

October 27, 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) Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Update

Ms. Chesebrough opened the Public Hearing at 5:32 p.m.

Julie Savin, VP of Eastern CT Housing Opportunities, gave an update stating that the Town of Stonington successfully closed on the FY 2020 CDBG Small Cities Homeless Diversion grant with the Department of Housing in February, 2021 in the amount of \$350,000. The Town has positioned itself as the pass-through entity for this federal funding to all of Eastern CT. The grant period runs from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 and are eligible for expenses back to July 1, 2020. As of June 30, 2021, the remaining balance is \$26,670. Additional funds for the contract are under review with the Department of Housing. This is the second round of homeless diversion funds for Eastern CT sponsored by the Town of Stonington. There are five social service organizations working under the supervision of The United Way of SE CT, who is acting as the Program Administrator, to perform the homeless diversion activities. Those organizations include Always Home, New London Homeless Hospitality Center, Thames River Family Program, Noank Community Support Services and Noank Access Agency. These agencies are able to work in 30+ towns in Eastern CT because of the funds. The goals of the program remain very much the same in that the agencies assisting individuals and families experiencing homelessness or on the verge of becoming homeless avoid entering homeless shelters. The social service agencies perform coordinated assessment, screening, and housing placement. The agencies provide conflict resolution, mediation, housing stabilization, and sustainability supports including linkages to community services. It is important to note that this \$350,000 award is leveraged by all the agencies who access other financial assistance funds when needed to stabilize clients.

Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services, shared data from her department for last fiscal year noting that they track every type of call or walk-in that they received which included 281 contacts regarding homelessness, 600 contacts regarding rental or mortgage assistance, 328 contacts regarding housing and 47 contacts regarding eviction. She stated that Human Services works closely with Always Home and New London Homeless and Hospitality along with others in coalition that is focusing efforts on the homelessness issue occurring in Donahue Park.

No residents spoke on the topic and no written testimony was submitted in advance.

Ms. Chesebrough closed the Public Hearing at 5:44 p.m.

(4) Interviews – Board of Police Commission

The Board interviewed Patricia Coan, Stephen Adams and Carrie McWilliams for the vacant seat on Board of Police Commissioners.

(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 special meeting minutes of October 13, 2021.
- A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 13, 2021.

(7) Correspondence

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from David Brown and Donald Fiore in the form of an application for the Economic Development Commission.

(8) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation

Appointment – Ledge Light Health District Board

Ms. Strunk noted that she stepped down from the Ledge Light Health District Board. Ms. Chesebrough and Ms. Downie thanked her for serving on the Ledge Light Health District Board.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Erin Gregor and Eugene Pfeifer to the Ledge Light Health District Board.

Appointment – Planning and Zoning Commission

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Andy Meek and Marjorie Selinger as alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Reappointment – Cable TV Advisory Council

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Paul Lindblad to the Cable TV Advisory Council.

Reappointment – Citation Hearing Officer

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Stephen Bessette as the Citation Hearing Officer.

Reappointment – Water Pollution Control Authority

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to reappoint Lynn Young to the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Resignation – Economic Development Commission

The Board accepted the resignation of Pete Robinson from the Economic Development Commission with regret.

(9) Old Business

None

(10) New Business

Discussion – Recreation Department: Policy/Procedure for naming Parks, Facilities and Recreational Amenities

Ms. Chesebrough stated that the Recreation Commission drafted and approved the policy/procedure which was also approved by the Town Attorney. It was noted that this policy/procedure excludes memorial trees, benches or other such items. Leanne Theodore, Director of Human Services, gave an overview including the submittal procedure, guidelines for naming, approval process and appeals.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the Policy/Procedure for naming Parks, Facilities and Recreational Amenities.

(11) Comments from the Selectmen

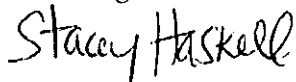
- Ms. Downie reminded residents that they can always reach out directly if they have any questions/concerns on any topic. She stated that the next step in the Mystic River Boathouse Park project is to follow state procurement guidelines and will utilize the state pre-qualified list of consultants to accomplish portions of the project. Lastly, she stated that she hopes the selection

process for hiring a new superintendent follows the same model as in the past where a member of the Board of Selectmen was on the search committee.

- Ms. Strunk gave an overview of the Police Commission meeting including the Chief announcing his retirement. She stated that the joint Board of Selectmen/Climate Change Task Force meeting was very productive.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that she had a meeting with the Chair of the Facilities Committee to discuss uses of the Old Mystic site including potential affordable housing for seniors or those with varying abilities. She added that he would conduct some research and would discuss at a future meeting of the Facilities Committee. She noted that the joint meeting with the Climate Change Task Force was very helpful and added that the Town is doing a preliminary review of locations to potentially add solar including the Transfer Station, WPCA Borough facility and school rooftops.

(12) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:03 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