

**Borough of Stonington**  
**Board of Warden and Burgesses Regular Monthly Meeting**  
**March 20, 2023,**  
**MINUTES**

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. Present, in addition to Warden Callahan, were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni; and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 11 members of the public were present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the regular meeting of February 21, 2023 were unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RECEIVED:

St. Michael Parish, *REVISED* application for annual Our Lady of Fatima processions  
Calvary Church, application to conduct an ecumenical Easter service at Point FEMA, Annual recertification approval  
Stonington Free Library, request for continued support in FY-24 budget Stonington Historical Society, update on historical panels project  
Lisa Konicki (OCCC), proposed revised distribution of remaining ARPA grant funds Child & Family Agency, letter informing Board that they will set up games on Wad Square during their run/walk on May 6  
CLA, Proposal for footbridge inspection and report

OUTGOING: None

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER REGARDING MAY 2023 ELECTION**

All deadlines have been met. During the month since our last W&B meeting, the lottery was held by Town of Stonington Registrars of Voters for the order of names within a major party on the ballot, was held. The list of candidates was submitted to the Secretary of the State's office. The ballots are at the printer and will arrive this week. Shaun Mastroianni is mailing out absentee ballot applications to all registered Borough voters. The ballots will be available to electors starting on March 31. Ann Fiore will verify, from the list supplied to us by the RoV office, whether the person who applied for an absentee ballot is a registered voter in the Borough. Ann will notify me when we start getting applications and she/I will coordinate mailing them out. She is keeping the list of the ballots sent out along with the ballot envelope number.

## **REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills for the period February 17, 2023 through March 18, 2023 totaled \$41,099.31. I&E through March 18, 2023 shows total revenue to date of \$1,385,718, which is \$33,232 over budget; and net income to date of \$377,126.24.

## **STONINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTATION**

A presentation on the ARPA-funded project to create and install panels at sites of historic interest in the Borough was made by Elizabeth Wood and Chelsea Mitchell. A design firm was hired to create an initial set of six panels, including Wadawanuck Square, Cannon Square, Stonington Point, the Lighthouse, Wall Street, and Denison Avenue. They will be made of high-pressure laminate, which should last for at least ten years. The same firm will make the hardware used to install them. Borough of Stonington and Stonington Historical Society logos will be on each panel.

## **WARDEN'S REPORT**

1. Discussed cannon repairs with Brian Cooper of Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millwork.
2. Annual CRS recertification approved. FEMA flood insurance discount (10%) in place through 2023.
3. Attended monthly Town Department Head meeting.
4. Local Covid statistics: New London County cumulative deaths now total 785. State positivity rate about 4%; New London County positivity rate about 5%.
5. Discussed with Leo Labbe possible resolution of zelkova tree issue at corner of Front and Broad Streets.
6. Met with Darren Hayward of CLA regarding Wayland's Wharf outfall project. Permitting process to begin soon.
7. Continued working on FY 2023-24 budget and Capital Improvement Plan.
8. Attended Board of Finance deliberations to address any questions about comfort station CIP request; BoF included \$50k in Town CIP budget.
9. Approved CLA proposal to conduct a field inspection and submit a written report on the footbridge.

## **BOROUGH CLOCK --**

1. Adjusted clock for daylight saving time
2. Met with United Church trustees to introduce Emerson and discuss maintenance issues. Asked Borough Atty to prepare a document to be added to land records making ownership of and access to clock clear.

## **STREET & SIDEWALKS COMMISSIONER REPORT – COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

### **Streets & Sidewalks (Callahan)**

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup.
2. Checked Harbor Edge outfall
3. Completed painting in Borough Hall lobby
4. Began spring clean-up along Main Street

### **Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)**

SBFD responded to 10 Alarms, 2 of which were in the Borough, in February 2023, they were as follows:

- 1) 2-4-2023 5:31pm Medical assist with SAC 91 Island Rd. (lift assist)
- 2) 2-6-2023 6:23am Fire Alarm Activation 25 Stanton Rd. (steam from furnace leak)
- 3) 2-7-2023 6:30pm CO Alarm Activation 18 Shawondassee Dr. (stove issue, 60 ppm)
- 4) 2-7-2023 9:50pm Fire Alarm Activation 214 N Water St. (burnt food, toaster oven)
- 5) 2-8-2023 4:30am Mutual Aid to Weq. FD 3 Canary St. (structure Fire)
- 6) 2-8-2023 5:46am Fire Alarm Activation 8 Owen Dr. (Furnace malfunction)
- 7) 2-14-2023 8:06am Fire Alarm Activation 227 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (nothing found)
- 8) 2-16-2023 9:49am Medical assist with SAC 213 Elm St. (cardiac arrest)
- 9) 2-25-2023 1:40pm 1 Car MVA on Viaduct, 70 Alpha Ave. (bumped head, refusal)
- 10) 2-27-2023 5:57pm Stove issue 25 High St. (unplugged stove, shut gas off)

### **February Police Incident Report**

In February, the police responded to 41 calls in the Borough including 12 Check Business/Check Building, 5 Medical Assists, 3 Animal Control, 3 Suspicious Activity, 3 911 Hang ups/Misdials and 2 Assist Citizen. There was one incident each of Minor Traffic Service, Hit and Run Accident, Criminal Mischief, Motor Vehicle Stop, Alarm Panic, Welfare Check, Disturbance, Assist Other Agency, Community Policing, Harassment, Loud Music, Fire Related Call and one Tow Vehicle.

### **Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)**

Nothing to report

### **Public Buildings (Mastroianni)**

Nothing to report

### **Utilities & Sanitation (Rogers)**

Three trash notices issued. Frontier is installing new fiber optic cables.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pam Mola asked whether there was money in the budget to repair sidewalks in Waylands Wharf. Warden Callahan said there are funds, and the sidewalks might be done during or after the outfall project. Doug Mola asked that the public have the chance to review the copy for the historical panels. Warden Callahan will ask the Historical Society to post it.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Consider draft Borough CIP for 2023-2028**

A motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the proposed five-year Borough Capital Improvement Program with the addition in FY 24-25 of installing granite curbing on the east side of Main Street between High and Broad, was unanimously approved.

**Consider draft FY23-24 budget**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the draft FY 23-24 budget to be presented at the public hearing in April and at the annual meeting, was unanimously approved.

There was discussion on the fire trucks and when they will need to be replaced, and where to start saving money for the future trucks. Chief Hoadley stated that these trucks should last for 20 more years. Resident Doug Mola questioned whether the new line item for comfort station maintenance was sufficient. Warden Callahan stated that the point is to create the new line item so that if the station is built this year there is a place in the budget to charge maintenance costs. It will take a couple years of operation to know how much maintenance really costs.

**Consider rescheduling April W&B to 4/10 and hold budget public hearing same evening**

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to cancel the April 17, 2023 Warden & Burgesses regular meeting and schedule a special meeting on April 10 at 7:00 pm, preceded by the budget hearing at 6:45 pm, was unanimously approved.

**Discuss resolution of the zelkova tree problem at 4 Broad St**

Warden Callahan reviewed the background concerning the Borough-owned zelkova tree that was damaged by the contractor who is building a new house at 4 Broad Street. The tree has been appraised by a licensed arborist as having a value of \$23,097 before topping by the contractor; and only \$2,772 after. Total lost value, including cost to remove the remaining tree is \$21,826. Warden Callahan offered to settle the matter for \$12,000, which should be sufficient to remove the damaged tree and stump and plant a new, substantial tree in its place. Mr Labbe, the contractor, made the following counter offer: he would remove the damaged tree and stump and plant a new tree of the Borough's choosing at his own cost. In addition he would give the Borough a check for \$2,500. There followed a lengthy discussion of Mr. Labbe's offer, during which some burgesses expressed lack of confidence that accepting the offer would result in a satisfactory outcome. They also felt it might set a bad precedent for future incidents of this sort. Burgess Barnes will obtain a more definitive cost estimate from Bartlett for removing the existing tree and stump, planting a new tree, and maintaining the new tree for two years. That will provide a basis for evaluating Mr. Labbe's counter offer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider requests to use Borough property**

**Calvary Church, request to conduct an ecumenical Easter sunrise service at the Point, 6 am on April 9<sup>th</sup>**

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the request by Calvary Church to use the grassy area at Stonington Point for an Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 am, was unanimously approved.

**St. Michael Parish, revised application for Our Lady of Fatima Procession, May 20 & 21**

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the request by St. Michael's Parish/OLOF Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corp. to use Borough Streets on

Saturday and Sunday May 20 & 21, for Our Lady of Fatima processions, was unanimously approved.

**Consider waiving bid requirement and awarding Water Street (viaduct to High Street) repair to Hastedt Bros for \$80,000**

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to waive the bid requirement and award Water Street (viaduct to High Street) repair to Hastedt Bros. for \$80,000, was unanimously approved.

**Consider Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce proposal for closeout of its ARPA grant for Borough businesses and not-for-profits**

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request from OCCC to reallocate ARPA funds in the amounts of \$3,500 for the 2023 Art Walk in the Borough, \$1,500 for the Blessing of the Fleet, and \$2,000 for free bus shuttle service and police detail to control traffic for the lighting of the Lobster Trap Tree, passed 4 to 0. Burgess Mastroianni abstained.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION**

Sandy Alexander reported that new banners will go up on viaduct in May and come down in September.

Burgess Nicholas reported that a resident told her the crosswalk at the lighthouse is not being observed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, adjournment of the meeting at 8:56 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa M. Coleman  
March 26, 2023