

**Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
Regular Monthly Meeting – August 16, 2021**

**MINUTES**

**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 in Borough Hall and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the regular meeting of July 19, 2021 as modified and posted, were unanimously approved. During discussion Burden Mastroianni asked, going forward, if persons in the audience or on Zoom make comments those comments should be included and attributed to the person.

**REPORT OF ADMINSTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Putting together email addresses from Stonington resident surveys and other sources. New Credit cards purchases from Dime Bank were declined and she spent numerous hours straightening this out. QuickBooks setup causes Monday payroll checks to not be able to be done on Monday (all Mondays are holidays) and therefore the transfer of withholding amounts to IRS are late. Ann is looking into this.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**BOROUGH PROPERTY USE REQUESTS:**

Salt Marsh Opera – Music at Lighthouse, August 22  
Stonington Free Library – Additional Open Mic Session, October 26  
CT Special Olympics – Dinner/Dance at Firehouse, September 11

**OTHER:**

Stonington Free Library – Letter of appreciation for annual contribution.  
SECT Water Authority – Request for appointment of Borough reps to SCWA Advisory Board.  
Ledge Light Health District - Request to all LLHD municipalities for allocation of 1% of ARPA funds (Borough=\$2616 over 2 years) to support ongoing Covid-19 activities.  
John Burke, consultant - Proposal for traffic and parking analysis services.  
Fred Souza – inviting Warden and Burgesses to participate in Holy Ghost procession on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Warden and Burgesses will participate from St. Mary’s back to the Holy Ghost Society following mass.

MEETINGS: NONE

OUTGOING: NONE

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

None

**REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills for the period July 16, 2021, through August 11, 2021, totaled \$108,455.57. Large bills -- Whalen's Wharf, Stonington Free Library Contribution and the various ARPA allocations.

Net income from July 2020 through June 2021 (FY-21) is \$218,476.

Net income as of August 12, 2021 (FY-22), is \$601,225.

**WARDEN'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Attended Town Hall department head meeting

Provided text for new Borough website.

Waldron-Williams Funds merger: Borough Atty has filed for incorporation in CT.

Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have spiked to teens, while total deaths have increased very slightly to 452. Stonington Town deaths are 32 and total cases equal 1198.

Continued working with FEMA to resolve concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.

Held first meeting of comfort station (public bathroom) building committee. Second meeting scheduled for 8/18.

Disbursed ARPA checks to Borough staff, firefighters, and Stonington Ambulance Corps.

Transferred early copy of original Borough 1801 Charter to Stonington Historical Society on long term loan. Photocopy to be posted on website

Prepared invoices for outer fire districts/associations that contract with SBFD .

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

**STREET & SIDEWALKS (CALLAHAN)**

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

Reported small sink hole in Elm Street curve at Cutler Street to Aquarion.

Swept parts of Main and Water Streets.

Mowed Borough parks.

Issued 2 dumpster permits.

**FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NICHOLAS/HOADLEY)**

During the month of July 2021 there were 74 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 14 Animal Control Incidents with 9 of them occurring on Front Street, 12 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 7 Medical Assists, 5 Burglar Alarm 3 of which were false, 5 Fire Related Calls, 5 Accidents including 2 hit and runs and 1 with injury, 3 Welfare checks, 3 Business/Building Checks, 2 Juvenile calls, 2 Nuisance calls, 2 Damage not Criminal call, and 2 911 Misdial/Hang ups. There was one incident each of Assist Citizen,

Suicide Call, Suspicious Activity, Domestic Disturbance, Marine Incident, Minor Traffic Service, Larceny, Found Item, Community Policing, Red Tag, Assist Other Agency and Harassment.

During discussion, Burgess Nicholas noted the numerous animal control incidents, the majority of which were on Front Street at the dog park. There was a video on the Stonington Community Forum Facebook page and there were many comments, so we should keep an eye on this.

SBFD responded to 17 Alarms in July 2021, they were as follows:

- 1) 7-1-21 8:20pm Fire Alarm Activation 13 E Grand St. (shower steam)
- 2) 7-3-21 11:46am Fire Alarm Activation 11 E Neck Rd. (hair dryer)
- 3) 7-3-21 5:26pm Fire Alarm Activation 2 Stonington Commons (defective detector)
- 4) 7-7-21 4:23pm MVA Rt. 1, East of North Main St. (no injuries or fluids)
- 5) 7-7-21 6:31pm Power lines down IFO 194 Water St., Dog Watch (called EVERSOURCE)
- 6) 7-7-21 6:46pm Medical Assist with SAC 325 N Main St. (cardiac arrest)
- 7) 7-7-21 9:02pm Outside Fire 8 James St. LP (illegal burn)
- 8) 7-9-21 6:19am Fire Alarm Activation 103 Main St. (elevator room)
- 9) 7-9-21 7:33am Fire Alarm Activation 7 Water St., Lighthouse (workers)
- 10) 7-9-21 11:45am Tree on wires Rt.1 @ N Main St. (Weq. FD district)
- 11) 7-9-21 1:06pm Tree limb took power line down across Rt.1 (Wamp. @ Collins)
- 12) 7-9-21 3:46pm Fire Alarm Activation 9 E Grand St. (faulty water sensor alarm)
- 13) 7-16-21 9:20am Fire Alarm Activation 10 Grand St. (faulty smoke alarm)
- 14) 7-17-21 1:09pm MV vs Motorcycle Broad @ Water St. (1 injury to hospital)
- 15) 7-21-21 8:28am Fire Alarm Activation 42 Quana Duck Rd. (workers)
- 16) 7-25-21 10:51am Fire Alarm Activation 5 Hampton St. LP (burnt food)
- 17) 7-31-21 9:20pm Fire Alarm Activation 36 Broad St. (alarm malfunction)

Burgess Rogers mentioned a woman down on the train tracks at the Wamphassuc Point crossing. It originally came in as a medical emergency assist call. This does not show up in the Borough report. The Chief mentioned Amtrak's talk of closing Elihu Island, Latimer Point and Wamphassuc Point. They effect the Fire Department's ability to get to these locations along the train tracks. It was published on the internet.

Warden Callahan questioned Amy's report of 12 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints and asked if those included moving violations. They do not. Burgess Nicholas will ask police to increase enforcement and/or add speed bumps.

#### **PARKS, TREES & RIGHT OF WAY (BARNES)**

A neighbor of the fire department asked that a longer ladder be put at Whalen Wharf. Warden Callahan will look at this. Burgess Mastroianni mentioned there is a tree at the bottom of the foot bridge that should be cut back. Also, the tree at the stop sign coming from the Dog Watch should be trimmed, Sue and Phoenix will trim both.

There is a tree on the southeast corner of Wad Square that needs to be reassessed next year.

#### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS (MASTROIANNI)**

The main water valve in Borough Hall was replaced. The old one was frozen open.

**UTILITIES & SANITATION (ROGERS)**

Four letters were issued for trash. Burgess Rogers will go on the Town of Stonington GIS to identify the owners of vacation rental properties whose tenants do not comply with the trash ordinance.

Burgess Rogers went on a drive through the Borough with Teresa Jackman from Eversource. She is taking away four redundant poles (all “naked”), one at Sean Mastroianni’s house, one in front of Ellen’s house . She explained to Kevin how to identify which lines are still connected to polls. Kevin will identify the poll numbers, which utilities are still connected, contact the utilities and when all lines are off, he will contact Teresa Jackman to add those polls to Eversource’s list to be removed. She is also looking into the extender poll over Tom’s News.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None. No general public were present in person or on Zoom.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Status of COVID-19 in region and State**

See the Warden’s report above.

**Resident survey results**

Burgess Rogers and Burgess Mastroianni presented survey results and possible action items, to be shared with public soon.

**Update on outdoor grill/fire pit ordinance.**

The Borough will use the State of Connecticut’s regulations rather than drafting its own ordinance.

**Lower Water Street/Borough traffic and parking**

Under New Business

**Update on Public Restrooms/Comfort Station**

See Warden Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider requests to use Borough property:**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve Stonington Free Library’s use of Wadawanuck Square for an Open-mic event where participants can share writing, poetry and music on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 from 3:30 – 5:30 pm, passed unanimously.

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve Special Olympics Connecticut, Inc.’s use of the Firehouse for the 2021 Special Olympics CT Unified Fall Festival Dinner/Dance, on Saturday, September 11, 2021 was unanimously defeated owing to concerns over the Covid-19 rebound. It is the sense of the Board that if Special Olympics Connecticut, Inc. wants to use Borough Streets for the parade they have the Board’s approval with the contingency that Stonington Police be notified.

**Consider revising SBO-17, Planning and Zoning Commission & ZBA to eliminate term limits**

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to revise SBO-17 (Planning and Zoning Commission and ZBA) to delete paragraph 4 (term limits) and renumber the remaining paragraphs, passed unanimously.

**Discuss potential uses of ARPA funds** – Tabled until next meeting

**Consider appropriating ARPA funds to Arts** --- Tabled.

**Consider appropriating ARPA funds to Ledge Light Health District**

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes to allocate 1% of the Borough’s two-year ARPA funding to Ledge Light Health District, passed unanimously.

**Consider traffic/parking study proposal**

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to accept the proposal from John M. Burke, CAPP, to do a Borough traffic/parking study for a fee of \$4,750, passed unanimously.

**Consider appointing representatives to the SCWA advisory board**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to appoint Burgess Nicholas and Warden Callahan to the SCWA advisory board, passed unanimously.

**Discuss venue for future W&B meetings**

Discussion included whether future meetings should be in person, in person with mask requirement, Zoom only, hybrid of both, based on positivity rate. It was agreed to hold the September meeting in person with Zoom and assess the situation then.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to cancel the regular meeting on September 20 and reschedule it to a Special Meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 in person and via Zoom, passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION**

Discussion on State of Connecticut legalization of cannabis. Under the new state law concerning recreational marijuana, municipalities may regulate public use. Warden Callahan passed out the SCCOG overview on Municipal obligations related to the passage of Public Act 21-1: An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use Cannabis.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 9:01 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
August 23, 2021