

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – September 16, 2019**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeff Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at Borough Hall at 7:00 p.m. Present were Burgesses Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes, Bergin O'Malley, Amy Nicholas, Shaun Mastroianni. Also present was Tiffany Cook, serving as Clerk-Treasurer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni and seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the regular meeting held August 19, 2019 were unanimously approved, with a correction to the Commissioner Report of Police and Public Affairs (Agenda item 8f).

3. REPORT OF ADMIN ASSISTANT

- Received August property taxes from town: \$126,733.92
- Received Fire Protection Service fees payment from Stonington Fire District: \$65,564.00 & Wamphassuc Pt Association: \$28,644.00
- Met with auditors for field work

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Requests:

Jill Bessette: request to close Water Street for Halloween Trick or Treat

Meetings: None

Other:

Denise Easton: email regarding Library building project

Outgoing: None

5. REPORT OF CLERK TREASURER

Nothing to report this month

6. REVIEW of BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the month totaled \$124,987, over half of which went for infrastructure improvements on Harmony and Chesebro Streets and Wayland's Wharf seawall.

I & E report through September 13th showed that almost all budgeted revenue for the fiscal year has been received. Reserve stands at about \$332,000.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Completed draft of Borough ethics policy
2. Worked with Borough Atty, zoning official, and chair of P&ZC on revisions to zoning regs
3. Submitted additional documentation for CRS Verification
4. Attended Senator Murphy's roundtable and provided information on Amtrak fencing project
5. Met with Amtrak officials regarding emergency egress from Borough
6. Planned lower Water Street paving project with Joe Hastedt. Scheduled for next spring.
7. Worked on revisions to Street Department employment letters
8. Zoning Official began Monday evening office hours in addition to Thursday schedule.

BOROUGH CLOCK –

Adjusted timer for clock lights. United Church remains in danger of closing. No new information on status.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Streets and Sidewalks

1. Continued mowing lawns
2. Brush pickup
3. Painted remaining cross walks and other street striping.
4. Completed Harmony Street and Chesebro Lane paving project
5. Section of storm water drain pipe replaced in Velvet Mill parking lot
6. Completed about half of annual catch basin cleaning. Remainder scheduled for early November.

b. Fire & Emergency Management

There were Eight Alarms in August 2019, they were as follows:

- 1) 8-12-19 12:31am Box Alarm Velvet Mill (water pressure)
- 2) 8-16-19 11:46pm Box Alarm Velvet Mill (water pressure)

- 3) 8-17-19 9:34pm Odor of burned electrical 4 Northwest St. Unit 4 (hot water heater)
- 4) 8-18-19 1:16am Box Alarm Velvet Mill (water pressure)
- 5) 8-19-19 3:42pm Fire Alarm Activation Dog Watch Cafe (overheated cooling fan)
- 6) 8-19-19 6:01pm Box Alarm Velvet Mill (water pressure)
- 7) 8-21-19 7:59am Box Alarm Velvet Mill (water pressure)
- 8) 8-23-19 6:30pm MV into building Stonington Pizza (no structural damage)

As you can see 5 of the August Alarms were for the same thing, Velvet Mill false alarms!
The issue seems to have been rectified for now.

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

Two elm trees are scheduled to be planted this Friday (September 20) on Elm Street, after nearly one and a half years of waiting.

The Sculpture Park is almost complete. Project has been held up due to the artist having passed away.

d. Public Buildings

- Still working through details of the generator project, hopefully Boro Hall will have a generator by the end of this month.
- Windows of Boro Hall will be cleaned next week

e. Public Information

Nothing to report

f. Police and Public Affairs

During the month of August 2019 there were 62 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 8 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 8 Medical Assists, 5 Fire Related Calls, 5 Check Building/Business, 5 Burglar Alarms all of which were false, 4 Assist Citizens, 3 Accidents, 3 Animal Control, 3 911 Hang-up/Misdial, Disturbances, 3 Motor Vehicle Stops/Infraction, 2 Larceny, 2 Welfare Checks, 2 Suspicious Activity and 2 Nuisance calls. There was one incident each of Red Tag, Juvenile, Suicidal, Pistol Permit, Ambulance Standby, Alarm Not Registered and Burglary.

There were 2 arrests one related to the burglary and one related to one of the accidents.

There has been increased police enforcement monitoring speeding at the bottom of the viaduct

g. Utilities & Sanitation

There have been continuing issues with trash at 117 Water Street but seem to be resolved for now.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Alan Vaskas asked if the Boro is involved in the lawsuit between the Congregational Church and the person who owns the house next to the parsonage. Warden Callahan replied no, but indicated that the Borough would protect its ownership of the clock and bell if the church were to be sold.

There was an inquiry regarding a posting on Facebook by Steve Bessette about mural art going under the viaduct. Warden Callahan replied that he was not aware of it, and Mr. Bessette has not yet spoken to him on the matter.

Jill Bessette, of 2 Chesebro Lane, asked for enforcement and possibly a seasonal speed bump to slow down speeding cars. There are a number (ten) of young children living on that street and speeding is a concern. Warden Callahan explained that changing a speed limit requires approval from the Town Police Commission. Burgess Nicholas recommended stepped up enforcement as a start to resolving the problem. She will speak to Capt. Olson.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Warden Callahan moved to adopt a Code of Ethics for the Borough that he has drafted and circulated among the Board. Burgess Mastroianni seconded the motion, with all in favor and none opposed.

b. Burgess Nicholas moved to revise Borough ordinance SBO-01 (Streets and Sidewalks) to require a minimum 4' sidewalk clearance in commercial zone. Burgess Rogers seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed.

c. Having no other candidates, Warden Callahan nominated himself for reappointment to the Southeastern CT Water Authority Representative Advisory Board. Seconding the nomination was Burgess Nicholas. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. The Board took up the request to close Water Street to traffic on Halloween to protect trick or treaters. After some discussion, Chief Hoadley suggested stationing a Borough fire truck and two fire police on Water Street near the intersection with Pearl Street. The Board decided that a good solution that wouldn't cut off traffic to the stores and restaurants but would help slow down traffic.

b. In considering the request by the Stonington Free Library to prune a large oak tree and to create a temporary road across Wad Square for construction equipment access, Burgess Mastroianni moved to approve, and the motion was seconded by Burgess Nicholas. The motion stipulated that restoration of the sidewalk and lawn will take place when construction is finished. Library Board co-Chair Denise Easton will work with Tree Commissioner Barnes on oak tree pruning. All voted in favor, none were opposed.

c. Warden Callahan moved to appoint Jill Bessette and Sandra Murray as alternate members of the P&Z Commission, with terms ending December 31, 2022. Burgess Barnes seconded. Appointments were unanimously approved.

d. Burgess Mastroianni moved that Borough elected officials be permitted to join the Borough's medical insurance plan at their own expense. Burgess O'Malley seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

12. OTHER BUSINESS -

None

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess O'Malley, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni adjournment of the regular meeting at 7:52p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer
September 18, 2019