

October 26, 2022

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the District Office at 5:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough and Debbie Motycka Downie. Selectwoman June Strunk was available via phone. Members of the public and press were present.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Comments from the Public

None

(4) Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the joint Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee and Board of Selectmen special meeting minutes of October 3, 2022.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 12, 2022.

(5) Correspondence

None

(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Board of Police Commissioners

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Richard Balestracci to the Board of Police Commissioners.

The Board members thanked John Nazzaro and Jessica Mills for interviewing noting it was a difficult decision to make as they were also great candidates and encouraged their continued participation with the Police Commission. Ms. Strunk also noted that importance of applicants attending Police Commission meetings as well as supporting the Police Department's budget during Board of Finance meetings.

Reappointment – Stonington Housing Authority

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Debora Lee as the tenant member of the Stonington Housing Authority. It was noted that she was voted to this position by residents of Edith K. Richmond during their election for resident commissioner.

(7) Old Business

None

(8) New Business

Request – Accessory Dwelling Unit Statute Opt Out

Mr. Keith Brynes, Town Planner, forwarded a request stating that on October 18th the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) unanimously voted to opt out of CT Public Act 21-29. He noted that a resolution was passed by PZC with the next step to complete the process being a vote by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that zoning regulations were amended previously to allow greater flexibility in regards to accessory dwelling units. The zoning regulations will be updated within the next few years which will allow greater resident participation.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to opt out of CT Public Act 21-29.

In discussion, it was noted that the Board would like to ensure that accessory dwelling units are part of the zoning rewrites. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Discussion –Update to the Policies of Employment and Benefits for Non-Union Personnel

Ms. Patti Burmahl, Director of Administrative Services, gave an overview stating that in reviewing the non-union policy documents there was a need to make it more comprehensive as it had not included some benefit information and other policy language.

A motion was made by Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the updates to the policies of employment and benefits for non-union personnel.

Award of Bid – Salt Shed Replacement Project

The Department of Public Works received four bids for the Salt Shed Replacement Project on Oct 12, 2022. The scope of work includes construction of fabric covered salt shed, earthwork, site grading, installation of basin, loam, seeding, paving and interior/exterior lighting. The low bid was Suchocki & Son in the amount of \$796,500. The Dept of Public Works requested the award go to Suchocki & Son.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to award the bid for the Salt Shed Replacement Project to Suchocki & Son in the amount of \$796,500.

Discussion – ARPA Grant Budget line-item transfer for Town Hall Parking Lot Drainage and Paving Project to Salt Shed Replacement Project

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to transfer \$85,425 from the town hall parking lot drainage and paving project to the salt shed replacement project in the ARPA grant budget. The draining and parking lot project will be submitted as a CIP project.

Discussion – ARPA Grant Budget line-item transfer from Stonington Middle School HVAC line to contingency line

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to transfer \$100,000 from the Stonington Middle School HVAC line to the contingency line in the ARPA grant budget. It was noted, that the cost for the project was significantly higher than originally anticipated and neither ARPA or CIP funding could cover the cost. A future discussion will occur regarding bonding for the project.

Discussion – ARPA Grant Budget line-item transfer from Human Services HVAC line to Town Hall HVAC line

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to transfer \$340,000 from the human services HVAC line to the town hall HVAC line in the ARPA Grant Budget. This project has been postponed until further evaluation can occur.

Request – Building Permit Fee Waiver for Quiambaug Fire District

Quiambaug Fire District requested a building permit fee waiver in the amount of \$553.18 for a project in their meeting hall including replacing windows, doors and interior wall surfaces.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to waive the building permit fees in the amount of \$553.18 for the projects at Quiambaug Fire District.

Request – Use of Town Dock

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the use of the Town Dock grassy areas by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce from November 14, 2022 – January 20, 2023 from the lobster trap tree as well as for a tree lighting ceremony on November 26, 2022.

Request – Use of Donahue Park

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the use of Donahue Park and Veterans Park by the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce from December 9, 2022 – December 30, 2022 for the Starry Nights art exhibition.

Request – Assign Map 176, Block 8, Lot 9A, Street Number 190 Mason’s Island Road, Mystic, CT 06355

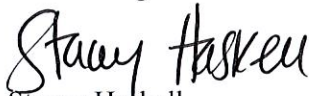
A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the request.

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie stated that she took part in the first meeting of the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board. The group will be meeting again next month and will continue to focus on their goals/mission. She noted that she has attended several different meetings regarding the Mystic River Boathouse Park as the project continues to move forward.
- Ms. Strunk stated that the Climate Change Task Force opted out of submitting a CIP request this year. She encouraged the group to be persistent and asked if the Board could include their request for EV stations in the CIP.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that a ground breaking was held for the Stonington Veteran Monument. The project will be completed next June. Additional funding is still needed for future items such as up lighting and benches. The water loop project is moving forward and is in the last stage of requirements before an environmental review and funding is released. A meeting to review a draft short term rental ordinance will be scheduled in November/December. Ms. Chesebrough asked for a moment of silence in honor of Christopher DiPaola, owner of WBLQ radio station, who passed away recently. He was an advocate for local businesses, nonprofits and the communities of Stonington and Westerly. The Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce is collecting donation on behalf of his family which can be dropped off at Town Hall.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary