

Borough of Stonington  
Board of Warden and Burgesses  
February 17, 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 Stonington Borough Fire Station. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers, were Burgesses Amy Nicholas and Kevin Rogers. Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman was absent although connected by telephone. Burgesses Amanda Barnes and Kevin Bowdler were absent. Approximately 8 members of the public were present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Warden Schefers, the minutes of the monthly meeting of January 20, 2026, were unanimously approved.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RECEIVED:

Norwich Diocese Our Lady of Fatima Procession Request.  
Eight Constituent emails on Ginkgo Tree Posting

**REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER**

None

**REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bills for the period January 19, 2026, through February 13, 2026, totaled \$63,484.10. Large bills of note were for the final audit billing, Aquarion fire hydrants, ½ payment for firehouse elevator, Jim Butler for P&Z Regs and Printing plus for storm regulation signs. I&E for July 2025 through June 30, 2026, shows total income to date of \$1,569,587; and net income to date of \$447,373.

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

<u>Distribution account</u>	<u>Total</u>
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	<u>14,837.60</u>

<b>Total for Dime - Due to Others</b>	<b>\$134,978.58</b>
<b>Total for 1000 Dime Bank Checking Account</b>	<b>\$3,399.16</b>
<b>1200 Dime Investment AC</b>	<b>\$1,194,174.20</b>
Total for Bank Accounts.	<b>\$1,197,573.36</b>

**WARDEN’S REPORT**

- Attended SECOG Meeting
- Attended SEAT Board
- Revised 6-month Warden Letter for issue
- Completed revised Chart of Accounts to align with FY Audit Reports (see Finance Report)
- Attended two Fire Chief Search Committee meetings with Amy and Chief

**COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS**

**Streets & Sidewalks (Schefers)**

- Conducted Storm (2) Plowing and Snow Removal efforts
- Procured Storm Signage
- Placed Signage throughout Borough as appropriate
- \$100,000 cost estimate on the previous storms.

**Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)**

- SBFD Responded to 10 Alarms (8 were in the Borough) in January 2026, they were as follows:
- 1) 1-1-2026 12:14am Several pieces of plywood on fire, Stonington Point (new year fireworks)
  - 2) 1-9-2026 6:46am Deer stuck in ice IFO 48 Harbor View Terrace (deer swam away)
  - 3) 1-10-2026 3:39pm Fire Alarm Activation 51 Main St. (accidental)
  - 4) 1-17-2026 3:28am CO issue 45 Broad St. (2 adults transported to hospital, 10-15ppm CO on meter)
  - 5) 1-20-2026 5:30am Broken water main Pine Point Bridge (SBFD laid 1400' of 5" supply line from Quanaduck Cove to south of Pine Point Bridge to keep Boro supplied with water)
  - 6) 1-22-2026 10:35am Fire Alarm Activation 26 Stanton Rd. (workers, accidental)
  - 7) 1-25-2026 2:30am Possible person fallen into water Stonington Town Dock (multiple agencies responded, person found approx. 9am)
  - 8) 1-26-2026 10:27pm CO Detector Activation 123 Water St. 2ndfloor (metered unit, nothing found)
  - 9) 1-26-2026 11:05pm CO Detector Activation 123 Water St. 2nd floor (clock on stove stuck)
  - 10) 1-31-2026 7:17pm Heater malfunction 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (unit sparking, turned power off to unit, management called electrician)

Burgess Nicholas is now on the Stonington Police Commission.

**Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)**

None

## **Public Buildings (Rogers)**

### **Borough Hall:**

Borough Hall continues to operate smoothly with no significant issues to report at this time.

In preparation for planned spring improvements, I have begun sourcing qualified contractors for two upcoming projects. The first involves upgrading the lighting, for which I am currently consulting with licensed electricians. The second project includes the installation of ductless mini-split air conditioning systems. In addition to improving climate control within Borough Hall, the main office will also receive a mini-split unit along with a modest interior "facelift" to modernize the space and update its appearance.

**Borough Firehouse:** At the Fire House, the elevator experienced operational issues last month and into this month. Repairs are currently underway. Coincidentally, during the recent period of heavy snow and ice, a problem was identified with the metal roof directly above the elevator shaft and adjacent electrical panels. Water infiltration was observed in this area. The Fire Chief is actively working with the Borough's insurance provider to determine the appropriate course of action to fully assess and properly remediate the issue to prevent further damage.

I will continue to monitor these matters and provide updates as progress is made.

### **Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Viaduct Update**

The sets of three designs have not been forthcoming.

### **Stormwater Management Update**

None.

On a motion by Burgess Rogers and seconded by Warden Schefers, the postponement of the Water Street Ginkgo Tree vote to the March meeting, was unanimously approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Borough Traffic Committee Appointment**

On a motion by Warden Schefers, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the appointment of Burgess Amy Nicholas as Chair, Burgess Amanda Fowler, Jesse Diggs, Casey Malcolm, and Meghan LaCour, was unanimously approved.

### **Norwich Diocese Procession Request**

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, the Our Lady of Fatima Feast Procession on May 17, 2026, was unanimously approved.

### **Water Street Ginkgo Tree Posting**

Postponed per the above vote

### **Ocean Community Proposed Art Display**

Lisa Konicki made a presentation for a proposed art display to be installed somewhere in the borough along with two other locations in town. Her presentation was complete and brought up both positives and negatives to the locations. She has asked the Board to come back to her on whether they want the Borough to participate.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Resident Ted Beck of 170 Water Street spoke of the safety concern of the fruit from the ginkgo tree from the slippery fruit. Halloween is especially dangerous because there are lots of people running around. The fruit is so heavy, when it falls it breaks limbs and dents cars. Won't wash off in a car wash. People used to harvest but haven't in the last five years. Borough has a liability if someone falls or a limb falls.

Resident Ian Cooke of 69 Main Street regarding his planting in front of his house between the sidewalk and the curb. He feels everyone enjoyed his plantings. Borough snow clean up contractor ruined the bed during snow clean up. Why did the grass strips need to be cleaned? Also, trees were scraped during the clean-up. He followed the rules the Borough required of him. So, why didn't anyone contact him?

Resident Al Razzano of 25 Main Street feels it would be burdensome to keep a list of what should not be cleaned up after a snowstorm.

Resident Craig Rowley of 19 Summit Street thanked Kevin Bowdler for his correspondence but had him confused with Keven Rogers. Asked that the Warden and Burgesses introduce themselves at the meetings.

His two cars were plowed in during the storm. While digging them out a policeman said he would have to tow them. Mr. Rowley explained SB-06, the policeman came back and said Mr. Rowley was correct. Mr. Rowley wanted to know where the correct signs with the correct explanation of SB-06 were? We need new signage with the correct wording in Borough East for Elm St. snowstorm parking.

Has there been any action taken on the removal of graffiti on the footbridge? No. Why not? Can not find a product to remove the graffiti. Mr. Rowley suggested we find a professional contractor to give us a quote.

### **OTHER BUSINESS and DISCUSSION**

Warden Schefers stated is our intent to have a critique on the snowstorm – Chief, Amy, Sue, contractors, and myself.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman

March 1, 2026