

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
May 18, 2026
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Warden Michael Schefers called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Hall. Roll call was taken. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Kevin Bowdler and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Amanda Barnes was absent. Approximately 11 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of April 20, 2026, and the minutes of the April budget meeting, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Historic Stonington Banner Request for Viaduct
PHGS Procession Invitation
Stonington Garden Club Letter
Ocean Community Event Concurrence Request

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

The FY 2026-27 budget was approved at the May 16, 2026 annual meeting. See budget at end of these minutes.

Bills for the period April 20, 2026 through May 15, 2026, totaled \$54,625.10. Large bills of note were for \$4,154.04 to the Westerly Ambulance Corps for monthly dispatch fee, \$9,059.28 for the load test to Schindler Elevator, and Aquarian fire hydrant rentals in the amount of \$4,705.65. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,597,097; and net income to date of \$101,759.

**Current YTD Balance Sheet
BOROUGH OF STONINGTON
As of March 13, 2026**

Distribution account	Total
1003 Dime-Fire Dept. Major Exp	\$38,316.34

1007 Dime - Infrastructure	\$45,448.78
1011 Dime - Building Fund	\$32,899.27
1015 Dime - Truck Fund	<u>\$14,837.60</u>
Total for Dime - Due to Others	<u>\$131,501.99</u>

Total for 1000 Dime Bank	
Checking Account	\$ 8,098.67
1200 Dime Investment AC	<u>\$780,047.55</u>
Total for Bank Accounts	<u>\$788,146.22</u>

WARDEN'S REPORT

Attended SECOG and SEAT Meetings

Met with Fire Chief Search Committee to Interview, Discuss Employment Agreement and Benefits, and recommend to Burgesses candidate Tom Martin

Chief Hoadley said we interviewed 7 candidates, we came up with 3 finalists, Chief Martin will start later this week shadowing Chief Hoadley. July 4th is Chief Hoadley last day, July 5th is Chief Martin's first day.

Met with Borough Atty to discuss issues with April Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting Dates and Information

Held Special W&B Meeting April 29th to address above Budget information and Budget Hearing timing issues

Completed hiring of new Fire Chief Tom Martin with Burgesses W&B Special Meeting held May 5

Street and Sidewalks Commissioner Report (Schefers)

Conducted Monthly Brush Pickup

Initiated Street Sweeping

Initiated grass seeding where needed

Graded Borough Parking Lots and Como Lot at Owens Field

Initiated repairs on Storm and Blizzard damaged property

Removed material from Stormwater Drain outflow behind Leeward Inn

Removed concrete wheel stops from Wayland's Wharf

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

Here is SBFD's report. Of the 9 alarms in April, 3 were in the borough.

- 1) 4-1-2026 11:50am Medical assist with SAC 11 Palmer St. (lift assist)
- 2) 4-5-2026 11:25am Fire Alarm Activation 57 Flanders Rd. (burnt food)
- 3) 4-10-2026 1:08pm Fire Alarm Activation 145 Water St. (steaming clothes)
- 4) 4-15-2026 5:48pm Wires down Hill Ave. @ Alley Way L.P. (utility wires)
- 5) 4-16-2026 5:41pm Wires down IFO 212 N. Water St. (utility wires)
- 6) 4-16-26 8:10pm Fire Alarm Activation 85 Main St. (burnt food)
- 7) 4-18-2026 8:29am Fire Alarm Activation 25 Stanton Rd. (faulty detector)
- 8) 4-18-2026 2:27pm Wires down IFO 21 Wall St. (utility wire, garbage truck)
- 9) 4-23-2026 6:22pm Mutual Aid to Ledyard FD, 340 Col. Ledyard Hwy. (brush fire)

As a reminder, dogs must be on leash, no parking on yellow lines and there are overnight parking restrictions on larger vehicles.

The traffic committee had a good meeting with Deputy Chief Olson. He had some excellent suggestions for traffic calming including adding something visual/physical at the corner of High and Water Streets. The committee will provide some recommendations at the next W and B meeting.

We have received approval for the two signs regarding large trucks in the Borough

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

None

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Borough Hall:

We are not moving ahead, at this time, with air-conditioning in Borough Hall in order to help with budget concerns.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Ordered one more trash bin for the Point.

Warden Schefers said that the wheel stops will be placed at the Point.

PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Resident Rowley of Summit Street asked to have the Line Item for the footbridge graffiti removal be clarified. \$10,000 from StormWater management was moved to the Footbridge.

Resident Jim Andrus of 41 Orchard St. voiced his opinion that more than just license plates were being recorded by the Flock Camera on the viaduct, he has learned from the press that they have the ability to record you and what you are doing inside the car. Warden said the intention was for the cameras to collect license plates and time

stamps. We can talk with the police to clarify and how long the data is kept. Bowlder said that in the last week of the CT legislature they passed revised legislation on the use of Flock Cameras.

Because Stormwater Management report coming up, he said that there is no tidal action with the water in the marshes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

There was a meeting the day of April meeting regarding the repair of the viaduct bridge. In the original, the DOT said that bridge repair of \$1.2 million cost to replace the bridge. The cost presented in this newest iteration is \$4.5 million. We are pushing back. We are in negotiations with the DOT about the scope and cost of the work that will be included.

We are still talking with Amtrak about the railroad crossing.

Stormwater Management Update

We need more time to work on grants, with the Town grants writer. The breakwater still needs to be looked at.

Borough Traffic Committee Update

We are scheduling a committee meeting shortly. We had an excellent with the Deputy Chief and Chief Hoadley. We will need some permission Police Board approval to remove some parking on Bayview. We will talk with neighbors. Warden will write a letter to Erik of the Velvet Mill to ask that tenants of the Velvet Mill park other places than the Velvet Mill parking lot. Hopefully we will have some updates on Borough Traffic calming recommendations at the June meeting especially pertaining to viaduct speeding and Water Street. We will be ordering a new speed sign in the FY2026-27 budget. It was suggested that a sign be put up on the Town of Stonington side of the viaduct that reads "Speed Ahead 20 mph." We have to go in front of the Police Board for that.

Fire Chief Search Committee

See above under Fire and Emergency

Ian Cooke Use of Borough Property

On a motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Warden Schefers, to approve the request made by Ian Cooke for use of Borough property in front of his house on Main Street for a garden with the stipulations that there be no signs, stakes, and plants are not to exceed 32", was approved by Burgess Bowdler, not approved by Warden Schefers, Burgesses Nicholas and Rogers.

Some of the plants were higher than should have been last year. There is risk of liability with the sticks sticking up. He has proceeded with the work on the garden before the April agenda (without the garden being on the agenda.) Burgess Rogers feels we should not set a precedent for other residents. Resident Jesse Diggs asked why we are doing this? Resident Al

Razzano asked how we could monitor and manage gardens on Borough property? Resident Stu Malcolm asked about other plantings, especially the tulips on Harmony and Main Street. He asked that the intent be all Borough grass be disallowed. Warden will talk with the residents. Resident Wendy Kotch of 41 Orchard asked that whether it's all grass and/or plantings that it be consistent. Sue will reseed in front of Ian Cooke's house.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Comment (#2) Before Votes

None

Historic Stonington use of Borough Property request

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve Historic Stonington's Application to put new banners on the light poles on the viaduct, subject to Burgesses' review, was unanimously approved.

Ocean Community Chamber Request

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, to concur with the Town of Stonington's approval of Denizens of the Deep art display at Stonington Town Dock and that a sign be put at the corner of Water and Broad to direct traffic to turn onto Broad St., was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 7:56 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
May 27, 2026

Accounts	2026-2027 Budget		2025-2026 Budget	
4100 Income				
4010 Fire District Fees	\$	141,492.00	\$	126,656.00
4011 Stonington	\$	77,271.00	\$	69,604.00
4012 Wamphassuc	\$	33,313.00	\$	27,892.00
4013 Lord's Point	\$	30,908.00	\$	29,160.00
4020 Grants & Reimbursements	\$	276,341.00	\$	456,933.00
4021 Town of Stonington	\$	252,241.00	\$	439,933.00
4022 State of Connecticut	\$	22,000.00	\$	15,000.00
4023 LoCIP	\$	2,100.00	\$	2,000.00
4030 Borough Taxes	\$	1,131,160.36	\$	974,909.72
4031 Property Taxes	\$	1,130,160.36	\$	974,309.72
4032 Telephone Property Tax	\$	1,000.00	\$	600.00
4040 Fees & Fines	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
4041 Planning & Zoning Fees	\$	3,000.00	\$	4,000.00
4042 Ordinance Fines	\$	1,000.00	\$	-
4050 Investment Income	\$	30,000.00	\$	40,068.28
4060 Miscellaneous	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
4070 RESERVE TRANSFER	\$	(51,063.00)	\$	(11,213.00)
4071 Acc Rev Fund Bal Des Budget	\$	(51,063.00)	\$	(11,213.00)
Total Income	\$	1,532,930.36	\$	1,592,354.00
Expense				
51000 General Government	\$	421,514.00	\$	424,634.00
51100 Administrative	\$	138,892.00	\$	128,000.00
51101 Audit	\$	35,000.00	\$	31,000.00
51102 Election	\$	5,000.00	\$	-
51104 Professional Services	\$	2,500.00	\$	10,000.00
51105 Legal Fees	\$	5,000.00	\$	-
51106 Special Mailings	\$	500.00	\$	1,000.00
51107 Community Affairs	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,500.00
51108 Health Insurance	\$	43,142.00	\$	37,000.00
51109 Ordinance Enforcement	\$	500.00	\$	1,000.00
51110 Travel Reimbursement	\$	750.00	\$	1,000.00
51150 Borough Insurances	\$	45,500.00	\$	45,500.00
51151 Accidental Death CIRMA	\$	2,000.00	\$	3,000.00
51152 CIRMA LAP	\$	22,500.00	\$	21,500.00
51153 Worker's Comp (CIRMA)	\$	21,000.00	\$	21,000.00
51200 Office Expenses	\$	14,700.00	\$	20,100.00
51201 Legal Notices	\$	1,000.00	\$	5,000.00

51202 Office Equipment	\$	500.00	\$	1,500.00
51203 Postage	\$	500.00	\$	1,400.00
51204 Supplies	\$	1,000.00	\$	2,000.00
51205 Software	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
51206 Bank Fees	\$	5,000.00	\$	4,500.00
51207 Technical Support	\$	450.00	\$	-
51208 Payroll Processing Fees	\$	1,250.00	\$	200.00
51209 Miscellaneous	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,500.00
51300 Tax Collector	\$	4,500.00	\$	4,500.00
51301 Collection Expenses	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,000.00
51302 Tax Refunds	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
51400 Borough Salaries	\$	147,595.00	\$	111,300.00
51401 Commissioner Stipends	\$	1,000.00	\$	2,000.00
51402 Clerk-Treasurer	\$	4,500.00	\$	4,500.00
51403 Burgesses	\$	8,000.00	\$	8,000.00
51404 Business Manager	\$	56,595.00	\$	55,000.00
51405 Warden	\$	18,500.00	\$	18,500.00
51406 Employee Bonus	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
51407 Zoning Officer Salary	\$	22,000.00	\$	21,300.00
51408 Payroll Taxes	\$	35,000.00	\$	-
51500 Contributions	\$	49,827.00	\$	48,980.00
51501 Stonington Free Library	\$	29,000.00	\$	28,500.00
51502 Stonington Ambulance	\$	11,000.00	\$	11,000.00
51503 SECOG- SE CT Council of Government	\$	587.00	\$	540.00
51504 seCTer	\$	440.00	\$	440.00
51505 CCM- CT Conf of Municipalities	\$	800.00	\$	1,000.00
51506 SVIA	\$	500.00	\$	-
51507 COMO- Community Center	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
51508 Cultural Coalition	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
51509 July 4th/Parade	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
51600 Planning & Zoning	\$	10,500.00	\$	16,500.00
51601 Legal Notices	\$	500.00	\$	1,500.00
51602 Prof. Services- Consulting & FEMA CRS	\$	2,500.00	\$	5,000.00
51603 Prof Services - Legal	\$	4,400.00	\$	5,000.00
51604 Prof Svcs- Planner/Engineer	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
51605 Printing	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
51606 Books & Training	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
51607 Land Use Application Fees	\$	1,000.00	\$	3,000.00
51608 Miscellaneous	\$	100.00	\$	-
51700 Zoning Board of Appeals	\$	3,500.00	\$	6,500.00

51701 Legal Notices	\$	500.00	\$	1,500.00
51702 Prof Services - Legal	\$	2,500.00	\$	4,500.00
51703 Books & Training ZBA	\$	500.00	\$	500.00
51800 Building Expenses	\$	37,000.00	\$	68,754.00
51801 Electricity	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
51802 Heating Oil	\$	8,000.00	\$	13,000.00
51803 Water & Sewer	\$	500.00	\$	1,000.00
51804 Supplies	\$	2,500.00	\$	6,250.00
51805 Phone/Internet	\$	6,000.00	\$	5,000.00
51806 Repairs & Maintenance	\$	7,500.00	\$	15,000.00
51807 Janitorial	\$	7,500.00	\$	23,504.00
51900 Contingency	\$	15,000.00	\$	20,000.00
51901 Contingency	\$	15,000.00	\$	20,000.00
52000 Fire & Public Safety	\$	605,662.00	\$	502,942.00
52100 Public Safety Expenses	\$	15,000.00	\$	10,000.00
52101 Police Coverage	\$	5,000.00	\$	10,000.00
52102 Equipment	\$	3,000.00	\$	-
52103 Repair & Maintenance	\$	1,000.00	\$	-
52104 Software	\$	6,000.00	\$	-
52200 FD Personnel Expense	\$	66,000.00	\$	97,400.00
52201 Medical	\$	6,000.00	\$	7,000.00
52202 Training	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
52203 Uniforms	\$	2,500.00	\$	2,500.00
52204 LOSAP - Length of Service Program	\$	15,000.00	\$	45,000.00
52205 Pay-per-Call Incentive Prog	\$	20,000.00	\$	20,000.00
52206 Deferred Compensation	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,400.00
52207 FD & Company Expense	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
52300 FD Operating Expenses	\$	160,308.00	\$	172,200.00
52301 Vehicle Fuel	\$	4,000.00	\$	3,000.00
52302 Maintenance- Trucks & Equip	\$	30,000.00	\$	32,500.00
52303 New Tools & Equipment	\$	25,000.00	\$	25,000.00
52304 Telecommunications	\$	200.00	\$	3,000.00
52305 Maintenance- Radios	\$	-	\$	1,000.00
52306 Maintenance- Alarms	\$	-	\$	500.00
52307 Fire Marshal Expenses	\$	1,500.00	\$	2,500.00
52308 Westerly Dispatch	\$	19,108.00	\$	16,700.00
52309 Hydrants	\$	46,500.00	\$	55,000.00
52310 Miscellaneous	\$	500.00	\$	1,000.00
52311 LAP-Liability/Auto/Prop VFIS	\$	33,500.00	\$	32,000.00
52400 FD Salaries & Wages	\$	304,354.00	\$	151,342.00

52401 Fire Chief & Marshal	\$	118,000.00	\$	118,192.00
52402 Deputy Chief, Marshal & Training Officer	\$	100,000.00	\$	16,150.00
52403 Company Officers	\$	7,000.00	\$	7,000.00
52404 Station Coverage	\$	20,000.00	\$	10,000.00
52408 Health Insurance	\$	59,354.00	\$	-
52500 Fire Station Building Expenses	\$	60,000.00	\$	72,000.00
52501 Electricity	\$	12,500.00	\$	17,500.00
52502 Heating Gas	\$	13,000.00	\$	15,000.00
52503 Water & Sewer	\$	2,000.00	\$	2,000.00
52504 Supplies	\$	1,500.00	\$	3,000.00
52505 Phone/Internet	\$	7,500.00	\$	6,000.00
52506 Repairs & Maintenance	\$	15,000.00	\$	20,000.00
52507 Janitorial	\$	8,500.00	\$	8,500.00
53000 Street Department	\$	305,755.00	\$	323,404.00
53100 Parks, Trees & ROWs Expenses	\$	27,000.00	\$	44,000.00
53101 Park Utilities	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
53102 Tree Maintenance	\$	15,000.00	\$	25,000.00
53103 Park Maintenance	\$	3,000.00	\$	9,000.00
53104 Signs & Surveys	\$	500.00	\$	1,000.00
53105 Sanitation/ Mutt Mitts	\$	7,500.00	\$	8,000.00
53200 Street Dept. Personnel Expenses	\$	1,000.00	\$	-
53201 Medical		Future	\$	-
53202 Training		Future	\$	-
53203 Clothing Allowance	\$	1,000.00	\$	-
53300 Street Dept. Operating Expenses	\$	78,500.00	\$	97,500.00
53301 Vehicle Fuel	\$	5,000.00	\$	-
53302 Truck & Equipment Maintenance	\$	2,500.00	\$	-
53303 New Tools & Equipment	\$	5,000.00	\$	7,500.00
53304 Supplies	\$	5,000.00	\$	10,000.00
53305 Street Repairs	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
53306 Sidewalk Repairs	\$	5,000.00	\$	15,000.00
53307 Snow Removal	\$	25,000.00	\$	20,000.00
53308 Stormwater Management	\$	25,000.00	\$	40,000.00
53309 Street Signs	\$	1,000.00	\$	-
53400 Street Department Salaries & Wages	\$	199,255.00	\$	181,904.00
53401 Foreman	\$	97,323.00	\$	-
53402 Truck Driver/ Laborer	\$	64,932.00	\$	-
53403 Overtime	\$	12,500.00	\$	15,000.00
53404 Summer/ Temporary Laborer	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
53405 Deferred Compensation MATCH	\$	13,000.00	\$	4,500.00

53407 Street Commissioner	\$	6,500.00	\$	6,500.00
Labor - Regular		N/A	\$	150,904.00
1501 Deposits to Funds	\$	200,000.00	\$	327,000.00
Total Expense	\$	1,532,931.00	\$	1,577,980.00

OTHER FUNDS	Proposed	Rollover amount
1501 Infrastructure Fund	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 45,924.37
1502 Building Fund	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 32,899.27
1503 Truck Fund	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 14,837.60
1504 Fire Dept. Major Equipment Fund	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 38,316.34
	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 131,977.58

GRAND LIST	\$ 454,072,050.00	Final Total
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	Proposed	Current
MILL RATE	2.488945	2.1643
EXAMPLE: \$500,000.00 Assessment	\$1,244.00	\$1,082.00
	Difference of \$162.00	