

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
March 16, 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 Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, Kevin Rogers and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Kevin Bowdler was absent. Approximately 8 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes of the monthly meeting of February 20, 2026, amended to read Burgess Barnes and Burgess Bowdler were absent, were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Letter and Proposal from Cultural District Commission for Sculpture at Wad Square.
Blessing of the Fleet Road Race and Parade Use of Borough Property Requests.
SVIA Fourth of July Parade and Use of Wad Square Borough Property Request.

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period February 16, 2026, through March 13, 2026, totaled \$139,805.56. Large bills of note were Aquarion fire hydrants, snowstorm removal costs including materials. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,587,663; and net income to date of \$327,385.

**Current YTD Balance Sheet
BOROUGH OF STONINGTON
As of March 13, 2026**

Distribution account	Total
1003 Dime-Fire Dept. Major Exp	38,316.34
1007 Dime - Infrastructure	48,925.37
1011 Dime - Building Fund	32,899.27
1015 Dime - Truck Fund	14,837.60

Total for Dime - Due to Others	\$134,978.58
Total for 1000 Dime Bank Checking Account	\$5,003.43
1200 Dime Investment AC	\$1,025,768.12
Total for Bank Accounts.	\$1,030,771.55

WARDEN’S REPORT

Attended regular and emergency SECOG Meeting.
 Notified by DOT of scheduled April 6 Mtg with Bill Middleton, myself, and Borough and town stakeholders.
 Revised Warden letter for issue.
 Initiated Draft FY 2026-2027 Budget.
 Attended One Fire Chief Search Committee meeting with Amy and Chief - 10
 Applications received.
 Discussed possible financial assistance for storm/blizzard costs with Heather Somers.
 Met with Nick Kepple to address agreement with United Church on the Bell Tower.

Street and Sidewalks Commissioner Report (Schefers)

Conducted Blizzard Plowing and Removal.
 Procured additional Storm Signage.
 Developed action list of required Storm/Blizzard repairs.
 Our older Truck is in for major transmission repairs.
 Conducted monthly Brush pickup.
 Received calls and emails for damage to residents’ property. Emerson and Warden will review damages tomorrow.

Perhaps we will be looking at a 10 percentage increase in our FY 2026-27 budget

Sue and Warden will meet with the contractors about the storm.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 13 alarms (7 were in the Borough) in February 2026, they were as follows:

- 1) 2-1-2026 1:59pm Water emergency 270 N. Main St. (pumped 4-5 feet of water from basement)
- 2) 2-8-2026 6:58am Medical assist with SAC 23 Lamberts Lane (lift assist)
- 3) 2-9-2026 11:26am Osprey nest fire on pole @ Velvet Mill (EVERSOURCE enroute)
- 4) 2-10-2026 7:17pm Fire Alarm Activation 166 Briar Patch Rd. (workers)
- 5) 2-11-2026 8:42am Fire Alarm Activation 8 Broad St. Unit #3 (water in detector, ceiling)
- 6) 2-11-2026 9:19am Fire Alarm Activation 13 E. Grand St. (nothing found)
- 7) 2-11-2026 2:28pm Wire down IFO 91 Water St. (utility wire)
- 8) 2-16-2026 6:30pm Foul odor (ammonia?) 9 Grand St. (metered building, nothing found)

- 9) 2-18-2026 9:25am Furnace backfire 27 Harbor View Terrace (metered, tech enroute)
- 10) 2-20-2026 12:57am Water emergency 5 Shore Dr. (multiple water line breaks)
- 11) 2-22-2026 6:28am Medical assist with WAC 7 Carriage Dr. (lift assist)
- 12) 2-22-2026 5:08pm Foul odor (ammonia?) 9 Grand St. (vented & metered building)
- 13) 2-23-2026 1:25pm Tree & Wires down on top of a car 20 Grand St. (EVERSOURCE enroute)

Please note that the police had to be called to ticket vehicles that were parked for more than 72 hours after the storm. Finally, the traffic calming committee had its initial meeting last week. We hope to have information to share at the next Warden and Burgess meeting. The storm signage will be updated for clarification. Chief Hoadley will be included in a traffic calming committee meeting.

Elevator boards going into machine continue to be problematic. Still out of order. There is an insurance adjustor who will be looking at damage in the elevator machine room. Warden mentioned there was a request to put a banner on Water St. for SVIA. Banners will be hung on firehouse because any Water Street location is too low and we cannot use Eversource Utility poles.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

None

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Firehouse:

The Firehouse roof leak caused by ice accumulation from two recent winter storms remains under review. We are continuing to work with the insurance company to determine the scope of the repair and next steps.

Replacement elevator panels have been ordered, but they have not yet arrived. We will schedule installation once they are delivered.

Borough Hall:

Nothing to report this month.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Craig Rowley of 19 Summit Street asked for more clarification on the snow plowing and on street parking on Elm St. Mentioned that street number be used in the minutes, not the homeowner name. He asked that a professional be hired to remove the graffiti on the footbridge. He asked that the issue of removal of the graffiti be put on the April agenda.

Resident Jim Andrus of 41 Orchard said that people should remove their vehicles in the case of blizzards. The Borough cannot do all for every situation regarding snow.

Resident Stu Malcolm asked about the speed sign on Main Street. It is being removed and replaced.

Resident Al Razzano of 25 Main Street asks that a role call be done before every W&B meeting. Regarding limiting 18 wheelers, there is an ordinance in the town regarding this. When it is doing commerce, the driver can still go down the street. A sign is needed to clarify the rules.

Resident Stu Malcolm asked that Susan and Emerson should be given a day off when they work so many hours. Warden said that compensatory time has been given to them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Viaduct Update

DOT is presenting revised designs on April 6th to stakeholders. The set of plans will be presented before the meeting. Still lobbying Amtrak to reopen the emergency crossing.

Stormwater Management Update

Follow up with DEEP and DOT regarding remediation. Flooding continues to be a problem.

Water Street Ginkgo Tree Posting

The tree is too much of a legal and insurance liability. Warden suggested we replace the tree with one at Wad Square, not near a sidewalk. Burgess Barnes indicated that the Pandolfi's should replace the tree. Burgess Barnes will make arrangements to have the tree removed.

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to have the female ginkgo tree in front of the Pandolfi's house at 168 Water Street be removed, was approved by majority, Burgess Barnes opposed.

Borough Traffic Committee Update

Burgess Nicholas said it was an excellent meeting and a great document has been shared by Casey Malcolm. We need to define the scope of this committee's project purview. Meeting again this Thursday.

Fire Chief Search Committee

There were 10 respondents to the posting. 2 were from Stonington, 2 were area residents, 6 others that were a distance away. They were highly qualified individuals. Professional screening

and interview process is next. Intent is to hire by May 1st. Chief Hoadley will be a part time consultant.

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT BEFORE VOTES

None

Cultural District Request

Tabled until April.

Blessing of the Fleet Requests

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the application made by St. Michael Parish/Norwich Diocese to use Town Dock and Borough Streets for the Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race on July 23 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Blessing of the Fleet event and procession on July 26 from 10 am to 4:00 pm, subject to proof of insurance, was unanimously approved.

SVIA Request

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the application by SVIA to use Main, Water, Broad, High Streets and Wad Square Streets to be closed by SPD (per town application on April's Police Commissioner agenda) for the 4th of July Parade sponsored by SVIA, public invited, and use of Wad Square for reading of the Declaration of Independence, Ocean Community Chamber Birthday Cake, and adding limited buntings on cannons at Cannon Square, subject to liability insurance by SVIA, was unanimously approved.

The banner will be on the Firehouse. Because this is for the 250th Anniversary, this is a one time request. There will be flags put on the four corners of Cannon Square. \$2,000 for the Parade was already approved as part of this year's budget.

OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION

Ian Cooke plantings issue will be put on April agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, adjournment of the meeting at 8:28 p.m., was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
March 21, 2026