

December 11, 2019

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting on this date at the Stonington Police Department at 7:00 p.m. Present were First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie. Selectwoman June Strunk was available by phone. Also, present were members of the public. No press was present.

**(1) Call to Order**

Ms. Chesebrough called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Chesebrough asked for a moment of silence in honor of the tragic loss of Brandia Irvin and asked that we keep her children, family and friends in our thoughts.

Ms. Chesebrough thanked the Stonington Police Department along with several other law enforcement agencies and first responders.

**(3) Comments from the Public**

None

**(4) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the December 4, 2019 special meeting minutes.

**(5) Correspondence**

Ms. Chesebrough took in correspondence from Ms. Sharon Lynch in the form of an application for the Climate Change Task Force.

**(6) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment – Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. William Wright to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission.

**Appointment – Climate Change Task Force**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Julia Parry to the Climate Change Task Force.

**Appointment – Architectural Design Review Board**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Mr. George Wingblade to the Architectural Design Review Board.

**(7) Old Business**

**Discussion – Board of Selectman Assignments**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Ms. June Strunk to the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors.

Further, the Board discussed the different Boards/Commission that each of them prefers to take part in as ex-officio members and their plan to attend those meetings as follows:

Ms. Chesebrough will attend the Architectural Design Review Board, Economic Development Commission, Housing Authority, Mystic Harbor Management Commission, Pawcatuck River Harbor Management Commission, Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission, Shellfish Commission, Stonington Harbor Management Commission, Waterfront Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Ms. Downie will attend the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee, Stonington Facilities Committee, Board of Education, WPCA, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Beautification Committee, Conservation Commission and Stormwater Task Force.

Ms. Strunk will attend the Commission on Aging, Climate Change Task Force, Board of Finance, K-12 Building Committee, Board of Police Commission, Recreation Commission and Retirement Board.

**Discussion – Creation of and/or Revitalization of Boards/Commissions/Task Force**

At the previous meeting, the Board discussed the idea of revitalizing the Charter Revision Commission and wanted to take time to review the minutes of prior meetings.

Ms. Chesebrough reviewed the outline of the steps that would need to be followed if the Commission is revitalized and noted that they will need to find members who are willing to work at a fast pace if the question is going to appear on the ballot in November, 2020.

In discussion, Ms. Strunk and Ms. Downie felt the timeline was going to rush the process which seemed to tight. They both wanted to ensure the Commission members were allotted ample time to complete the task at hand.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to table the item until a future meeting.

**(8) New Business**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to add the item request for additional appropriation to the agenda.

**Discussion – Building Permit Fee Revision**

Mr. Larry Stannard, Building Official, stated that permit fees had not changed in the past fifteen years. He surveyed eleven surrounding Towns and Stonington fees were the lowest. Mr. Stannard proposed an increase of \$25.00 for the first thousand dollars of values and \$12.00 per thousand thereafter. The increase would bring Stonington to the mid-range in comparison to fees in the other surrounding Towns. He added the Building Department is looking to update their software to allow for online permitting which would give the public and other Town departments a more user-friendly experience.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that if this item is approved by the Board it will have to go before the Board of Finance. Discussion ensued regarding the fees that an applicant pays in other Town departments when applying for a permit.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the revision to the Building Permit Fees.

**Discussion – Ratification of Labor Contract/Local 137 of the Connecticut Organization for Public Safety**

Mr. Vincent Pacileo, Director of Administrative Services, Captain Todd Olson and Detective Greg Howard were present. Mr. Pacileo reported that on December 5, 2019 the Stonington Police Department ratified the tentative collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Stonington and Local 137 of

the Connecticut Organization of Public Safety Employees (C.O.P.S.) for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to ratify the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Stonington and Local 137 of the Connecticut Organization of Public Safety Employees (C.O.P.S.) for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022.

In discussion, Ms. Strunk asked for a financial impact statement to be sent to the Board of Finance when any contract is ratified to make them aware.

Captain Olson thanked all involved with the negotiation process particularly Detective Howard who will be stepping down from his role as Union President.

With no further discussion, the motioned carried.

**Discussion – Request for Use of Space at 49 N. Stonington Road, Old Mystic by the Stonington High School Crew Team**

Ms. Chesebrough stated that the Stonington High School Crew requested to use three rooms at the 49 N. Stonington Rd which is the former Central Office Building. The Stonington Facilities Committee reviewed the request and recommended moving forward with the request.

Ms. Chesebrough stated that in discussion with Ms. Barbara McKrell, Director of Public Works, it was noted the financial impact to use the space would be minimal as they Town still needs to have heat and electric in the building. She added that it is better to have the building in use then to leave it empty. Mr. Bill King, from the Stonington Facilities Committee stated that they met with surrounding neighbors who were happy to have the crew team at the location. It was also discussed that there was interest from others for use for the property but they cannot move forward at this time due the moratorium on sewer hook ups.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to allow the Stonington High School Crew Team to utilize the space. In discussion, Mr. John Thornell, from the Friends of Stonington crew stated that are fully insured and were prepared to help with incremental costs including the septic pump out.

With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Discussion – Request for Additional Appropriation**

Mr. James Sullivan, Director of Finance, stated the requests for additional appropriations included funding the HVAC project at Human Services as bids came in higher than budgeted in the amount of \$7,095 and cost associated with refunding of 2012 General Obligation Bonds in the amount of \$9,125. Both items need Board of Selectmen approval in order to move to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Sullivan stated that refunding the bonds would save the Town over \$600,000 throughout the next twelve years.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the request for additional appropriations.

**(9) Comments from the Public**

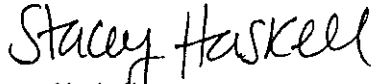
None

**(10) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Ms. Downie gave an overview of her meeting with Chad Frost stating she was brought up to speed on the environmental reporting and impacts regarding the Mystic River Boathouse Park.
- Ms. Strunk state that she was out of Town which is why she had to call into the meeting. She added that she is honored to serve with Ms. Chesebrough and Ms. Downie on the Board of Selectmen.
- At this time a resident in the audience asked to give a comment. Ms. Chesebrough allowed it pointing out that comments from the public had already occurred. Ms. Joan Durant stated that the Board of Selectmen should do something to ensure that Cottrell Street is not made into a one-way street. Ms. Chesebrough noted that the Board of Police Commission had that item on their upcoming agenda and encouraged her to attend that meeting to give her concerns. She noted that the police are in charge of public safety.
- Ms. Chesebrough thanked Town staff for turning in their departmental budgets in a timely manner. The Board will be conducting a public hearing regarding the lease of West Broad Street School on January 8, 2020. Ms. Chesebrough stated that Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, would be leaving to take on a new position elsewhere. She thanked him for his service to the Town and noted that the process for hiring his position as well as the Director of Planning is in the works. If the Town decides to conduct a national search for the Director of Planning it could take up to five months. In regards to the Stillman Avenue Mill, the Town is considering next steps to move forward including potentially hiring a Licensed Environmental Attorney.

**(11) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary