

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – April 18, 2022
MINUTES & RECORD OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PUBLIC HEARING

Hearing opened at 6:30 pm

Preceding the regular meeting, the public hearing on the proposed FY 2022-23 budget was held. Warden Callahan noted that the budget has no increase in mill rate despite an increase in revenue and expenses of 4.8% compared to last year. He stated that there is nothing to remark on in the income side. Of note on the expenditure side: the general government proposed budget increased by 11.4% due to increasing health insurance costs and the raises for the staff. The Boards and Commissions increase is 2%. The Fire Department budget increase is 2.6%. Public Buildings budget increase is 21%, mainly due to repairs and maintenance, line 509 and internet for ZOOM use. Street Department increase is 2.3%, mostly due to Snow Removal line. Parks, Trees & Rights of Way increase is 38% mainly due to the amount allocated to tree maintenance. Sanitation increase is 33%. The Special Revenue and Trust Fund budget decreased 1.6%.

Questions from the Public.

Richard Easton asked if we have enough wiggle room in the budget. Warden Callahan feels that there is.

Hearing closed at 6:39 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan 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 and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present in Borough Hall in addition to Warden Callahan were Burgesses Shaun Mastroianni and Amy Nicholas and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Amanda Barnes attended via Zoom. Burgess Kevin Rogers was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2022, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

BOROUGH PROPERTY USE REQUESTS:

- a. Michele/Georgia/Mike Crowley/St Mary Church, Blessing of the Fleet 5K Run (7/28) and Procession 7/31)

- b. SBMA, Water Street Art Walk (9/17)
- c. Noah’s Restaurant, outdoor dining on Church Street (April-December 2022)

MEETINGS/HEARINGS: None

OTHER: None

OUTGOING: None.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER: NONE

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period March 19, 2022 through April 15, 2022 totaled \$149,788. The annual lease payment for the fire trucks in the amount of \$113,013 (the 7th of 9 payments) accounted for 75% of the total. Net income as of April 15, 2022 is \$268,295.

WARDEN’S REPORT

- 1. Attended Town Hall monthly staff meeting and SCCOG monthly meeting
- 2. Completed drafting FY 2022-23 budget.
- 3. New viaduct pole lights installed
- 4. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have increased compared to last month, while total deaths now total 657. State positivity rate has slightly increased compared to March.
- 5. Updated “Guide to Living in Stonington” and posted on website.
- 6. CLA Engineers submitted preliminary maps of storm water infrastructure
- 7. Drafted ARPA annual Project and Expenditure Report.
- 8. Wrote letters of support for Town application to Rep Courtney and Sen Murphy for federal grant to improve Town Dock.

BOROUGH CLOCK – Arranged for door to clock machinery room to be repaired. Reset clock after power outage on 4/04

COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Callahan)

- 1. Conducted monthly brush pickup.
- 2. Cleaned outfall at Harbor Edge
- 3. Continued spring streets cleanup
- 4. Patched potholes
- 5. Issued 1 dumpster permits

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 5 alarms in March 2022, they were as follows:

- 1) 3-8-22 6:41pm Oven fire 54 Gold St. (apple pie)
- 2) 3-12-22 12:50am Odor of propane gas 17 Hancox St. Sea Village apts. (resident accidentally turned gas stove on with no pilot on)

3) 3-12-22 9:52pm CO detector activation 111 Tipping Rock Rd. (100-120ppm throughout residence, furnace tech enroute)

4) 3-31-22 10:46am Forceable entry 23 Covese Lane (canceled enroute)

5) 3-31-22 11:03am Fire Alarm activation 19 North St. Wamphassuc Pt. (well pump motor burned up in basement.

Chief Hoadley monitored the blasting for a new house on Island Road.

Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

During the month of March 2022 there were 38 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 5 Medical Assists, 4 Suspicious Activities, 4 Parking Complaints, 4 Check Building, 3 Burglar Alarms 2 of which were false, 3 Assist Citizens, 3 Animal Control and 2 Fire Related Calls. There was one incident each of Keys in Vehicle, Scam Against the Elderly, Nuisance, Pistol Permit, Community Policing, Open Door/Window, 911 Hang up, Welfare Check, Vehicle Inspection, and Bolo (Be On the Look Out for).

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

No report, however, anticipate an appeal on the tulip tree on the corner of Broad and Water St.

Public Buildings (Mastroianni)

Nothing to report.

Utilities & Sanitation (Rogers)

Nine trash notices were given out this month. Good news is that the people who were repeat offenders seem to be getting the polite message I have been sending. I am not giving notices to people who are moving. I also have not given the Ocean Bank a notice. They have paper waste and not food waste. The later pickup time seems to be working well. I look forward to seeing how well it works when summer is in full swing. Mr. Crandall warns that with his trucks delayed start, summer traffic may impede his driver's timing.

Teresa Jackman of EverSource has arranged a meeting between me and Shaun for Friday, April 22nd for an EV Charging Station Presentation and our next steps. This is our second meeting on the topic. This meeting will provide further details. If anyone from the Board would like to attend, please let me know.

The new lights on the viaduct have been successfully replaced, all but the two at the top of the cement stairs on either side of the structure.

Traffic Discussion Group:

Jesse Diggs would like to help form a committee that would discuss the neighborhoods in the SOCA area of the Boro. He would like it created sooner than later if possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jesse Diggs commented on Noah's application to permanently extend seating onto Church St. (Warden Callahan noted that that application is not on the agenda tonight.) He is concerned

about setting a precedent of businesses asking for parking spaces to expand. And he asked, “what is the problem we are trying to solve?” He is also concerned about safety.

Warden Callahan brought up the citizens’ committee on parking and traffic with Mr. Diggs. The committee will include merchants, fire department, south of Cannon, Elm Street, Borough East, Warden and Borough representatives to take the consultant’s report and come back to the W&B with recommendations. Jesse Diggs will chair the committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Memorial plaques, trees etc.

SVIA has created a temporary committee to come up with a proposal.

Cannabis use on public/Borough property

The Borough attorney will have a rough draft in time for next month’s meeting.

Consider appeal of tree commissioner’s decision regarding tree on Denison Avenue

With the chief’s assent, this item will be removed from the agenda for now and posters will be removed by Burgess Barnes.

Discuss ordinance enforcement mechanism

Warden Callahan distributed a draft ordinance. It will be discussed in upcoming months.

Set venue for Annual Meeting

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to hold the 2022 annual meeting at Borough Hall on Saturday, April 30th at 10 a.m. as well as by Zoom conferencing video was unanimously approved. The Warden has the Board’s permission to change the venue if need be due to Covid trends in the area.

Discuss request from Noah’s Restaurant to create long term outside seating area

Removed with agreement from Andrew Field of Noah’s.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by St. Mary Church to use Borough streets for the Blessing of the Fleet 5K Run on July 28, 2022, and the request by St. Mary and St. Michael Churches for the Blessing of the Fleet street procession on July 31st was unanimously approved.

SBMA – Art Walk on Water Street, Sept 17th was tabled. Warden Callahan will ask their representative to come to the next meeting with additional details.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to modify and approve the request of Andrew Field, owner of Noah’s Restaurant, for three four-top tables and one two-top in

Church Street and two two-tops on the Water Street sidewalk from April 20 through December 31, 2022 for outside dining tables, was unanimously approved.

Consider proposed FY 2022-23 budget

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve the Draft FY 2022-23 budget for consideration at the Annual Meeting was unanimously approved.

Consider placing a statue on Wadawanuck Square in support of Ukraine

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the installation of a statue by artist Doug Rice in support of Ukraine on the west side of Wadawanuck Square for three months, was unanimously approved. Burgess Barnes will coordinate.

Consider waiving bid requirement for Denison and Water Street projects.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to waive the bid requirement and accept Hastedt Bros bids for paving of Denison and Water Streets, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
April 25, 2022