

March 25, 2020

The Stonington Board of Selectmen held a special meeting on this date at the Stonington Town Hall at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was also streamed virtually on Facebook live as well as via audio on a conference line. First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough was live on the Facebook feed while Selectwoman June Strunk and Selectwoman Debbie Motycka Downie joined via audio through the conference call line. 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 4:00 p.m.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Public Hearing – 2020 Community Development Block Grant**

Ms. Chesebrough called the Public Hearing to order at 4:02 p.m. Ms. Chesebrough asked if anyone wished to speak regarding the 2020 Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Julie Savin gave a brief overview of the grant stating that if approved the funding would come from public service dollars and would support local diversion programs and youth homelessness. She stated that the Town of Stonington has been the sponsoring municipality and pass through for the eastern portion of the State of Connecticut since 2018. Throughout the past twelve months, 401 diversions have occurred from shelters which placed individuals into permanent housing. This was a direct result of the Community Development Block Grant funding to five public service agencies in the area who oversee homeless diversion. Of the 401 diversions, 95% were successful in keeping the individuals placed in permanent housing.

Ms. Michelle Larese-Casanova stated that Human Services had not received any written testimony in advance of the Public Hearing for or against the Community Development Block Grant. Ms. Savin thanked Mr. Jim Sullivan, Director of Finance, for his support as well as the Town for stepping up and overseeing this process.

No members of the public wished to speak for or against the grant. With no further discussion, Ms. Chesebrough adjourned the Public Hearing at 4:12 p.m.

**(4) Discussion – Items Related to 2020 Community Development Block Grant**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the 2020 Community Development Block Grant including the following:

- Citizen Participation Plan
- Certificate to Affirmatively further fair housing
- Exhibit 4.1A - Financing Plan and budget
- Exhibit G1 - Cooperation Agreement
- Exhibit G2 - CDBG Resolution
- Exhibit G4 - Certification by Applicant
- Fair Housing Resolution

**(5) Comments from the Public**

None

**(6) Approval of the Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 11, 2020 and special meeting minutes of March 17, 2020.

**(7) Correspondence**

None

**(8) Appointment/Reappointment/Resignation**

**Appointment – Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Rick Broberg as an alternate to the Mystic River Boathouse Park Implementation Committee.

**Appointment – Zoning Board of Appeals**

A motion was made by Ms. Downie, seconded by Ms. Strunk and voted unanimously to appoint Diana Lurie Boersma as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**(9) Old Business**

**Update on COVID-19**

Ms. Chesebrough emphasized the importance of the social distancing guidelines of six feet. She stated that residents can still go outside, go to pharmacy and grocery store but should be cautious to always remain six feet away from others at all times.

**(10) New Business**

None

**(11) Comments from the Public**

None

**(12) Comments from the Selectmen**

- Ms. Downie reminded everyone to ring their bells nightly at 8:00 p.m. and to continue to support small businesses.
- Ms. Strunk stated that the church bells at St. Mary's and St. Michael's have been programmed to ring nightly at 8:00 p.m. She added that she has heard from residents regarding those from out of Town coming back into their secondary homes and reminded everyone about following social distancing guidelines of six feet.
- Ms. Chesebrough stated that she and other regional municipal leaders sent a letter to Governor Lamont asking for stronger guidelines for those coming in from out of town to self-quarantine for fourteen days. Ms. Chesebrough thanked Michael Payne of PC Restoration, a Stonington based emergency mitigation company, who recently sanitized six apartment units and the community room for free at Edith K. Richmond. She reminded everyone that there is a nightly Community Bell Ringing Event at 8:00 p.m.

**(13) Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.



Stacey Haskell  
Recording Secretary