

March 17, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Town Hall at 1:00 p.m. This meeting was also streamed virtually on Facebook live as well as via audio on conference call. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. No public or press were present in the room. Public viewed via Facebook live as well as audio through a conference call.

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Chesebrough gave an overview of how under the Governor's Executive Order the laws have been flexed to allow for meetings to occur with options such as live streaming and audio conference calls.

Ms. Chesebrough reviewed the option of declaring a local state of emergency. She stated that other municipalities have done so in the hopes that the declaration will line up their town for federal reimbursement. She noted that as of now reimbursement would not be coming through FEMA and therefore, she doesn't believe declaring the local state of emergency is warranted at this time. She added that the document has been prepared and can be acted upon at any time. Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie were in agreement to hold on the declaration for now.

She gave an update to the Board regarding the efforts that have been put in place both at the local and state level.

A few of the most recent actions signed into executive order by Governor Lamont (as of March 16, 2020) included:

- Revises the previously enacted prohibition on large gatherings to a capacity of 50 people, and adds religious gatherings to the list of activities subject to the limit.
- Limits restaurants to non-alcoholic beverage and take-out/delivery services only
- Requires closure of on-side operations at off-track betting facility operations
- Requires closure of gyms, fitness studios, and movie theaters

As of Monday March 16, 2020, the Town Hall, Human Services and Public Works Garage closed to the public. Staff remain actively working during this time and have been able to provide residents with services through email, phone or limited outdoor contact.

The transfer station has remained open; however, staff is unable to assist individuals.

All police, fire and EMS services continue to operate. The sewers have protocols established as well.

All of Human Services' scheduled activities have been postponed and the town is also canceling all non-essential meetings for the upcoming weeks.

In response to Stonington Public Schools (SPS) closure, in partnership with SPS Food Service, children under the age of 18 are continuing to get breakfast and lunch at a distribution site in the Human Services parking lot between 8-10 a.m.

The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's food pantry remains open to their clients. They are also available to take on new clients.

Ms. Chesebrough noted that she would be participating in a discussion with representatives from different stakeholder groups such as businesses, non-profits, etc., regarding the impacts they are facing short and long term.

Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie thanked Ms. Chesebrough for her leadership and noted their pride in serving together during this difficult time. Ms. Downie encouraged those who can to continue to support local businesses. Ms. Strunk encouraged those who can to check in on the seniors in their lives.

Ms. Chesebrough reminded everyone to follow social distancing guidelines, to check on family, friends, neighbors and take care each other.

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacey Haskell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary