building. There was one incident each of Animal Control, Suspicious Activity, Assist Other Agency, General Information, Found Item, 911 Misdial, Harassment and Welfare Check.

The incident that occurred at the docks last month was reported in the paper.

**g. Utilities & Sanitation**

- Followed up with Eversource and Town of Stonington on various streetlight outages
- Received complaint, investigated and resolved matter concerning ongoing “lack of picking-up after dog” issue near Pearl Street.
- Addressed and resolved trash concern at Velvet Mill

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Borough resident Pam Mola raised the issue of Tuesday morning trash being picked up before 7:00. It was noted that the trash hauler has been coming to the Borough at roughly 6:20-6:30am. Warden Callahan, along with the Board, will write a letter to the Town stating that this has been a reoccurring concern expressed by the public in the monthly meetings.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The Board received the Annual Financial Report (audit) for year-ending June 30, 2019, performed by PKF O’Connor Davies. Joseph Centofanti and Kathryn Ta, of PKF O’Connor Davies, presented the review to the Board. The auditors gave the Borough an unmodified (“clean”) opinion. The General Fund balance increased by \$40 k over FY-18, and the reserve now stands at 30% of annual expenditures, well over typical municipal levels.

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) In considering the request to use Borough property for the Blessing of the Fleet 5k Run, to be held July 23, 2020: Burgess O’Malley moved to approve and Burgess Von Ruffer Hills gave the second. All voted in favor.
- b) Warden Callahan moved to approve the extension for expiring ordinances, as required by the Borough Charter. SBO-04 and SBO-19 will expire unless re approved. Burgess Rogers seconded. Warden Callahan noted that SBO-19, which concerns fees for land use applications, needs to be reviewed to determine if the fees are appropriate and in line with other local municipalities. Both ordinances were unanimously re-passed without changes.
- c) Burgess Nicholas moved to appoint David Luce as a full member of ZBA, with a second by Burgess Von Ruffer-Hills. The vote to approve was unanimous.

d) In consideration of appointing Jill Bessette and Chris Errichetto as full members of P&ZC, Warden Callahan moved to approve the appointments. Burgess Barnes seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

e) Warden Callahan moved to approve the CT DEMHS MOA and resolution with Burgess Barnes giving the second. All voted in favor.

f) In considering the draft resolution authorizing SCCOG to apply for three state grants, Burgess Nicholas moved to approve the resolution. Burgess Rogers seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

g) In discussing Betty Croteau's contributions to the Borough, it was agreed that naming a Borough right-of-way in her honor would be an appropriate manner of recognizing her many contributions to the Borough community. The ROW from Wayland's Wharf to Water Street was suggested for the designation. Burgess Barnes will draft text for a plaque, and the Board will consider it at a future meeting.

h) Warden Callahan noted that one of the recommendations in the audit report is that the Borough should not pay employees or elected officials in advance of their performing work. Warden Callahan noted that elected officials have been paid in advance for decades, and then moved to shift the payday of elected officials to the end of the month, beginning with February. Burgess Barnes seconded. All present voted in favor of the motion.

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

In considering the request by Chief Hoadley to accept Ryan Gendrun as a Junior Firefighter for the Stonington Borough Fire Department, Warden Callahan moved to approve the request and Burgess Rogers gave the second. The vote to approve was unanimous.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the regular meeting at 7:50p.m. was unanimously approved.

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