

April 27, 2022

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk, and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. Members of the public and press.

(1) Call to order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Public Hearing - 2022 Community Development Block Grant

Ms. Chesebrough called the Public Hearing to order at 5:32 p.m.

Director of Economic and Community Development read the Notice of Public Hearing posted in local newspapers regarding this Public Hearing to discuss the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Development Block Grant and solicit citizen input. The Town anticipates applying for \$700,000 under the Public Housing Modernization for Edythe K. Richmond Homes. Projects would include both indoor and outdoor improvements. Ms. Chesebrough confirmed that the Housing Authority would bear all administrative costs. Award is expected in late fall with the earliest start date of Spring 2023. Ms. Cullen stated that the last time this competitive grant was awarded to Stonington was 2015.

There being no public comments, the Public Hearing was unanimously closed at 5:38 p.m.

(4) Discussion-Items related to 2022 Community Development Block Grant

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to approve the Citizens Participation Plan and the resolution authorizing submission of a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application for Edythe K. Richmond Homes.

(5) Approval of the Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of April 13, 2022.

(6) Correspondence

None

(7) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment- Stonington Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to appoint Stathis Manousos to the Stonington Harbor Management Commission.

Appointment – Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to appoint Michelle T. Davis to the Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission.

Reappointment – Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to reappoint Carol Huskes, Raul Ferreira, James Kading and Tim O'Brien to the Pawcatuck Harbor Management Commission.

Ms. Chesebrough will check into the terms for everyone.

(8) Old Business

None

(9) New Business

- **Resolution – Town of Stonington Retirement Plan**

Director of Administrative Services Patti Burmahl reported that at the November 2021 Retirement Board meeting, a decision was discussed and approved for an ad hoc cost-of-living adjustment of 1/12th of one percent times the number of full months after retirement and prior to July 1, 2022, to a maximum adjustment of 10%. The last ad hoc cost-of-living adjustment was implemented in 2014. There are currently 177 in retirement status. Ms. Burmahl added that this has been included in approved budget. A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to approve the Resolution and send to Town Meeting. A discussion ensued as to how best schedule Town Meeting with three items currently on agenda. All agreed that process used at last Town Meeting worked well.

- **Award of Bid – Community Development Block Grant Consultant**

Ms. Chesebrough reported that an RFP was issued. A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to appoint ECHO as CDBG consultant.

- **Real Estate License Agreement-Concerning the Police Department's temporary use of 576 square feet of 251 Greenmanville Ave for Sub-Station**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk, and voted unanimously to approve the Real Estate License Agreement between Unicorn Project, LLC, and the Town of Stonington for use of the main lobby and bathroom as a Police Department Sub-Station.

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie thanked the voters for approving the Budget. She reported that the Mystic Boathouse Park meeting went well, and it is getting closer. The Beautification Committee will discuss having a table at the Spring Fest being held by Stonington Human Services.
- Ms. Strunk commented on the 1000's of hours it takes to prepare the budget. The Climate Change Task Force did not have a Solar Field update. There is still an open line item in budget for a Charging Station, there are grants available, but more information is required. Ms. Strunk mentioned a Draft Employee handbook from Alaska. Discussion ensued regarding PACE and a Home Energy pilot partnership with the Town. Planning & Zoning Affordable Housing document available to residents in coming

weeks and how best to share information with residents. She feels this should be a stand-alone item at a Town Meeting.

- Ms. Chesebrough commented on the return of the Hall of Fame awards. May is Mental Health Awareness month. Twenty-seven letters of support have been submitted to Rep. Courtney and Senator Murphy for funding for the North Pier. Gwenmor had submitted a quote of \$900,000, and there should be a decision within a week then request will go to Federal level. In regards to the water loop project, an MOU has been drafted and is being reviewed by Shawn Lacey, Westerly Town Manager which will also need to go before the Westerly Town Council.
- Ms. Strunk added that homelessness was discussed at the last Climate Change Task Force meeting. The annual fundraiser for Always Home is scheduled in two weeks.

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.


Leslie Packer, Recording Secretary