

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
January 20, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

Warden Michael Schefers called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at 7 p.m. The meeting was held at Borough Hall. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Kevin Bowdler, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Rogers, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Amy Nicholas was absent. Approximately 11 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the monthly meeting of December 20, 2025, with the spelling of Pandolfis corrected, were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Merchants Assoc Request for 2026 Artwalk

Jesse Diggs email to rethink the location of Public Comment to where it was before on the agenda.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

I will be in Mexico during the February 2026 meeting. We will need someone to record the meeting and I will connect remotely.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period December 15, 2025, through January 14, 2026, totaled \$97,533.49. Large bills of note were to J&S Radio Sales for phones and radios to get into State Emergency System, the \$5,000 COMO donation, and quarterly Westerly Ambulance Corps invoice. Wayland's Wharf repairs are completed and paid for. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,567,200; and net income to date of \$574,134.

We are over-running the Business Manager budget by a significant amount. Also, we will be over budget for the work done on converting from QuickBooks desktop to QuickBooks Online. Sue has arranged for a third party to remove all the excess snow from this upcoming storm.

BOROUGH OF STONINGTON
As of January 16, 2026

Distribution account	Total
1003 Dime-Fire Dept. Major Exp	38,316.34
1007 Dime - Infrastructure	49,339.83
1011 Dime - Building Fund	32,899.27
1015 Dime - Truck Fund	14,837.60
Total for Dime - Due to Others	\$135,393.04
Total for 1000 Dime Bank Checking Account	\$42,737.03

Audit attached to end of minutes

WARDEN'S REPORT

Attended November SECOG Meeting.

Attended November SEAT Meeting

Met with Amtrak, DOT, Heather Somers, Bill Middleton, Chief, CT Homeland Security, Town Emergency Planning Officer Schneider.

Finished Wayland's Wharf Project.

Will have Fire Chief's job description by February.

Broken water main today. Aquarion is repairing and there is a boil water advisement out through at least tomorrow. Kudos to Fire Chief, Town, Aquarion and RB White.

Warden will reach out to Jennifer Muggeo of Ledge Light so ALL restaurants and hotels will be contacted if this kind of event happens again.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)

Conducted Brush Pickup.

Conducted Leaf Pickup.

Lighting for Point Flagpole installed.

Continued sidewalk repair on Main Street

Completed sidewalk repair on Elm Street

Installed new Parking wheel stops at the Point

Completed LOCIP Grant request to CT OPM for street Repairs funds.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD Responded to 12 Alarms (6 were in the Borough) in December 2025, they were as follows:

- 1) 12-8-25 10:17am Fire Alarm Activation 146 Water St. (workers)
- 2) 12-12-25 3:57pm Fire Alarm Activation 25 Orchard St. Unit #1 (fire on stovetop)
- 3) 12-13-25 5:52pm Water Emergency 22 Pearl St. (broken water pipe, exterior)
- 4) 12-16-25 5:57pm Possible CO issue 138 Elm St. (nothing found)
- 5) 12-16-25 6:39pm Fire Alarm Activation 168 Water St. (burnt food)
- 6) 12-18-25 8:32am MVA IFO 213 Elm St. (no injuries)
- 7) 12-19-25 11:19am Wires down IFO 110 Elm St. (utility wires)
- 8) 12-19-25 11:35am Pole & Wires down IFO 7 Temple St. (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 9) 12-28-25 4:47pm Medical Assist with SAC 312 Flanders Rd. (lift assist)
- 10) 12-29-25 9:17am Water Emergency 67 Alpha Ave. (broken water pipe)
- 11) 12-29-25 10:59am MVA RT.1 @ Montauk Ave. (no injuries, Quiambaug district)
- 12) 12-29-25 8:56pm Porch on fire 22 Oak Dr. (fire out on FD arrival)

To reduce speed in the borough, a request will need to be made to BOPC. If approved, then the Chief will make a request to the CT DOT.

SBFD Responded to 139 Alarms in 2025, Breakdown is as follows:

Stonington Borough.....79 Alarms
 Stonington Fire District.....40 Alarms
 Wamphassuc Pt.....12 Alarms
 Lords Pt.....4 Alarms
 Mutual Aid.....4 Alarms

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

I've told the Pandolfis and Becks that we will discuss the ginkgo on Water Street at the February meeting.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Borough Firehouse: None

Borough Hall: None

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Just passed out a couple warning citations for yellow bags put out night before trash pickup.

Warden mentioned the overhanging trees on left hand side of Summit Street, at #19. Because the branches do not touch the live Eversource wires, there has been no response from Eversource. The Sanitation and Utilities Burgess will contact Eversource again. Warden will contact the homeowner to tell them it is their responsibility to remove the branches.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

We are expecting to have a set of three designs that have not been forthcoming. Bill Middleton and Warden Schefers will write a letter to DOT asking them what the current status is, since they expected it Dec 2025, to say we need the designs ASAP.

Stormwater Management Update

Sue has not had the opportunity to dig out the drainage system behind Orchard Inn .

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Traffic

Last month during New Business we talked about adding the issue of speeding to the agenda for this month. Warden Schefers said he had reached out to the town and our paving contractor to see if we might be able to put rumble strips at the top of High Street and Water St. so that there be something that grabs people's attention to slow them down. We would do it down by the Monsanto building as well as when vehicles enter into South of Cannon but there would be a what is called a rumble strip there and also on Main Street. I have talked to the town highway department and they're willing to support us in that. I talked to our paving contractor and for him it would be outsourcing it to a third party. Perhaps Bayview as well. I have noticed though once you put the rumble strips in then in winter the water gets in and ice and then the road opens up and gets degraded much faster. I can talk to Department of Public works and state DOT about that. Burgess Bowdler said "A few meetings ago someone mentioned that one of the things you can do to slow down traffic is to alternate the parking on each side, so people have to do this and when I was in Italy, I saw it and it was really interesting. It's quite a radical idea and obviously we can only do it probably on Water St. But it's free it's a bit of pain on the other side it didn't work, and people might enjoy slowing down Water Street but anyway so it's a low-cost idea. I was going to ask Amy to run it by the police chief to see what his thoughts were. It would definitely be something we would have to submit to the police commissioner. I think it's too much of a compromise because then we lose parking on Water St."

Art Walk Approval

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the application made by the Stonington Borough Merchants Association to use Water Street between High and Church Streets, Wadawanuck Square driveway and green with access to outlets for potential musicians on Saturday, Sept. 12th from 10 am until 4 pm. for the Eighth annual Art Walk, subject to proof of insurance, was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident disagreed about moving parking spots on Water Street. The issue should be enforcement not changing parking spots or speed.

Warden said we will again request ticketing of non-stops at Stop signs.

Resident

Resident Casey Malcolm of 8 Denison Ave. sent an email to Warden Schefers and Burgess Nicholas requesting a research study. Disagrees with rumble strips. She thinks people are not observing the crosswalks. Warden Schefers will ask Burgess Nicholas to look into some bids for a traffic engineer consultant.

Resident Stu Malcolm of 8 Denison Avenue pointed out how slowly people drive through Westerly. However, crosswalks are not real visible.

Resident Jesse Diggs is an engineer and says we have already had a handful of traffic studies. Rumble strips are not the answer. Speed cushions are. Why does the Board resist this? He warns that none of us are experts, we are well intended, but not experts in the realm of traffic.

Feels that Public Comment should be at the front. Five points are to thank the Board for the service, to get feedback that we appreciate what we are doing, to thank the board for issues that are being dealt with, offer some thoughts on issues as they come up, making sure that if we are voting something that we hear from the public before the vote is taken, to offer the W&B some thought on the agenda items being voted on.

Resident Al Razzano of Main Street “my thought is to move the Public Comment before the vote.” If we alternated parking space sides on Water Street, wouldn’t we be losing parking spaces? He clarified that parking is public, but no one has parking in front of their house.

Resident Sibby Lynch of 188 Water Street suggested a track of rumble strips going vertically down the streets. Suggests changing the spelling of the word on the foot bridge to Book.

Resident Craig Rowley of Summit Street asked which Burgess was responsible for the foot bridge. Warden Schefers is. The graffiti has not been removed. He suggests a graffiti removal company.

New Business, Public Comment, Vote in that order on the agenda from now on.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
January 31, 2026

PHGS Parking for Fish and Chips

Motion made by Burgess Barnes, amended by Burgess Bowdler, the application to allow 2 parking spots for the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society Fish and Chips from ____time__ Friday February 13 through Good Friday, for take away, upon receipt of application within twenty-four hours. Passed by email unanimously.

Borough of Stonington, CT

Presentation of Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

PDF page	AFR page		Item	Comments	Balance/ Amount
5-7	1-3	1	Opinion on the Financial Statements	Unmodified opinion "clean opinion"	
			New for 2025 - Implementation of GASB 101	Increased 7/1/24 compensated absences liability and decreased net position by	\$ 42,420
8-15	4-11	2	Management's Discussion and Analysis	Executive summary of fiscal year operations	
14	10	a	Capital assets additions	Road improvements	\$ 94,320
				Equipment and vehicle	128,826
				Public restroom renovations	142,970
				Wayland wharf project	110,894
20-22	15-17	3	General Fund - GAAP Basis	Exhibits C and D	
20	15	a	Unassigned fund balance	36% of budgetary expenditures and transfers out	\$ 554,429
22	17	b	Net change in fund balance	Ex D	(173,242)
		4	General Fund - Budgetary Basis	RSI-1A and RSI-1B	
47	41	a	Revenues	Below budget by	\$ (15,175)
				Property taxes	(22,296)
			Other financing sources	Appropriation of fund balance	\$ (90,387)
48-51	42-45	b	Expenditures	Under budget by	\$ 92,896
				General government	15,302
				Fire department	15,117
				Debt service	30,000
				Contingency	20,000
			Transfers out	Above budget by	\$ (93,558)
20-22	15-17	5	Other Governmental Funds		
		a	ARPA Fund	Expenditures of	\$ 132,727
				funded by grant - \$76,884 and transfer in - \$58,000	
		b	Reserve for Capital and Nonrecurring Fund	Fund balance decreased by \$51,603 for an ending balance of	51,430
		c	Infrastructure Reserve Fund	Fund balance increased by \$60,337 for an ending balance of	62,045

Borough of Stonington, CT
Presentation of Financial Statements
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

PDF page	AFR page	Item	Comments	Balance/ Amount
	6	Communication with those charged with governance	Responsibilities. Independence. Adjustments.	
	7	New applicable GASB Statements	GASB 103 - Financial Reporting Model (2026)	
			GASB 104 - Disclosure of Certain Capital Assets (2026)	
			GASB 105 - Subsequent Events (2027)	