

June 23, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance held a special joint virtual meeting on this date at 4:00 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 from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Tim O'Brien, Mr. Glenn Frishman, Ms. Lynn Young, Mr. Mike Fauerbach, Mr. Bob Statchen, Ms. Deb Norman and Mr. David Motherway were in attendance from the Board of Finance.

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 line.

(1) Call to Order

Ms. Chesebrough called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Mr. O'Brien called the Board of Finance meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Ms. Chesebrough read the following statement:

Before making a motion for the Board of Selectmen to consider, I want to first note the time sensitive need our sewer system is facing with regard to accessing capital to fund improvements. This is a critical need that impact's residents' daily lives. The letters of support the WPCA received last week from a range of residents and organizations further highlighted these needs- ranging from the impact on our ability to attract new investments to keeping our waterways clean- which is important for both recreation as well as our local fishing and shell fishing community.

I also wanted to again recognize that it is difficult for representatives in a town having a town meeting form of government to deal confidently, and comfortably, with the new procedures at our disposal. I don't believe anyone here takes this decision lightly. The taxpayers in Stonington themselves did not vote us in with the understanding we would be making such decisions, but as elected leaders on both the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance we have a responsibility to conduct business and protect our community during an emergency of unique character and of uncertain duration.

The Governor put these rules into place to be used where there is a matter of public importance. With them, he put also into place procedures that are designed to be substitutes for the way action is taken at town meeting and the way people participate. Through the WPCA, Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meeting held on June 3rd, background documents published on the Town website, social media, and through the town email list serve, as well as with reporting done by our two local papers, we were able to share with residents what we planned to do and why. A copy of the resolution and legal notices were filed with the town clerk and were placed on our website. Then finally during the WPCA public hearing held on June 16th, we were able to publicly to consult with the electorate and receive their comments before acting. They heard written testimony from 15 residents/organizations with 14 in favor and one opposed. No residents signed up in advance to speak publicly or wished to speak when asked during the public hearing. The WPCA voted to move the consideration of the 10M appropriation to the Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance.

Given the support received by those who engaged in the public hearing, pursuant with Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7S, the Board of Selectmen, and the budget-making authority (Board of

Finance) may authorize municipal general obligation bonds or notes to be issued in anticipation of such bonds to be issued pursuant to Chapter 109 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to move the consideration of the resolution appropriating \$10,000,000 for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Collections System Improvements and authorizing \$10,000,000 in bonds and notes to finance the appropriation to the Board of Finance in accordance with the Governors executive order 7S.

Board of Finance member Bob Statchen spoke asking to clarify that the resolution is being issued under Chapter 109 Paragraph 7 Subsection 3 of the Connecticut General Statute. Mr. Statchen pointed out that the proposed resolution references 7-259 and 7-264 which are not under Chapter 109 but also noted that the requirements in paragraph 7 of Chapter 109 permitting the orderly operation of the municipality have been met. Mr. Statchen asked that confirmation from counsel regarding the issuance of the resolution under Chapter 109 be obtained given the fact that this is a unique process.

BOF member Mike Fauerbach requested confirmation that some of the bond funds would be used to conduct a study to explore options for consolidating Stonington's three sewer treatment facilities in order to reduce annual operating and maintenance expenses (a more efficient long-term solution). Lynn Young confirmed that this study would be done.

A motion was made by Mr. Frishman, seconded by Ms. Norman and voted unanimously to approve the resolution appropriating \$10,000,000 for Wastewater Treatment Facilities and Collections System Improvements and authorizing \$10,000,000 in bonds and notes to finance the appropriation in accordance with the Governors executive order 7S.

(2) Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.


Stacey Haskell
Recording Secretary


Jill Senior
Recording Secretary