

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Special Meeting – February 22, 2021**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the special meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order, by way of Zoom conferencing video, at 7:00 p.m. Participating were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni. Warden Callahan took minutes.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Rogers and seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 19, 2021 were unanimously approved as submitted.

10.b. Auditor Presentation (moved up in order)

Joseph Centofanti of PKF O'Connor Davies provided an overview of the Borough's Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. The Borough received a clean opinion. The Borough ended the year with an unassigned fund balance (reserve) of \$291,227 or 22.75 % of expenditures. He recommended increasing the annual contribution to the firefighter pension fund (LOSAP) owing to a decrease in the assumed discount rate from 3.83% to 2.75%.

3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT --- NONE

4. CORRESPONDENCE – NONE

5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER -- NONE

6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period January 14 through February 17, 2021 totaled \$47,118. Burgess Nicholas inquired about the unusually high bill from United Healthcare and was informed that it was a result of overdue payments during the gap in the admin assistant position. Net income to date is \$537,093, implying a year-end surplus of about \$75,000.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Participated in Zoom COVID-19 update with SCCOG and local health districts
2. Participating in discussion of Town climate change policy
3. Ann Fiore, the new Borough admin assistant, began work on February 1st.
4. Tracked Governor's executive orders (92 and counting) and local Covid statistics; New London County hospitalizations have decreased significantly since January (now around 30 compared to a high of 100), while total deaths have risen to 390 from 311 last month. Stonington Town deaths have increased to 28 and total cases equal 912.

5. Continued working on FEMA concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.
6. Submitted annual CRS recertification package.
7. Prepared draft FY21-22 budget and Capital Improvement Program
8. Solved office email problem
9. Working on Waldron-Williams Funds merger

BOROUGH CLOCK – Nothing to report

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Streets & Sidewalks (Callahan)

1. Monthly brush pickup cancelled owing to weather
2. Crew responded to snow/ice events on February 1-2, Feb 7, Feb 9, Feb 11, Feb 13, Feb 18-19
3. Issued 4 dumpster permits

b. Fire & Emergency Management (Rogers/Hoadley)

There were Seven Alarms in January 2021, they were as follows:

- 1) 1-9-21 4:37pm Kayaker in distress Stonington Point (nothing found)
- 2) 1-15-21 12:11pm Fire Alarm Activation 145 Water St. (furnace workers set off)
- 3) 1-15-21 2:38pm Fire Alarm Activation 145 Water St. (nothing found)
- 4) 1-20-21 6:42pm Fire Alarm Activation 86 Collins Rd. (Burnt food)
- 5) 1-22-21 6:21pm Fire Alarm Activation 13 East Grand St. (shower steam)
- 6) 1-24-21 12:30pm Fire Alarm Activation 349 Elm St., Salt Water Farm Vineyard (nothing found)
- 7) 1-30-21 10:24am Fire Alarm Activation 151 Elm St. (MY HOUSE, accidental)

Chief Hoadley said he has completed about half of the Open Burning Certification course.

c. Parks, Trees, Rights-of-Way (Barnes)

Burgess Barnes has contacted Bartlett Tree Co about the maple at the NW corner of Wad Square

d. Public Buildings (Mastroianni)

Burgess Mastroianni is getting prices to replace the fire escape at Borough Hall.

e. Public Information

Burgess Rogers is acting commissioner until commissioner assignments are made after the election.

f. Police & Sanitation (Nicholas)

Burgess Nicholas spoke to the Town Solid Waste Director about trash collectors arriving too early

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Nishant Sahoo, VP of Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, spoke about ongoing negotiations with the Town to put in place a first-ever service agreement. He also noted that contrary to expectations, revenue from calls is actually down this year, putting a financial strain on the SVAC. Warden Callahan asked him to forward the presentation he has given to the Town and invited him to give a brief presentation to the Board at the March meeting.

Doug Mola of Church Street complimented the Street Department for using larger rocks to level Wayland's Wharf parking lot.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. COVID-19 update. Warden Callahan noted dramatic drop in hospitalizations in New London County. Governor Lamont has extended all emergency orders until April 20th. The Governor also announced plans for an age-based vaccination schedule that phases in eligibility for all ages 16 and older over the next three months.

b. Audit Report. See above

c. Fire Pits. Chief Hoadley is half way through the open burning certification process.

d. Water Street. Burgess Rogers continues to collect information.

e. Revisions to SBO-12 will be proposed after the budget is approved.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Requests to use Borough property: None

b. FY-21-22 Budget. Warden Callahan presented a draft. He emphasized that property tax revenue is an estimate, because the Town has not completed the grand list.

c. On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, the Board voted unanimously to cancel the March regular board meeting and schedule a special meeting for March 22. The meeting will include a public hearing on the proposed FY 21-22 budget. On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the Board unanimously voted to schedule the Annual Borough Meeting on Monday April 19 in combination with the regular monthly board meeting. Both meetings will be remote.

d. On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the following resolution was unanimously approved: "Resolved, the burgesses of the Borough of Stonington, acting through its warden, authorize the incorporation of The Waldron-Williams Fund, Inc., which will serve as the new entity to administer the William Williams Fund in a manner consistent with its prior administration by the Borough itself." Warden Callahan read the draft mission statement that has been developed for the combined entity: "The mission of The Waldron-Williams Fund is to provide financial assistance to residents of Stonington Borough who have a demonstrable need for help in paying for the basic necessities of life. This includes but is not limited to assistance with food, clothing, shelter, utilities and medical needs. The Fund and its mission are the result of generous gifts by Stonington residents William Williams and Jonathan C. Waldron over 100 years ago."

e. The Board tabled consideration of appointing a member to be a trustee of The Waldron-Williams Fund until the new entity's governance structure is decided.

f. Burgess Mastroianni proposed developing and distributing a survey to Borough residents in order to get feedback on matters of concern. Warden Callahan pointed out that we need a current mailing list (postal or digital) before we can distribute the survey. Burgess Nicholas suggested giving residents the option of taking the survey online or mailing in their responses. Burgesses Mastroianni and Rogers will develop sample questions for the survey.

12. OTHER BUSINESS & DISCUSSION --- NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, adjournment of the meeting at 8:35 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey Callahan
February 24, 2021