

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses Regular Monthly Meeting
December 18, 2023
MINUTES

Warden Michael Schefers 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. Present, in addition to Warden Schefers were Burgesses Kevin Rogers, Amy Nicholas, Kevin Bowdler and Amanda Barnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Approximately 7 members of the public were present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, approval of the minutes of the monthly meeting of November 20, 2023 were tabled until the January 2024 meeting, due to reviewing and updating public comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECEIVED:

Kathryn Burchenal, email Flood prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion
Edward Smith, email regarding renewal Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Event application for New Year's Eve Ball Drop
Email From Nancy Donahue regarding Water Street and speed
W. Cosgrove Email re: 24 Cutler
Amtrak response letter

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

None

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT; ARPA UPDATE

Bills for the period November 20, 2023 through December 15, 2023 totaled \$50,321.72. Large bills of note were \$3,906.88 for ServiceMaster for Fire Station sewer incident, \$5,673 to Superior Sewer for Fire Station sewer incident, and \$7,650 to O'Connor Davies for Borough Audit. I&E through December 15, 2023 shows total revenue to date of \$1,105,580.49; and net income to date of \$278,064.06. Balance of ARPA funds is \$30,538.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Attended November SCOOG meeting.
Attended Danielle's Staff meeting and our new bi-monthly meeting.
Attended Connecticut Council of Municipalities Convention.
Attended SECT Enterprise Region Annual Meeting.
Meeting on Speed Cushion/Plan forward with Amy & Police & Public Works. The speed cushions have been tabled until town pursues a town-wide study. In the meantime, stanchions in the crosswalks at Pearl, High and Church St. will be placed. Amy suggested we put reflective tape on the wrong way sign on Water St at Dime Bank.

Attended SCOOG Legislative Committee.
Attended Comfort Station Update Meeting with Danielle and Amanda.
Attended SCOOG Orientation Zoom Meeting w/November Elected Members.

BOROUGH CLOCK –

None

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS

Streets & Sidewalks (Scheffers)

Conducted monthly brush pickup.
Continued leaf pick-up.
Continued Park maintenance.
Installed new Pedestrian Sign at Lighthouse.
Installed a larger Stop Ahead Sign at Lighthouse.
Removed Storm Seaweed from East Grand Street.
Painted extended yellow No Parking Lines per Amy's request.

Fire & Emergency Management (Nicholas/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 14 Alarms in November 2023, they were as follows:

- 1) 11-2-23 5:27am CO detector activation 330 North Main St. (nothing found)
- 2) 11-8-23 6:33pm Fire Alarm Activation 37 Quana Duck Rd. (burnt food)
- 3) 11-10-23 8:39pm Fire Alarm Activation 17 Elihu Island Rd. (burnt steak)
- 4) 11-15-23 11:50am Odor of Propane 22 Bayview Ave. Velvet Mill (forklift truck)
- 5) 11-16-23 6:57pm Fire Alarm Activation 152 Elm St. Ston. Town Hall (heat alarm, server room heat detector)
- 6) 11-21-23 11:36pm Fire Alarm Activation 152 Elm St. Ston. Town Hall (heat alarm, server room heat detector)
- 7) 11-22-23 1:08pm Medical Assist with SAC 36 Main St. (lift assist)
- 8) 11-22-23 2:46pm MVA IFO 182 Water St. (car into pole, no injuries)
- 9) 11-23-23 9:34am Fire Alarm Activation 20 North St. Wamphassuc Pt. (burnt toast)
- 10) 11-24-23 10:00am Medical assist with MRA 14 Oak St. L.P. (cardiac arrest, CPR)
- 11) 11-24-23 7:34pm Fire Alarm Activation 272 Flanders Rd. (accidental, child)
- 12) 11-26-23 8:58am Electrical issue SHYC docks 32 Water St. (electrical stanchion on dock fell into water & was smoking)
- 13) 11-28-23 9:51pm CO detector activation 157 Flanders Rd. (nothing found)
- 14) 11-30-23 9:52pm CO detector activation 11 School St. (nothing found, replaced battery)

November Police Incident Report

In November, the police responded to 51 incidents in the borough including 6 Burglar Alarm 2 of which were false, 6 Medical Assists, 5 Check Building, 4 Fire related calls, 4 Suspicious Activities, 3 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 3 Community Policing, 3 Assist Citizen, 3 911 Hang ups/Misdials, 2 Keys in Vehicle and 2 Welfare Check. There was one incident each of Vandalism,

Disabled Vehicle, Larceny, Disturbance, Marine Incident, Minor Traffic Service, Scam, Initiated PR, Nuisance, and Open Door/Window.

There was one arrest related to one of the Suspicious Activities.

On December 5th, Borough Government met with the Police Chief and the Town's Department of Public Works to discuss Speed Cushions and other traffic calming measures. The Speed sign was moved to Water Street. We anticipate ordering Pedestrian Crossing Signs that should help slow traffic.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes)

After receiving estimates from SavATree and JSP Tree Service, I decided to move forward with Bartlett for the renewal and stump grinding of the maple on Wad Square and the linden in front of 68 Main Street for a total cost of approximately \$8,900. This is about half of what the other services would have charged. In addition to this work, a tree in front of 53 Main Street and two lindens in front of 68 Main Street will be pruned this week.

Public Buildings (Rogers)

Met with Julia Leeming regarding the bathroom at Borough Hall. She is bringing in Brendon Malloy regarding electrical, walls and floors and plumbing part to help her with the mechanical design. He will report to the W&B at the January 2024 meeting. She wanted to impress us that construction start could be held up for a long time.

Utilities & Sanitation (Bowdler)

Eleven citations have been issued this month for yellow bags that are placed on the curb the night before collection and not placed in a sealed bin. Two of these citations are \$100 fines for two addresses who have previously received a warning. These are the first two fines that I have issued. A number of the offenders live in multi-family homes, and it is not clear who the correct offender, so I have just been marking the street address on the citation and sticking it to the plastic recycling bins that have all accompanied the open yellow bags.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Jesse Diggs of 8 Church Street appreciates all the letters being in the agenda packet and remarked that the Amtrak letter in the packet is missing 2nd page; Harbor Management members is incorrect on the Borough website; Lighthouse might be a good location for a speed cushion and remarked there is a mirror there; Two issues from the draft November meeting minutes must be clarified (ADA door issue and that the comfort station needs to have drawings and expenses firmed up) before the approval by the Board.

Pam Mola of 2 Church Street questioned sidewalk on Water St in front of McCarthy's house since the tree was removed. The town has been asked to work with Sue on lifting the stone and sidewalk to repair it.

She commented that with all the rain in the last two weeks, Church St and Water St at Noah's did not flood due to the grate being removed from the fallout at Harboredge. Asked the Board to put the work on pause. Warden said that it will be addressed when the newest update comes.

Resident Michelle Petrocelli of 1 Church St. agrees that there is no flooding and why should we spend all the money?

Doug Mola of 2 Church Street questioned the possible double insurance payment from November meeting. Burgess Bowdler responded that it was not a double payment, but rather one insurance payment on the wrong line of the P&L.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comfort Station Update

Burgess Barnes remarked that committee members had met with Danielle Chesebrough and updated her on what the Borough was talking about regarding bathrooms at Borough Hall and that we are waiting on drawings and numbers. We discussed additional porta-potties and that we want an additional unit with a fence and landscaping. She suggested that the committee meet with the Board of Finance in February with a specific plan. Other thoughts on financing these projects are the Garden Club Grant for the fence and landscaping, and Ocean Community Chamber Grant funds.

Viaduct update

Letter received from Amtrak. A zoom conference will be held in the near future.

Draft Vendor Ordinance

Burgess Bowdler Planning and Zoning have met. Until a town meeting has been held nothing will progress on this.

Water Street Flooding Project Update

DEEP sent comments and questions on the CLA application. Warden will contact CLA about the questions from DEEP. The report is in our files.

Recreational Vehicles and Motor Homes (Ordinance Clarification)

Warden has asked Attorney Kepple about this, and it was recommended as a first that CT Council of Municipalities give us a data dump on ordinances and planning and zoning from towns around the state regarding RVs and Motor Homes.

NEW BUSINESS

Cash management

A motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to invest cash in the amount of \$500,000 into US Treasury Bills (\$200K in a 1-year US Treasury Bills at 5.1% indicative rate, \$200K in a 2-year US Treasury Bills at 4.6% indicative rate, and \$100K in US Treasury Bills at 4.2% indicative rate) as *Longer-Term Investments*.

Medium-Term FDIC Insured Market Link CDs invested at Dime, as follows: (\$100K in a 3-month CD at 5.35%, \$100K in a 6-month CD at 5.3%, \$100K in a 9-month CD at 5.25%, \$100K in a 12-month CD at 5.05%.)

Short Term. Dime Money Market account. If we left \$250,000 in the Dime Checking account at the end of November, there would be \$300,000 that could be invested in the money market account which would be available on one days' notice.

Dime will charge fees of 0.35% of the market value. E.g. 1MM investment would incur fees of \$3,500 per year, in its Custody Account. If we were to earn an average of 4.5% per year, on our investments, our net revenue would be \$41,500 per year.

Change the Checking account to an account that does not earn interest and does not pay any fees. Even if we had \$500,000 in the checking account, it would earn less interest than the fees we pay on the account. The type of account can be changed by Dime without changing the account number so this would be a simple change to effect. Unanimously Approved.

Warden, Burgesses, and Clerk-Treasurer signed the Dime Bank documents.

Town Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board

A motion by Burgess Bowdler, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to approve to be a part of the town-wide effort managed by FPCREC Board, delegating Borough interests in the study and mitigate flood, climate and erosion issue coming before the Boards, with the exception of Planning and Zoning related issues and recommendations that must come before the Borough Planning and Zoning Commission. Unanimously approved.

Edward Smith, re-appoint Stonington Harbor Commission

A motion by Burgess Rogers, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to approve the re-appointment of Edward

Smith to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission for a two-year term, was unanimously approved.

Consider requests to use Borough property.

Event application for New Year's Eve Ball Drop

A motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to approve the request by Alden Alexander to use Stonington Point from 11:30 pm on Dec 31, 2022 until 12:30 am on January 1, 2023, for the New Year's Eve ball drop, contingent on receiving their liability declaration from Alden, passed unanimously.

Executive Session

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Rogers, to enter Executive Session at 8:06 p.m., passed unanimously.

The Board exited Executive Session in 8:16 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Bowdler, adjournment of the meeting at 8:16 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa M. Coleman
January 2, 2024