

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – July 18, 2022
MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER

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 and also by way of Zoom conferencing video. Present in Borough Hall in addition to Warden Callahan were Burgesses Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Kevin Rogers, Amanda Barnes and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 2022, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Jeff Anderson, request to use streets for annual Battle of Stonington race.
- b. Special Olympics, CT, request to use streets for parade and firehouse for dinner/dance.
- c. Emily Logan, request to sell ice cream at Point.
- d. PHGS, request to use streets for annual Holy Ghost processions.
- e. Report from ad hoc traffic committee.
- f. Report from Citizen’s Committee to Advance the Comfort Station project.

OUTGOING: None.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period June 18, 2022 through July 15, 2022 totaled \$109,819.24. Large bills of note were for CIRMA Worker’s Comp, CIRMA Liability, and the fire department major expense fund. Net income for the year July 2021 through June 2022 is \$104,351. Net income for the year July 2022 through June 2023 is -\$220,027. Since the Income/Expense report was printed, the Borough received the first portion of taxes from the Town in the amount of \$225,000 so we are in the black.

WARDEN’S REPORT

1. Attended Town department head meeting.
2. Met with Spike Lobdell and Eric Isselhardt, new CEO, to discuss issues with busses at NESS. The first point they made is that very few busses (yellow or coach) come to NESS during summer. Second, NESS has instituted a new policy requiring coach buses to unload and pick up at Wadawanuck Sq.
3. Worked with Lisa Tepper Bates and Kevin Bowdler regarding comfort station project.
4. Local Covid statistics: New London County hospitalizations have increased compared to last month, while cumulative deaths now total 684. State and county positivity rate remains at 9-10%.
5. FY-22 audit process continues.
6. Provided info to CLA Engineers regarding storm water infrastructure assessment.
7. The Public Works Technician search commit had narrowed the field to three candidates and has interviewed them. An offer has been made and it has been accepted and paperwork was turned in today.

BOROUGH CLOCK – None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Callahan)

1. Conducted monthly brush pickup.
2. Two Stonington High students, Ryan and Michael, began working for Sue on June 27th.
3. Removed excess sand from Diving Street beach.
4. Painted yellow curbs.
5. Mowed parks.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 9 Alarms in June 2022, they were as follows:

- 1) 6-3-22 1:24pm Wires down IFO 71 Cutler St. (cable tv wires)
- 2) 6-15-22 9:29am Wires down IFO 335 Elm St. (power line, EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 3) 6-15-22 3:52pm Structure Fire 297 Flanders Rd. (furnace malfunction)
- 4) 6-17-22 6:49pm Fire Alarm Activation 142 Water St. Milagro (smoke from cooking)
- 5) 6-21-2022 12:49pm Wires down IFO 49 Briar Patch Rd. (truck took wire down)
- 6) 6-23-22 6:56pm Fire Alarm Activation 142 Water St. Milagro (smoke from cooking)
- 7) 6-25-22 6:56pm Fire Alarm Activation 145 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd. (Nothing found)
- 8) 6-27-22 6:10pm Wires down IFO 49 Briar Patch Rd. (same wire as above)
- 9) 6-28-22 4:48pm Tree on Wires IFO 39 Briar Patch Rd. (road blocked, EVERSOURCE enroute)

Police Incident Report (Nicholas)

May incidents totaled 43 including 8 Medical Assists, 5 Burglar Alarm 3 of which were false, 5 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints one of which resulted in an arrest, 4 Assist Citizens. 4 Check Building, 3 Fire Related, 2 Animal Control, 2 Assist Other Agency and 2 Larceny. One each of Pistol Permit, 911 Hang Up, Raffle Application, Nuisance, Alarm Not Registered, Abandoned Motor Vehicle, Phone Scam and One Disturbance.

June incidents totaled 81 including 36 Check Building/Business, 10 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 8 Medical Assists, Suspicious Activities, 5 Accidents including one Hit and Run, 4 Burglar Alarms 3 of which were false, and 2 Fire Related Calls. There was one incident each of Alarm Panic (False alarm), Suspicious Motor Vehicle, Marine Incident, Alarm Not Registered, 6 Juvenile, Traffic Enforcement, Open Door, Keys in Vehicle, 911 Hang up and One Assist Citizen.

Due to inclement weather today, the two young highway crew members did tasks at the Borough Firehouse and did a great job.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Scheduled work today and unsure if the work was done or not before the downpour. A Linden tree on the corner of Elm and Cliff was scheduled to be trimmed.

Public Buildings (Mastroianni)

The semiannual maintenance on the generators at both Borough Hall and Fire House were performed by ACDC Generator Company.

Utilities & Sanitation (Rogers)

Ten letters concerning trash being put out in yellow bags overnight were mailed out. I will do my annual walk around the Borough and make a list of all of the double utility poles, noting those that have been completed and those yet to be done.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COVID-19 in region and State

See Warden’s Report above

Discuss memorial plaques, trees etc.

Tabled

Cannabis use on public/Borough property

Tabled.

Consider Sandra Fromson’s offer of a bench for Wad Square

Ms. Fromson was offered an opportunity to place a bench at another Borough park, but she only wants to put one in Wadawanuck Square, which already has a sufficient number of benches. The Board agreed to drop this item from the agenda.

Discuss Ordinance enforcement mechanism

Borough Attorney has prepared a draft of an Ordinance that provides a mechanism for enforcing existing Borough ordinances. First step will be the Board to adopt the ordinance. Then we appoint one or more people to issue citations and appoint someone to be the hearing officer for appeals. Warden Callahan asked the Burgesses to send their thoughts on the draft ordinance via email. Resident Richard Easton has reviewed the draft and suggested some changes and corrections.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by Jeff Anderson of Kelley’s Pace, to use Wad Square, Water Street, Main Street, Omega, Hancox and Diving Street for the Battle of Stonington 5K Road Race to be held on August 23, 2002 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, was unanimously approved pending receipt of proof of insurance.

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the request by Special Olympics Ct, Inc. to use Main Street, High Street, Water Street, Church Street, Broad Street for a parade and the Borough Firehouse for a dinner/dance on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 8 am to 9:00 pm for the 2022 Unified Sport Fall Festival and Parade of Sailing was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the request by Emily Logan of Mama Emily’s Sweet Treats to use one space at Dubois Beach parking lot up to four times per week through Nov. 1, 2022, to sell ice cream from her ice cream truck was unanimously approved.

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Warden Callahan, to approve the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society's request to use Main, Broad, Water, Omega, Hancox and Diving Streets for processions as part of the Portuguese Holy Ghost Celebration on September 3 and 4, 2022, was unanimously approved.

Discuss Traffic Committee recommendations and consider making Union Street one way

The Stonington Borough guide has been updated. Discussion of no overnights at Whalen's Wharf and that the center of the parking lot is not used for parking. The committee would like to request more police presence at Whalen's Wharf, at the Point around sunset time and Bayview Ave on Farmers' Market mornings and Special Event days. Warden Callahan noted that he and Police Commissioner Nicholas had met with the new Police Chief and Captain Olson in May and had requested increased police presence in the Borough.

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to make Union Street one way going west to east between Water and Main Streets only, parking to remain on the north side, was approved by majority vote. Burgess Mastroianni abstained. Implementation date to be determined.

Discuss Comfort Station Committee report and recommendation

Resident Lisa Tepper Bates reported for the Comfort Station Committee. She thanked the Board on behalf of the ad hoc committee, all of which were in attendance, and reported the committee had met on several occasions to explore public support for the comfort station and the options to move forward with regard to financing the proposed comfort station. A fund raising subcommittee that will receive contributions on behalf of the SVIA was formed, and they feel confident they can raise \$50,000.

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to add the comfort station to the FY-23 Capital Improvement Plan, to designate \$50,000 from ARPA funds to be used for the cost of the comfort station, and to have Warden Callahan send a letter to Governor Lamont requesting \$300,000 in bond funding from the State of Connecticut, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, adjournment of the meeting at 8:00 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
July 24, 2022