

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
April 10, 2023
MINUTES**

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the special 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. Present, in addition to Warden Callahan, were Burgesses Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, and Shaun Mastroianni; and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Kevin Rogers was absent. Approximately 17 members of the public were present. The special meeting was preceded by a public hearing on the proposed budget. No changes to the budget were suggested during the hearing.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2023 were unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

Robin Grimsley, request for reconsideration of hotdog sales at Point
CLA Engineers, report on footbridge condition
Noah's request for two four-tops on Water Street
Letter of resignation and letter of application for alternate on the P&Z Commission
COMO application for use of Borough property for the annual Village Fair
OUTGOING: None

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER REGARDING MAY 2023 ELECTION

All deadlines have been met. There have been 13 absentee ballot applications received. I met with the other Town Clerks via Zoom with the Secretary of the State. The Warning of Election will be published in The Day between April 16-25. One absentee ballot was issued at the meeting.

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills for the period March 18, 2023 through April 7, 2023 totaled \$19,937.14. I&E through April 7, 2023 shows total revenue to date of \$1,387,007.06, which is \$34,521 over budget; and net income to date of \$338,370.76.

WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Discussed cannon repairs with Brian Cooper of Deschenes & Cooper Architectural Millwork
2. Provided information to State regarding viaduct replacement project. Work is planned to be done 2025-2026
3. Attended monthly Town Department Head meeting

4. Local Covid statistics: New London County cumulative deaths now total 792. State positivity rate about 3%; New London County positivity rate about 5%
5. Met with Borough Atty to discuss ensuring Borough access to clock
6. After reading CLA report on footbridge, directed CLA to develop a scope of work to correct deficiencies.

BOROUGH CLOCK --

Pigeon access point in United Church has been blocked; pigeon droppings on clock deck removed

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Callahan) 1.

Conducted monthly brush pickup.

2. Checked Harbor Edge outfall
3. Filled potholes
4. Raked Wad Square
5. Water Street paving scheduled for 4/17-18, weather permitting.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

Sbfd responded to seven Alarms in March 2023, they were as follows:

- 1) 3-11-23 10:34am Fire Alarm Activation 40 Grand St. (workers)
- 2) 3-13-23 3:18pm Smoke detector activation 25 High St. (dead battery)
- 3) 3-13-23 7:28pm Electrical issue 2 Cannon Square (EVERSOURCE issue)
- 4) 3-13-23 8:29pm Electrical issue 15 Elm St. (EVERSOURCE issue)
- 5) 3-20-23 4:03pm Medical assist with SAC 41 Orchard St. (lift assist)
- 6) 3-21-23 9:03pm Fire Alarm Activation 1 Omega St. (burnt food)
- 7) 3-31-23 11:48am Fire Alarm Activation 117 Water St. (workers)

February Police Incident Report

March Police Incident Report

In March, the police responded to 38 calls in the borough including 6 Medical Assists, 5 Fire Related Calls, 5 Alarm Burglar 2 of which were false, 4 Check Building/Business, 3 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaint, 3 911 Hang ups/Misdials, 2 Domestic Disturbance and 2 Assist Other Agency. There was one incident each of Minor Traffic Service, Alarm Panic (false alarm), Assist Citizen, Community Policing, Animal Control, Harassment, Found Item and Keys in Vehicle.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

Nothing to report

Public Buildings (Mastroianni)

Nothing to report. The landscaping at the Firehouse will be completed by the end of the month. Stonework will be repaired.

Utilities & Sanitation (Rogers)

Three trash notices issued. Nothing to report on utilities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sandy Murray requested an absentee ballot application. She also asked when the banners on the viaduct will be put up. She was told early May. Sibby Lynch asked about when granite curbs will be put in on Water Street. Warden Callahan replied that could be part of the planned viaduct replacement project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Robin Grimsley’s request for reconsideration of hotdog sales at Point

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to deny the request by Robin Grimsley to reconsider the Board’s previous decision regarding hotdog sales at the Point was unanimously approved. The stated reason for the denial is that the Borough must first develop an ordinance that deals with vending at the Point – and other locations – and lays out clear criteria for deciding what types of vending operations are allowed. The Board will begin work on such an ordinance.

Consider comments on/revisions to FY 2022-23 budget

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve the proposed FY 2023-24 budget as presented and submit it to the April 2023 annual Borough meeting, was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider requests to use Borough property The COMO, request to use Wadawanuck Square and High Street for the Village Fair

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the request by Stonington Community Center to use Wadawanuck Square and High Street for the 71st Annual Stonington Village Fair on Saturday August 5, 2023, with a portion of High Street being closed in front of the Stonington Free Library, was approved by majority. Burgess Mastroianni abstained.

Noah’s Restaurant, request to place two four-top tables on the sidewalk on Water Street

A motion by Burgess Mastroianni, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve the request by Noah’s Restaurant to place two four-top tables on the Water Street sidewalk in front of the restaurant from April 15–December 1, 2023, was unanimously approved. The tables may not have a fifth chair.

Consider adjustments to FY 2022-23 budget, per Borough Charter chapter 8

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, to approve proposed adjustments to the FY 2022-23 budget, per Charter chapter 8, was unanimously approved.

Discuss CLA report on footbridge

The footbridge needs painting. There are some concrete repairs to be made. Once Warden Callahan saw the report he asked CLA to draw up a proposal to develop bid documents for a project to make needed repairs.

Consider appointing Al Razzano as an alternate on P&Z Commission

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to appoint Al Razzano as an alternate on the P&Z Commission, was unanimously approved. Mr. Razzano fills the remaining portion of Mr. Horsey's term, which ends December 31, 2023. Mr. Horsey has resigned from the Commission.

Consider approving revised position description for Public Works Tech

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to accept the revised position description for the Public Works Technician, was unanimously approved. The revision added responsibility for the maintaining the Borough Clock.

Executive Session to discuss pending claim related to tree at 4 Broad Street

A motion was made by Warden Callahan to enter Executive session at 7:41 pm. The Board came out of executive session at 8:03 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

The Warden mentioned the need for Board members to fill positions on the Waldron-Williams Fund Board of Trustees and on the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board.

The Town has passed an ordinance to form two cultural districts, of which the Borough is one. The Town is seeking residents who are interested in serving on the commission that will oversee the districts.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:04 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman

April 19, 2023