



## Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses

### Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes - February 18, 2020

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Following the annual inspection of the fire department, Warden Jeff Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at the Stonington Borough Fire Department at 7:00 p.m. Present were Burgesses Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Bergin O'Malley, and Kevin Rogers. Burgesses Amanda Barnes and Karen von Ruffer Hills and Clerk-Treasurer, Tiffany Cook, were absent. Burgess O'Malley took the minutes.

#### 2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess O'Malley seconded by Burgess Rogers, the minutes of the regular meeting held January 21, 2020 were unanimously approved.

#### 3. REPORT OF ADMIN ASSISTANT

Received dumpster renewal fees: \$300 and Processed 1099 Forms

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

**Requests:** SHYC: request for Flare demonstration on 5/9

St. Mary Church request for Lady of Fatima processions on May 16 & 17

La Grua Center: request for Annual Stonington Sounds Summer Music Festival on 6/20

Blessing of the Fleet Committee: request for procession and event on 7/26

**Meetings: none**

**Other:** Stonington Volunteer Ambulance Corps: Letter requesting a one-time funding increase

Kevin Bowdler: email volunteering at P&Z alternate

Stonington Fire District: letter regarding indemnification language on Fire Protection Agreement.

Stonington Police Department: letter regarding Blessing of the Fleet event

**Outgoing:** letter from warden to the United Church discussing insurance coverage for Borough clock

#### 5. REPORT OF CLERK TREASURER

No report

#### 6. REVIEW of BILLS & YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Total bills for the month: \$48,389.66

Total revenue YTD: \$1,290,527 against a budget of \$1,295,837

Net income \$388,146.69 and reserve of \$347,000



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#### 7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Prepared input to annual MS4 report
2. Submitted paperwork for LoCIP reimbursement for Borough Hall generator installation
3. P&ZC gave final approval to revised regulations, which go into effect on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. Participated in MS4 conference call with Director of Public Works and consultants
5. Negotiated changes to Street Dept employee letters of agreement
6. Received Probate Court Decree merging the Williams and Waldron Funds. Next step is for the trustees of both funds to meet to figure out new bylaws.

#### BOROUGH CLOCK

Received value appraisal of Borough Clock (about \$50,000). Sent letter to United Church requesting information on their property insurance. No new information about status of the clock.

#### 8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

##### a. Streets and Sidewalks (Callahan)

- 1) Assisted Fire Department during Feb 7<sup>th</sup> wind storm--helped put up barricades, 14 calls.
- 2) Brush pickup
- 3) Issued 3 dumpster permits
- 4) Repaired/replaced some street signs

##### b. Fire & Emergency Management (Rogers)

We responded to 10 Alarms in January 2020, they were as follows:

- 1) 1-3-20 8:50am Fire Alarm Activation 22 Diving St. (steam from a shower)
- 2) 1-6-20 10:29am Truck into bridge 201 North Main St. (garbage truck scraped under side of viaduct emptying dumpster @ Zack's bar & grill)
- 3) 1-7-20 2:23pm Fire Alarm Activation Velvet Mill (water flow)
- 4) 1-10-20 12:56pm Fire Alarm Activation 111 Tipping Rock Rd. (workers)
- 5) 1-13-20 4:25pm CO detector activation 18 Elm St. (faulty detector)
- 6) 1-13-20 8:31pm Odor of gas North Main St. @ Oak Dr. (nothing found)
- 7) 1-16-20 2:17pm Wires down 1 Omega St. (wind blew service off house)



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8) 1-18-20 2:43am Mutual Aid to Weq. Fire 985 Stonington Rd. (fully involved House Fire)

9) 1-21-20 3:09pm Fire Alarm Activation 5 Hampton St. Lord's Pt. (workers)

10) 1-27-20 10:58am Fire Alarm Activation 113 Water St. Noah's (workers)

Chief noted that the house at 985 Stonington road where the structural fire occurred did not have operating smoke detectors. We still need to get the message out there regarding the importance of people installing smoke detectors in their homes.

#### **c. Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Barnes by email)**

Warden Callahan and Burgess Barnes met with a potential candidate for the tree assessment project that they hope will be conducted in the Borough in the near future. They plan to meet with another candidate soon. They are also working on appropriate signage for the Betty Croteau Right of Way. Georgia Hann is finalizing work on the tags and plaques for the tree inventory.

#### **d. Public Buildings (Mastroianni)**

The generator installation is complete at Borough Hall, and Jeff, Roger, and Sue have received training on it's operation.

#### **e. Public Information (O'Malley)**

Coordinated with a graphic designer, Jess Wolcin, to update the Borough seal. We now have a high-resolution image we can use on Borough materials and official plaques etc.

#### **f. Police and Public Affairs (Nicholas)**

During the month of January 2020, there were 26 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 4 Fire related calls, 4 Medical Assists, 4 Check Building, 2 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 2 Accidents one of which was a hit and run, 2 Burglar Alarms both of which were false and 2 Larceny calls. There was one incident each of Disturbance, Transport, Suspicious Activity, Assist Citizen, 911 Misdialed and Patrol Request.

#### **g. Utilities & Sanitation (von Ruffer Hills by email)**

##### Sanitation:

Spoke to John Phetteplace, Solid Waste Manager, Town of Stonington on 1/31 regarding the early trash pick up. He advised the following:

He spoke to the Pick Up Provider and re-affirmed that they will not start picking up until 6:45am. It was agreed that if they come at 6:30am that would be okay - but they must not arrive earlier. If they do, he will be advised again. He also advised: that if snow is expected, the pick up will be before 6am - but they will return after the snow finishes the same day or next day to pick up any remaining trash.

##### Streetlights

I've been in touch with Stonington Town Hall regarding the two streetlights on the Viaduct - which will be updated when budget allows. In the meantime, the bulbs are being replaced. The



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street light by the footbridge remains out after numerous follow ups with Eversource. Burgess von Ruffer Hills will continue to follow up and ensure this gets done.

#### 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Hanratty asked about the track crossing at North Water Street. Warden Callahan has been in communication with Amtrak and the Borough is still expecting to be issued a key to have access so that personnel can cross the tracks on foot in an emergency situation. Getting a vehicle crossing installed would have to be approved at the State and the Federal levels and is, therefore, unlikely.

#### 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Burgess Barnes and Warden Callahan have been in discussion about placing a Betty Croteau right-of-way sign at Water Street and Waylands Wharf. Burgess Rogers said that Betty's granddaughter suggested "Betty's Way" as a name. Burgess Rogers will pass this tip to Burgess Barnes.

#### 11. NEW BUSINESS

Joe Williams, Commodore of the SHYC, came to discuss the proposed flare demonstration Saturday, May 9th in the morning at Stonington Point. There will be presentations by the Coastguard Auxilliary and marine safety equipment and they will have a flare demonstration. This is to open to the public as a safety demonstration. Needs to be approval by several agencies, and Scott Kraft will ensure this happens.

- 1) Motion to approve the request to use Borough property for the SHYC flare demonstration Saturday, May 9th on the condition that appropriate approvals received from other relevant parties. Moved by Burgess Mastroianni and seconded by Burgess Rogers. All voted in favor.
- 2) Motion to approve Lady of Fatima Processions, May 16th and 17th. Moved by Mastroianni and seconded by Nicholas. All voted in favor.
- 3) Motion to approve the La Grua Center's request for the Annual Stonington Sounds Summer Music Festival on Saturday, June 20th. Moved by O'Malley and seconded by Nicholas. All voted in favor.
- 4) Motion to approve a request for the annual Blessing of the Fleet procession on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Moved by Callahan and seconded by Mastroianni. Approval is contingent on receipt of required certificate of insurance. All voted in favor.
- 5) Motion to approve appointing Kevin Bowdler as an alternate member of P&ZC. Term to end 31 December 2022. Moved by Callahan and seconded by Rogers. All voted in favor.
- 6) Motion to schedule the Annual Meeting on Saturday 18th April at 10am. Moved by Warden Callahan and seconded by Nicholas. All voted in favor.



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7) Move to hold a public hearing for the Budget Thursday, April 2nd at 6:30pm. The April Warden & Burgesses Meeting will follow at 7pm. Moved by Warden Callahan and seconded by O'Malley. All voted in favor.

Discussion of draft FY20-21 budget. The Warden's draft does not include a change in the mill rate. Discussion about health insurance plans for employees and replacement equipment items for the SBFD. Chief Hoadley mentioned work needs to be done to repair the floors in the SBFD; he will send estimates to Warden Callahan. Burgess Mastroianni suggested we increase the amount for firefighter retirement reserve (LOSAP) if we have room in the budget. Burgess Nicholas will send questions to Warden Callahan about the employee benefits package. Infrastructure fund will include money for storm water system repairs. Burgesses Mastroianni and Rogers will research the cost of underground wiring on Water Street.

#### **12. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chief Hoadley wanted to ensure that the Board was happy with the state of the firehouse, having taken a tour prior to the meeting. Warden Callahan and the Burgesses expressed their gratitude to Chief Hoadley and the whole SBFD.

#### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Warden Callahan seconded by Burgess Nicholas adjournment of the regular meeting at 8:30pm was moved. All voted in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bergin O'Malley, Burgess  
February 19, 2020