

October 14, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special virtual meeting on this date at 5:30 p.m. This meeting was also streamed on Facebook live and was available via audio on a conference line. First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough, Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie were in attendance. No public or press were present in the room. Public and press were able to view via Facebook live as well as audio through a conference call.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 5:35 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 September 23, 2020 and October 7, 2020.

(4) Correspondence

None

(5) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee

Ms. Chesebrough noted that Marcy Riley withdrew her application from the Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Erika Lebling, John Truscinski, Donald Kluberanz, Susan Hibbard and Lyndsey Pyrke-Fairchild to the Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee.

Appointment – Board of Police Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to discuss the candidates for the Board of Police Commission.

Ms. Chesebrough asked that each Board member discuss their top candidate. Each Board member began by thanking all of the individuals who applied and interviewed for the seat on the Police Commission noting how impressed they all were with each person's different skills and experiences. The Board members all stated that Lisa Tepper Bates was their top candidate noting her years of experience working in diplomacy, nonprofits as well as transforming the homelessness response system in CT. In addition, they all noted the need for the expansion of mental health components for residents as well as for our police officers.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Lisa Tepper Bates to the Board of Police Commission.

Resignation – Economic Development Commission

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Kristine Halleck as an alternate member of the Economic Development Commission.

(6) Old Business

Update on COVID-19

Yale New Haven Hospital will provide free COVID testing for those that are asymptomatic on October 23rd in the parking lot behind the Human Services building between 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. A reminder to check the Town's website for weekly updates regarding COVID-19.

Request – Building Permit Fee Waiver for Inclusion: A Sylvestre Foundation

Ms. Chesebrough noted that this request was tabled at a previous meeting. The request is for a building permit fee waiver of \$8,138.00 for the upgrades to their location at 101 West Broad Street. The Sylvestre Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports community members with disabilities and provides inclusive programming in schools.

They are renovating 101 West Broad St to design a long-term solution for programming and support for adults in the community at the site to include life, employment and social skills educations as well as residential living, an area for health care providers, telehealth and Administration.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted to unanimously to approve the building permit fee waiver in the amount of \$8,138.00 for the Sylvestre Foundations project at 101 West Broad Street.

(7) New Business

Request – Town Hall HVAC Additional Appropriation

The additional appropriation of \$40,000 is to upgrade the HVAC at Town Hall as it was discovered that the main floor does not have proper air flow. The item has been previously approved by the Board of Finance.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the additional appropriation of \$40,000 to upgrade the HVAC at Town Hall.

Discussion – Memorandum of Agreement between the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen regarding Employee Health Self-Insurance Fund Budgeting and Reserve Policy

The MOA between the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen refers to maintaining viable self-funded health benefit programs for their respective employees. A key objective of the self-funded health benefit program is to meet the obligations of plan participants while also minimizing the costs of the plans to the taxpayers.

To maintain viable self-funded programs, the MOA refers to recognize that there must be adequate and consistent budgeting of plan expenses and maintenance of appropriate plan-level reserves. This document is designed to address those concerns and needs.

It is the intended that the parties maintain maximum flexibility regarding making changes to their underlying health plan designs. If one party wishes to make a change that will affect the other party, the change will be discussed by the Advisory Committee which monitors compliance of the MOA and ensures adequate communications between all parties relative to health benefits. The Advisory Committee includes the First Selectman, Town's Director of Administrative Services, Superintendent of Schools and School Department's Director of Finance.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Boards of Education, Finance and Selectmen regarding Employee Health Self-Insurance Fund Budgeting and Reserve Policy.

Discussion – 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the Board of Selectmen 2021 meeting schedule to meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

(8) Comments from the Public

Mr. Alan Sylvestre thanked the Board for approving the building permit fee waiver. Further, he stated it was heartwarming to hear the Board members talk about needed mental health components in Town.

(9) Comments from the Selectmen

- Ms. Downie noted that the DECD grant pre-application has been submitted for the Mystic River Boathouse Park. They have received an overwhelming number of support letters for the project. In regards to the Beautification Committee, she stated that she would be working on creating a spreadsheet of open or upcoming projects to help the group prioritize their projects.
- Ms. Strunk stated that she attended the Board of Police Commission meeting and discussed the parking issue on Washington Street as well as the congestion on Willow St/Washington Street.
- Ms. Chesebrough thanked Henri Gourd for his service to the Board of Police Commission. She noted that the Capital Improvement Committee virtual meeting will be held on October 15th at 5:00 p.m. Lastly, she reminded everyone that the Stonington Community Garden matching funds project is still ongoing.

(10) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 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