

April 16, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Town Hall at 3:00 p.m. This meeting was also streamed virtually on Facebook live as well as via audio on a conference line. First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough was live on the Facebook feed while Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie joined via audio through the conference call line. No public or press were present in the room. Public and press were able to view via Facebook live as well as audio through a conference call.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Old Business

Update on COVID-19

Ms. Chesebrough gave an overview of COVID-19 during comments from the selectmen.

(4) New Business

Discussion – Tax Deferment Program [Governors Executive Order 7S] and Resolution

In accordance with Governor Lamont's Executive Order 7S each municipality must determine a program to offer support to eligible taxpayers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Linda Camelio, Tax Collector, gave an overview of the program that the Town will be offering.

Ms. Camelio gave an overview stating that the programs including deferment, deferment with application or low interest rate. The deferment program with application allows for 90 days (July 1-Oct 1, 2020) of no payment or interest until the 91st day. On the 91st day, Oct 2nd, the interest amount would fall back to the original due date of July 1st with 6% interest added. Those in need of the deferment such as residents who have been laid off, furloughed and business owners who have been forced to close would fill out a one-page document to apply.

Ms. Chesebrough spoke separately with different members of the Board of Finance, to think about the residents who are in need and felt that the deferment with application is the best option. The program is for those who are in need of tax deferment. At the time of the meeting only four towns were offering both programs, seven were offering low interest and twenty-one were offering deferment.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the Tax Deferment Program with application and the resolution.

In discussion, Ms. Downie and Ms. Strunk thanked Ms. Camelio for her clear analysis and for taking on the additional workload within her office.

(5) Comments from the Public

None

(6) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie had concerns regarding the noise ordinance in Town. She stated that the current noise ordinance is not enforceable and would like to make improvements to it. She stated that she attended a residential walk through, as the liaison to Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission, of a property with Candace Palmer and will provide her thoughts in a report to the Commission. Lastly, she asked about when the Transfer Station will go back to regular operations without appointments.

Ms. Downie thanked residents for all of the community outreach with mask making and helping their neighbors.

- Ms. Strunk stated that the K-12 Building Committee will hold a virtual meeting to pay outstanding invoices. She noted what an incredible community we live in with everyone helping and working together.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that the Transfer Station will continue operating under the same schedule with the need for appointments. It is likely that this process will stay in effect through May. She added that the process was made at the request of Transfer Station staff due to large volumes of residents who were not social distancing.

In regards to COVID-19, she added that she attends weekly virtual meetings with regional, state and health departments which has been very useful. A reopening commission has been established for the State of CT with different industries and groups being represented. She stated we are likely looking at a slow rollout of openings beginning at the end of May.

Lastly, a local mask making group, the Mask Makers of CT, reached out to see if the Town could be a drop off site as they were seeking donations of fabric. Within less than 24 hours over ten bags of cotton/flannel sheets and fabrics were donated on the steps of Town Hall. A big thank you to everyone that donated and to the mask makers for all they are doing to help.

(7) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Haskell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary