

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting – October 19, 2020**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the regular meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order, by way of Zoom conferencing video, at 7:02 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 Barnes, the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 21, 2020 and the special meeting held on October 5, 2020 were both approved as submitted.

3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Received September property taxes from Town: \$23,902.51

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Property Use Application: None

Meetings: None

Other:

Ston. Historical Society: thank you letter for \$1,500 grant (for July Fourth event)

Curran: Elm Street fence proposal

Hastedt: Elm St drain proposal

Outgoing: None

5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER: NONE

6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills paid totaled \$38,153. YTD revenue is \$1,412,698, which is \$56,429 more than budget.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Participated in Zoom COVID-19 updates with SCCOG and local health districts
2. Attended Town Hall department head monthly meeting
3. Attended quarterly meeting of SE CT Water Authority Advisory Board

4. Tracked Governor's executive orders (75 and counting) and local covid statistics; New London County hospitalizations have significantly increased (26), and total deaths have risen to 129 from 111 last month. Stonington Town deaths remain at 2.

5. Continued working on FEMA concerns about one resident's flood map revision request.

6. Spoke at dedication of sculpture park

BOROUGH CLOCK – Reset clock after Eversource repair work cut power to church. CT Appeals Court ordered new trial in United Church parsonage contamination case.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Streets & Sidewalks

1. Phoenix Grimes accepted the Borough's offer to fill the laborer position

2. Summit/Elm water main project nearing completion. No paving schedule yet; probably early November.

3. Began fall leaf clean up

4. Monthly brush pickup

5. Issued 2 dumpster permits

6. With help from Fire Department (Rob Palmer and pumper truck), cleared storm water outfall near Harbor Edge. Clog had caused flooding at Church and Gold intersection

7. Investigated catch basin and storm water outfall near Dog Watch

8. Met with contractor to find solution to persistent drainage issue on Elm Street

b. Fire & Emergency Management

SBFD responded to 18 Alarms in September 2020, they were as follows:

- 1) 9-1-20 3:46pm Smoke detector activation 101 Tipping Rock Rd. (faulty detector)
- 2) 9-3-20 7:14am Fire Alarm Activation 117 Water St. (burnt toast, Social)
- 3) 9-3-20 2:50pm Fire Alarm Activation 7 Hillcrest Dr. (nothing found, humidity?)
- 4) 9-4-20 3:28pm Fire Alarm Activation 52 Coveside Lane (faulty detector)
- 5) 9-8-20 1:53am CO Detector Activation 11 Cliff St. (dead battery)
- 6) 9-8-20 9:57am Medical assist with SAC 6 Oak St. Lord's Pt. (lift assist)
- 7) 9-10-20 10am Fire Alarm Activation 455 Stonington Rd. (burnt bacon)
- 8) 9-13-20 10:59am Odor of gas 58 Quana Duck Rd. (empty propane tank)
- 9) 9-23-20 8:30am Box Alarm Velvet Mill (working on sprinkler system)
- 10) 9-24-20 11:48am Smoke detector activation 101 Tipping Rock Rd. (faulty detector)
- 11) 9-24-20 11:45pm Fire Alarm Activation 178 Water St. (nothing found)
- 12) 9-26-20 6:55pm Kitchen Fire 77 Boulder Ave. Lord's Pt. (pan of cooking oil ignited, minimal damage)
- 13) 9-27-20 5:45pm Structure Fire Island Rd. (smoke & fire was seen from a boat, nothing found)
- 14) 9-28-20 12:09am Medical assist with SAC 32 Water St. Unit#15 (lift assist)
- 15) 9-30-20 5:29am Wires arcing & sparking IFO 7 Temple St. (call Eversource)
- 16) 9-30-20 10:30am Wires down IFO 11 Water St. (phone lines)
- 17) 9-30-20 12:19pm Box Alarm Stonington Free Library (dust from vacuum)
- 18) 9-30-20 12:29pm MVA Rt. 1 & Elm St. (1 minor injury to hospital)

c. **Parks, Trees & Rights of Way** -- Brad Painter will be available to come to November meeting.

d. **Public Buildings** – Nothing to report

e. **Public Information** ---- No Report

f. **Police & Sanitation**

Police Incident Report

During the month of September 2020 there were 31 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 6 Fire related calls, 4 Check Building, 3 Medical Assists, 3 Burglar Alarms all of which were false alarms, 3 Accidents 1 of which was a hit and run 2 Parking Complaint and 2 Assist Citizen. There was one incident each of Larceny, Red Tag Vehicle, 911 Hang up, Open Door/Window, Community Policing, Minor Traffic Service, Suspicious Activity and Assist Other Agency.

There was one arrest related to the hit and run accident.

Sanitation Report

Garbage notifications continue to be distributed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam and Doug Mola inquired about health insurance coverage for a spouse under the LOA with the new employee. Warden Callahan responded that coverage for a spouse, if there were one, would be the same as for the employee. Both Pam and Doug expressed their concern that this level of coverage for a spouse is overly generous and out of line with most companies and organizations.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Covid-19: Warden Callahan reiterated points made in his monthly report

c. Fire Pits. Chief Hoadley discussed the fire pit guidelines that he has put together, based on NFPA and DEEP regulations. The guidelines will be incorporated into a proposed Borough ordinance at some point. He also noted an unauthorized open burning incident that the FD responded to on Columbus Day.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. Requests to use Borough property: None

f. (Moved up in order) Appeal of Tree Commissioner's decision regarding a plane tree on Gold Street: Contractor Peter O'Keefe provided background for the appeal and noted that in excavating for the new driveway, which the Board had approved several months ago, most of the tree's root system had been destroyed. Warden Callahan moved that the appeal be approved, allowing the plane tree to be removed at the property owner's expense, subject to the following conditions: (1) that no portion of the trunk remain above the ground; (2) that a replacement tree, approved by the Tree Commissioner, be planted after the entire sidewalk adjacent to the property is restored. Burgess Barnes seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

b. Revisions to SBO-12. Tabled, to be considered at November meeting.

c. Elm Street drainage proposal: Warden Callahan moved to waive the bid requirement and accept the proposal from Hastedt Bros (\$15,000) to correct long-standing drainage problems along 28-30 Elm Street. Burgess Rogers seconded. Passed unanimously.

d. Halloween precautions. Warden Callahan stated that the Board does not have authority to ban trick-or-treating, but he has drawn up a poster that summarizes Halloween guidelines from the CDC. The guidelines are posted on the Borough website and will be posted on Borough bulletin boards. Any resident who does not feel safe participating in trick-or-treating should turn their porch light off and keep the door closed.

e. Replacement of barrier at corner of Cutler and Elm Streets. Burgess Mastroianni, who had solicited the proposals from Chris Curran, was asked about other options. Mastroianni suggested he be allowed to collect additional information and bring the subject up at the November meeting. Warden Callahan noted that the original purpose of the barrier was to keep vehicles heading west on Elm Street from crashing into the footbridge over the tracks.

12. OTHER BUSINESS: NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:10 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeffrey Callahan
October 20, 2020