

September 22, 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. Members of the public were present. No members of the press were present.

(1) Call to Order

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

(2) Pledge of Allegiance

(3) Interviews – Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors

The interview was postponed.

(4) Interviews – Planning and Zoning Commission

The Board interviewed Stephen Hobaica for the Planning and Zoning Commission's alternate seat(s). Andy Meek and Marjorie Selinger will be interviewed at the next meeting. Brian McCormick withdrew his application.

(5) Comments from the Public

None

(6) Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 8, 2021.

(7) Correspondence

- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Robert Hollis in the form of an application for the Shellfish Commission.
- Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Michael Serra and Francis Pandolffi in the form of an application for the Climate Change Task Force.

(8) Old Business

None

(9) New Business

Flood, Erosion and Control Board

Ms. Chesebrough stated that the General Assembly rescinded the former Flood, Erosion and Control Board and has created a Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board. In discussing with the Town Attorney, he noted that we cannot create a new board and combine the Climate Change Task Force, Stormwater Authority and a Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board. As some of these questions came from the Climate Change Task Force, a joint meeting will be held with them next month to discuss. Further, Ms. Chesebrough stated that although the Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board can commence an eminent domain action pursuant to the provisions/procedures for doing so set forth by state statute the Board of Selectmen would still need to approve the request and all requests would be vetted through the Town Attorney. She noted that the information was helpful in assuring that if/when a Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board is seated that a proper process existed when issues such as eminent domain transpire.

Award of Bid for Unleaded Gasoline

Mr. James Sullivan gave an overview of the bid process noting that the only bid received was from East River Energy.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to award the bid for unleaded gasoline for the 21/22 fiscal year to East River Energy in the amount of \$89,875.50.

Resolution – Watershed Protection and Flooding Prevention Program

Ms. Chesebrough gave an overview of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program noting it helps units of federal, state, local and tribal of government (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres. Other benefits and goals may be achieved through the plan, but the primary objective is flood control to improve watershed function. The goal of the program is not just to study, but to develop and fund actual solutions for flood protection that will physically work on the landscape for which they are planned. The program has three phases planning, design and construction. Towns must be a sponsor in the planning phase to be eligible to participate in and receive funding for the design and construction phases. Participating in the planning phase does not obligate a municipality to further participation in the project. During the planning phase the only obligation of the towns is staff time to participate in monthly meetings and up to three additional stakeholder/public meetings.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the resolution authorizing the First Selectman to proceed as a sponsor in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Plan.

Resolution – Brownfield Grant Application (Stillmanville Mill Assessment)

Ms. Chesebrough noted that the resolution authorizes the First Selectman to execute and file the Brownfield Grant application with CT DEEP in regards to the Stillmanville Mill Assessment.

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

Set Call for Special Town Meeting on October 18, 2021

Set call for Special Town Meeting to be held on October 18, 2021 to consider and vote on:

To appropriate sufficient sum or sums of money utilizing the budget of expenditures of the Town's planned American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) distribution, and use of the federal grant funds, received by the Town all of which have been approved and recommended by the Board of Finance.

Ms. Chesebrough read the following resolution:

Be it hereby resolved that, pursuant to Section 3-3 of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen calls a Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stonington High School, 176 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT to consider and act upon resolutions as outlined in the Notice of Special Town Meeting which will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting as Appendix "A".

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

In discussion, Ms. Strunk stated that any requests to utilize the American Rescue Plan contingency funds set aside by the Board of Finance should go through the Board of Selectmen first and then go to the Board of Finance. Ms. Chesebrough noted that the Board of Selectmen could have approved the funding and how it was to be allocated but wanted to allow for additional transparency. The Board followed a process similar to the annual budget including sending the items to the Board of Finance and then to a Town Meeting.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

(10) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie stated that she thought the joint WPCA/Board of Selectmen meeting was very productive. She requested that a discussion occur with the Mystic Seaport concerning an easement

they have from the Town in regards to a driveway location that could impact the Mystic River Boathouse Park property. Ms. Downie will help with creating a scope of work in regards to the Mystic River Boathouse Park project as well as the remediation portion of the project.

- Ms. Strunk gave an overview of the Climate Change Task Force meeting noting that they will discuss submitting items to CIP and general operation budget. A member of the Task Force is interested in volunteering with updating the zoning regulations. Further, she noted that they provided a list of items prioritizing what they believe are actionable items. She asked that they take a look at grants to see any can be used to assist with any of the priority items and stated that some of the items listed are already being addressed by the Town. The list is below:

Climate Change Task Force Action Items - Priority List

Included in:

CRP = Coastal Resilience Plan

HMP = Hazardous Mitigation Plan

POCD = Plan of Conservation and Development

SusCI = Sustainable CT

G.C.3 = Governor's Council Near Term Recommendation

CRP > 10					Item	Rank
Risk	HMP	POCD	SusCI	G.C.3		
				x	Create new position for Climate Change Engineer/Spec	1
					Activate and populate Flood Prevention, Climate Resilience and Erosion Control Board (assume passage of HB 6441)	2
					Implement Climate Emergency Declaration, Community Energy Campaign, Food Waste Prevention Campaign	3
x	x	x	x		Rewrite Zoning Regulations including Streamline Solar Permitting for Small Solar Installation, Promote Sustainable Development and Affordable Housing	4
					Establish a Coastal Resilience Fund	5
				x	Request voters to consider establishing a buyer's conveyance fee (assume passage of HB 6441)	6
				x	Support Passage of SB 884 - AN ACT REDUCING TRANSPORTATION-RELATED CARBON EMISSIONS. Support Zero Emission Vehicle Deployment / Install Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	7
21	High				Replace WPCA facilities and ensure pump stations are waterproofed and have auto power	8
					Develop a town sustainability plan	9
		x			Restore & protect coastal flood plains and wetlands	10
		x	x		Increase Use of Renewable Energy & Reduce Energy Use Across All Municipal Buildings	
		x	x		Develop a Municipal Energy Plan	
	High	x			Stormwater / stream flow modeling	
24	Low				Masons Island Causeway	

- Ms. Chesebrough stated that Covid testing will be held at Human Services every Thursday from 4:00 p.m.-7:00p.m. She noted that several meetings have occurred with the Warm Shelter, New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Police Dept and Human Services to discuss how to assist our homeless population in Town. The Veteran's Monument Project has raised \$40,000 to date. Some upcoming outreach events in regards to the project include:

- Dine to Donate - Mel's Downtown Creamery - September 27, 2021 - 12PM-9PM
- Sunday Funday - Downtown Westerly, RI - October 3, 2021 - 12PM-5PM
- Veterans Coffeehouse - Masonicare, Mystic - October 7, 2021 - 9AM
- VFW Post 1265 - Fish & Chips Dinner - October 8, 2021 - 3PM-7PM
- Farmers Market - Velvet Mill - October 23, 2021- 9AM-12PM

(11) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Stacey Haskell

Stacey Haskell

Recording Secretary

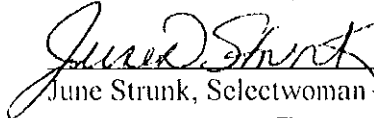
RESOLUTION TO CALL A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 3-3 of the Charter, the Board of Selectmen calls a Special Town Meeting for Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stonington High School, 176 South Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT to consider and act upon resolutions as outlined in the Notice of Special Town Meeting which will be attached to the Minutes of this meeting as Appendix "A", which Notice is hereby approved.

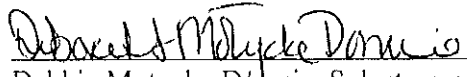
Signed and dated this 22nd day of September, 2021 by the Stonington Board of Selectmen.



Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman



June Strunk, Selectwoman



Debbie Motycka Downie, Selectwoman

APPENDIX "A"

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF STONINGTON

The Special Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in Town Meetings of the Town of Stonington, Connecticut, will be held at Stonington High School, US Route 1, 176 S Broad St., Pawcatuck, CT 06379 on **Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

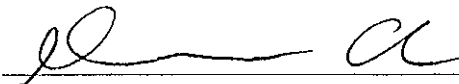
To consider, discuss, and vote upon the following:

To appropriate sufficient sum or sums of money utilizing the budget of expenditures of the Town's planned American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) distribution, and use of the federal grant funds, received by the Town all of which have been approved and recommended by the Board of Finance to the extent of the amount appearing opposite each. A copy of the ARPA grant budget is available for review in the office of the Town Clerk and online at www.stonington-ct.gov. A summary of American Rescue Plan Act grant funding budget is as follows:


Facilities	\$ 3,240,000
Infrastructure	1,231,668
Housing	150,000
Transportation	50,000
Economy	140,000
Services	203,618
Security/Health	181,309
Grant Administration	34,332
TOTAL ARPA GRANT BUDGET	<u>\$ 5,230,927</u>

At this hearing electors and residents may appear and be heard.

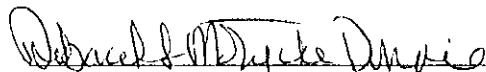
Dated at Stonington, Connecticut this 22nd day of September, 2021.



Danielle Chesebrough, First Selectman



June Strunk, Selectwoman



Debbie Motycka Downie, Selectwoman