

July 14, 2021

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 5:30 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. No members of the public or press were present.

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the special meeting minutes of June 21, 2021.

(4) Correspondence

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Charles Sheehan an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission requesting consideration of his becoming a regular member when a seat becomes available in August.

(5) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Water Pollution Control Authority

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint James Falconieri to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Reappointment – Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint James Kading to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Resignation – Shellfish Commission

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Dan Barrett as an alternate member of the Shellfish Commission with regret.

Resignation – Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors

The Selectmen accepted the resignation of Lucy Schlink from the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors with regret.

(6) Old Business

None

(7) New Business

Ms. Chesebrough requested additions to the agenda to include rescinding the previously awarded 4th District Voting Hall Drainage Project as well as rewarding the bid to the second lowest bidder.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to add the additional items to the agenda.

Discussion – Updating terms on the Stonington Facilities Committee

Ms. Chesebrough stated when the Stonington Facilities Committee was repopulated in 2019 the Board of Selectmen at the time set the terms to be staggered five years with one person having a one-year term, two having a two-year term and two having a three-year term. An oversight occurred and should have added into the makeup of the terms that thereafter the original terms the members would be reappointed to a two-year term.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and add a two-year term to the Stonington Facilities Committee once the original term has been met by the members.

Discussion – Request from Tax Collector on Abatement of Taxes at 75 Fair Acres Circle

Ms. Chesebrough stated that we received a request from Linda Camelio, Tax Collector, to abate the remainder of the taxes at 75 Fair Acres Circle, Mystic as the property was foreclosed upon by the Town and was sold back to the mobile home park owners. The taxes in the amount of \$1,824.42 were not paid by the sale of the mobile home.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the request and abate \$1,824.42 in taxes at 75 Fair Acres Circle, Mystic.

Discussion – Rescinding the Previously Awarded 4th District Voting Hall Drainage Project

Jim Sullivan, Director of Finance, requested that the Board of Selectmen rescind the earlier award which went to Tris State Land Management Contractor, Inc. for the 4th District Voting Hall Drainage Project. He noted that since they were awarded the project, they have been unresponsive to inquiries and have not responded to requests for contract or bond documents. Per the project specifications the items were due to the Town within 15 days of notice of award which occurred on May 28th.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to rescind the bid award to Tris State Land Management Contractor, Inc for the 4th District Voting Hall Drainage Project.

Discussion – Award of Bid: Drainage and Site Improvement for 4th District Voting Hall

The construction project at the 4th District Voting Hall includes the installation of tidal box valve, box culverts, drainage catch basins and (2) rain gardens. As the lowest bidder, Tris State Land Management has been rescinded. The second lowest bid was from Martin Laviero Contractors, Inc. for the amount of \$129,250. Public Works has reviewed the bid, references and all other associated documents are requesting an award of bid to Martin Laviero Contractors, Inc.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously award the bid for drainage and site improvements at the 4th District Voting Hall to Martin Laviero Contractors, Inc in the amount of \$129,250.

Discussion – American Rescue Plan Funds

Through the American Rescue Plan, Stonington is set to receive \$5,230,926.56 for local expenditure. Funds must be used to cover “costs incurred” by the recipient between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024, and Funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. The funds can only be allocated for certain uses. The US Department of Treasury has issued an interim guidance and organizations like the COG, CCM and NLC have all helped share their interpretation for allowed uses for municipalities.

Broadly speaking, funds can be used to cover costs associated with:

- Responding to the negative impacts of the COVID pandemic, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits as well as aid to affected industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- Providing government services previously cut due to pandemic-related revenue shortfalls, and;
- Making needed investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

It is important to note that general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision.

Current categories for funding shared by the First Selectman are outlined below. The Board discussed initial ideas linked the projects. Before the next Board of Selectman meeting, Ms. Chesebrough will prepare a short write-up on each item. These items were chosen based on initial feedback from Town Departments, previous budget discussions (and cuts) and input from various community organizations, as well as discussion with surrounding Towns. This is an early-stage outline, intended to start a broader discussion with the Board of Selectman, Board of Finance, and residents of Stonington.

Ms. Chesebrough shared the proposal for how to move forward with the process, which started with the next step being an informal presentation to get initial feedback from the Board of Finance during their August meeting, followed by two more meetings in August with the Board of Selectman. For the September Board of Finance meeting, there should be an official presentation on ARPA fund expenditures for Stonington. The goal is then having a public hearing where residents can share their input on the proposal, followed by Board of Finance final deliberation. This will then be sent to voters at a Town Meeting, likely in mid-October.

In summary the areas being considered for funding include, but are not limited to, grant programs for local organizations and businesses possibly through the South Eastern CT Cultural Coalition and the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce who have graciously offered their expertise and assistance. Capital Expenditures that were impacted due to budget cuts during COVID, such as HVAC improvements at Town Hall and Human Services, road paving and cyber security enhancements. Stormwater management is an allowed use and we have two potential projects that would improve our local stormwater management at two municipal locations. Allocations have also been made to help enhance our service to residents in the areas of mental health and inclusive housing. On the latter, the objective is to create a Stonington Inclusive Housing Fund that would help provide access for local residents to make improvements to their homes and ensure there is affordable, quality housing across our community.

Residents are encouraged to engage throughout the process. In addition to attending the meetings, anyone interested in learning more or sharing input can reach out to the First Selectman's office for a time to meet outside of these meetings.

Inclusive Housing Fund	CFA Office	Arts and Culture	Chamber Mystic	Chamber OCC	Fourth District Voting Hall drainage and paving	Town Hall drainage and parking lot
500,000.00	250,000.00	100,000.00	23,000.00	100,000.00	150,000.00	375,000.00
Ambulances	Dispatch	Libraries	Town Hall HVAC	Human Services HVAC	Hold for Water Match	Mental Health
19,000.00	65,000.00	30,000.00	1,200,000.00	340,000.00	500,000.00	25,000.00
New Heights-Program Van	sewer	salt dome	paving	Cyber	Old District Office Septic Study	Allocation Total
40,000.00	150,000.00	600,000.00	500,000.00	125,000.00	35,000.00	5,127,000

List of potential projects:

- Inclusive Housing Fund

- Child and Family Stonington Office
- Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition- grant passthrough for Arts and Culture
- Mystic Chamber direct funding
- Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce- grant passthrough for Stonington business and organizations; possible direct funding as well.
- Fourth District Voting Hall drainage and paving
- Town Hall drainage and parking lot
- Ambulances
- Dispatch
- Libraries
- Town Hall and Human Services HVAC
- Water Line loop for fire safety
- Mental Health campaign and counseling
- New Heights Program Van
- Sewer- Phase II I and I study
- Salt Dome
- Paving
- Cyber
- Old District Office Septic Study

(8) Comments from the Public

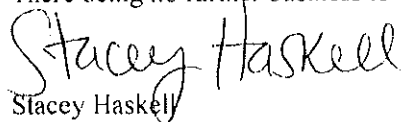
None

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie shared her excitement in the Town being awarded the Brownfield Remediation grant for the Mystic River Boathouse Project and Brownfield Assessment Grant for Stillman Ave.
- Ms. Strunk gave an overview of the Board of Police Commission meeting she attended noting that during the meeting they approved the Miss America Pageant celebrating their 100th anniversary with a parade in Mystic on September 6th. She stated that they she learned a lot about their organization including all of their volunteer and philanthropic work.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that the Beautification Committee is hosting a rain barrel fundraiser. Further, she noted that the Veteran Monument Project continues to move forward and has raised \$15,000 to date.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary