

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Meeting ~ February 22, 2011
Approved-March 21, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Warden & Burgesses was called to order at 7:30 PM by Warden Don Maranell. Present were Burgesses Kathryn Burchenal, Paul Burgess, Jeffrey Callahan, Howard Park, Edward McCreary, Robert Scala and Clerk-Treasurer, Frederick Souza.

Firehouse Inspection: Burgesses toured the firehouse in the company of Chief Hoadley. There will be a need to revisit the Neptune Company by either the fire commissioner or the warden or both. Additionally, some lights needed replacement which will be addressed immediately. Further examination of the shower facilities and the drainage system will take place to see if those facilities can be made serviceable since there have been issues with the system since it was built and there is uncertainty as to whether drainage pipes were actually installed.

In addition to the inspection, the following information was available from Chief Hoadley:

- There were 9 alarms in January
- The department budget was presented to the Board, and included in the budget was financing for replacement of Personal Protective Gear which cost approximately \$1400 per fire fighter for the basic jacket and pants. A number of these need to be replaced as it has been some time.
- Also included in the budget was a line item of \$6000 to purchase one of three modules for the police dispatch system recently implemented—this was discussed during the budget deliberations and will continue to be examined.
- The budget did not ask for an increase in salaries
- The discussion also included examining the needs for trucks in the future with the Chief suggesting the Borough should always be looking out five years toward potential replacement needs since the cost of trucks is so high. No money has been put aside for this purpose in the present budget, so this was more of a suggestion for the future.
- It was noted that the ranks of volunteers are dwindling and very few department members now live in or near the Borough which could prove problematic in the future. It will also probably require that the Borough look forward to a paid fire department rather than to volunteers.
- Chief Hoadley noted that \$2K in his training budget will be used to provide exercise classes specifically aimed at cardio training since this is a major wellness issue impacting firemen.

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Burgess, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Administrative Assistant's Report (Perry):

- Received tax collections for January: \$2,515.75
- Received donations for Wadawanuck Square Fund - \$1,200.00 (Paid for second lamp restoration (\$4K from contingency and \$125 from Wad. Sq. Fund); currently have 1 unpaid bill totaling \$4,125)
- Processed w-2 and 1099 forms
- Received 3rd quarter payment from Stonington Fire District – \$14,357.50
- Received from state: \$5.70 for disabled, and \$1,680.35 for boat grant
- Working on budget

The “boat grant” was discussed and explained to be a sharing from the State which collects the revenue on registered boats.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report (Souza):

- Met with registrars regarding election protocol and obtaining memory cards for the election machine designated and dedicated only to Borough Elections. This makes sense given that often at the time our election is being held, there are referenda going on and the memory cards are impounded according to statute.

- Verified the candidates and arranged for appropriate legal notices in the paper regarding the numbers of candidates from each party.
- Received and verified materials for a petition candidate for Burgess and forwarded same to the Secretary of the State's Office which has subsequently acknowledged receipt. Unfortunately, the SOTS office has difficulty realizing the Borough is a separate entity from the Town so the acknowledgement went to the Town Clerk who thankfully is good about passing such things on to me in a timely manner. I will be pursuing this issue at the SOTS office since it is annoying and potentially could create problems regarding timelines.
- Corresponded with a couple of persons who inquired about the Waldron and Williams funds.
- Planning to follow up with the Freedom of Information Bureau regarding the training that has been in discussion since October.

Review of Bills: The financial reports were reviewed and briefly discussed. There was a question of the use of \$9k from the contingency fund which was explained as necessary for snow removal. As noted in the warden's report, it is hoped that FEMA will reimburse municipalities for the effect of the record snow storm which precipitated this expenditure, but also noted that the FEMA process may be a long one that spans beyond the present fiscal year.

Warden's Report:

Snow removal: The snow removal budget is essentially gone. We have supplied info to FEMA for a possible grant to compensate us for the Jan 11 to 12 storm.

FIOA Training: We need to pick a few dates at this meeting.

Budget: Deliberations should begin at this meeting. Barbara has put in what we can. We have received Grand List info from the town so we can see income early this year! We need to discuss if we are having additional meetings. For our consideration during our crafting of the budget, I am asking for money to buy a new plow for our truck. I am also asking for a tractor with mower deck, bucket loader and grader. This will allow us to do more snow removal on our own, and allow us to grade our gravel areas instead of paying for it. This can be done for about \$25k for the tractor and \$6K for the plow. We could also sell the old plow and the old Cub Cadet (it has seen its best days).

Parking: This winter people have been less than cooperative in their parking decisions. Kathryn is discussing this with the police.

Hobby Shop Parking: I recommend we install a 15 minute parking spot as requested on the High Street location.

Streets: This winter has been rough on our streets. I anticipate several areas needing pothole repair and resurfacing. We should also consider doing crack sealing again (if money is available).

Dodson's Boatyard: They agree the ROW belongs to the Town of Stonington.. I recommend we request the town "sell" the ROW in the borough to us. (This would take Town Meeting action). We maintain it already so no impact but it would allow us to make a small "Fireman's" park under the viaduct on the Main Street side. I anticipate no issues with the town since this was done for a portion of it when we built the firehouse.

Burgess Pay: I recommend we modify the Burgess pay back to \$50 a month. This would have to be done now and effective 1 July to be in effect for the next board.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire(Scala): No additional report was submitted given that Chief Hoadley was on hand to provide the data.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Park):

Parks; Friends of Wadawanuck Square and I met with the SVIA and ask them for funds to help pay for the remainder of the lamps in Wad Sq. which they will do. So the outstanding bill with the O'brien's should be paid off soon. I believe we still owe them \$4,000. I also solicited a check for that fund. I hope to increase my budget as I will be planting and pruning trees this spring. Waylands Wharf will also need attention which I'm sure will put a strain on my budget.

Trees; Am still looking for a suitable (species and size) replacement for the NE corner of Wad Sq.

Right of Way; According to the correspondence from the Dodson Boat yard attorneys the Row under the Viaduct belongs to the Town of Stonington. I still think that potentially flammable or explosive things should not be stored under the main entrance, and more importantly the only real exit from the Borough. Maybe the Fire Chief could be consulted on this matter.

Utilities and Sanitation(McCreary): No report submitted, but it was noted by Burgess Burgess that people are not complying with the stipulation that yellow bags not be on the curb until 6AM on collection day or in covered containers the night before which is resulting in trash being scattered in the streets. Burgess McCreary suggested fining people who violate the ordinance.

Public Buildings(Callahan):

- **Borough Hall-** Contractor has installed new door to fire escape. About 45% of heating oil budget has been used thus far. Heating oil price is up about 11% over last year.
- **Fire House-** The heating system has continued to function satisfactorily through the recent cold spell. We have now used about two thirds of the propane budget for the year. But winter is about two thirds over and total degree days for the winter are about two thirds of normal, so we are on track. Propane prices are up about 4% over this time last year.

Emergency Management, Sidewalks, & Street Lights (Burgess):

- **Street Lights** CL&P contacted regarding light intrusion for a house on Union St.
- **Emergency Management** No Activity
- **Sidewalks** Sidewalks inspected after snowstorms for compliance with snow removal ordinance. Overall compliance good. Letters sent to USPS regarding sidewalk on Water St.

Police, Public Affairs & Communications (Burchenal):

- Due to the installation of a new program to collect and analyze incidence reports for the Police Department, an incidence report for the Borough is not available for December or January. Regular reports will resume for February. Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond said there were no worrisome issues in the Borough, but there have been break-ins in downtown Mystic stores.
- Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond said they will try to budget for a CSO to start early in the summer season to monitor/chalk cars for parking violations to set the tone for more rigorous parking enforcement during the busy summer months. Otherwise, they make every attempt to be responsive to parking violations when they are apparent or when alerted to them.

Old Business:

- The Right of Way issues under the viaduct were discussed following receipt of a letter indicating the property in question actually belongs to the Town. This will be discussed further with Town officials in the hope that it can be placed on a Town Meeting agenda allowing the Borough to purchase the property.
- The Church Street seawall bidding process is completed with only one contractor of the three submitting a bill. On a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Park, the bid of \$29,800 was accepted unanimously with work scheduled to begin in March.

New Business:

- Engineer Rick Olisky recommended that the Borough include additional crack sealing in its budget deliberations, but in discussion it may actually be work that can be accomplished within the present budget.
- Tentative approval was granted for a wedding to be held on June 11, 2011, at Wayland's Wharf, but it was noted that will be a very busy weekend since it is also the weekend of the Garden Club garden tours.
- The date of the annual budget hearing was established as March 21, 2011, at 7 PM prior to the regular meeting of the Board of Warden and Burgesses at Borough Hall.
- The date for the annual Borough meeting was set as April 16, 2011, at 9 AM at the firehouse.
- A motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Scala to reinstate remuneration for the burgesses to \$600 per year instead of the present \$300 was defeated with in a 2-4 vote (In favor of the raise were Warden Maranell and Burgess Scala: opposed were Burgesses Burchenal, Burgess, Callahan, and Park. Burgess McCreary had left the meeting and early and was not present for this vote.)
- Unanimous permission was granted for the annual Battle of Stonington race through the Borough pending receipt of the necessary paperwork with the Borough covering the insurance requirement as has been the practice in the past.
- It was agreed that one parking spot directly in front of the Hobby Shop on High Street will be converted into a 15 minute parking location during business hours, and the use will be monitored.

Other Business:

- The budget was discussed and various line items shifted or moved. This will continue as the budget is examined and revised.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick J. Souza ~ Borough of Stonington Clerk/Treasurer