

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Meeting ~ March 21, 2011
Approved April 16, 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, Howard Park, Robert Scala and Clerk-Treasurer, Frederick Souza. Burgesses Jeffrey Callahan and Edward McCreary were not present.

Public Budget Hearing: The various line items were reviewed with the understanding that any consideration of changes would be entertained later in the meeting when the budget was being finalized.

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 February: \$230.05
- Received donations for Wadawanuck Square Fund - \$300.00; currently have 1 unpaid bill totaling \$4,125)
- Made last payment on People's Bank loan (principal and interest); should now be zero balance!
- Worked on budget

In addition to the report, discussion ensued regarding the fact that there is still an outstanding bill for one of the Wadawanuck Square lamps with the hope that this will be addressed through additional donations.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report (Souza):

- Met with registrars regarding election protocol and positioning of names on the ballot as stipulated in State Election Law. Also working to obtain memory cards for the election machine designated and dedicated only to Borough Elections.
- Received materials from the Secretary of State's Office regarding assessor position. This prompted the need to discuss the situation with other Clerks throughout the State who are holding May, 2011, elections. The results of the information I obtained was forwarded to the respective Borough election committees.
- Discussed the above assessor position with the Borough attorney, and the candidate for assessor will be included on the ballot.
- Placed the order for the ballots and memory cards through Adkins and LHS. Ordered 400 ballots and 25 absentee ballots.
- Absentee ballots will be available after April 1, 2011. Those who need them may pick them up at the Borough office after that date as specified in State Statute.

Review of Bills: The financial reports were reviewed.

Warden's Report:

- **FIOA Training:** To be scheduled after the May election.
- **Budget:** Public hearing tonight.
- **Robinson's Cemetery:** The cemetery property is owned by the Stonington Historical Society. The walls are in poor condition. I suggest we write a letter to the Society to request they schedule repairs as soon as possible. We should also discuss overall maintenance. I am not sure why we do this.
- **Utility Tractor:** I have gone out and received two quotes and propose we award the RI Harvesting Company's bid. In addition to the two that bid, we asked Bill's Tractor. They do not sell tractors the size we need. As Jeff Callahan suggested, we could buy this now with the Truck Fund now and put a deposit in next year's budget to replenish.

- **Leaves/Sweeping:** I am having the leaf box put on the truck and leave pickup and sweeping will commence. We have also been cleaning up catch basins of leaves/debris from the winter in problem areas.
- **Church Street Seawall repairs:** The contract is ready for signature, arranging a meeting for final review and signing.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire(Scala): No report was available regarding the fire department; however, the fire inspector's report was submitted.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Park):

Quite honestly the parks have looked shabby after the long winter. I did ask the Highway crew if they would please clean up leaves and branches that littered the ground. The first time I asked, after numerous complaints from Borough residents, was when the snow still had not entirely disappeared and I understood why clean-up wasn't done at that time. I asked again last Monday, and during that beautiful week nothing was done. This morning I asked the two of them again and their reply that "It's gonna Rain" wasn't good enough for me so at 7:00 I called Don Maranell and he must have lit a fire under them. They were hard at work the last time I saw them.

Spoke with Nick Reardon about a sizable tree for the North East corner of the Wadawanuck Square; we are still working on it.

In addition to the above report, LaGrua Park was briefly mentioned as a place that will need greater attention in the spring to spruce it up.

Utilities and Sanitation(McCreary): No report submitted/Burgess McCreary out of town for an extended period.

Public Buildings(Callahan): No report submitted/Burgess Callahan out of town for an extended period.

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

Mrs. Mitchell left a message with Burgess Burgess stating that if the Borough agreed to remove two fairly small trees adjacent to her sidewalk at 25 Main Street, she would consider replacing her sidewalk. Burgess Burgess and Burgess Park to discuss further.

Police, Public Affairs & Communications (Burchenal):

During the month of February 2011 there were forty-two (42) incidences in the police report for the Borough; there is no discernable pattern of criminal activity. The new reporting system is in place and the Borough will once again receive a monthly report on a regular basis.

Old Business:

- There have been some comments regarding the unsightliness of the traffic control "sticks" used at the intersection of the Viaduct and Water Street with some residents expressing the wish they not be re-installed now that snow removal season is almost over. There were two motions regarding the matter and they appear below:
 1. Moved by Burgess Burgess and seconded by Burgess Park-that a different remedy be researched and used for traffic control at the intersection with greater consideration of the aesthetics. The motion failed on a vote of 2 votes in favor (Burgess and Park) and 3 votes opposed (Burchenal, Scala, Maranell).
 2. Moved by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Burchenal, and unanimously approved-that the use of the "sticks" continue while at the same time more aesthetically pleasing methods of control be researched for possible implementation in the future.

New Business:

- The request for the "Tour de Mystic" bike program to be held on June 11, 2011 was again considered and permission unanimously granted on a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Burgess.
- The tax suspense list submitted by Town Tax Collector Gisela Harma regarding Borough tax bills was unanimously approved on a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Scala. Burgess

Burgess did provide the address for one of those on the delinquent list and that information will be forwarded to the tax collector.

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Burchenal, tentative approval was granted to the Stonington Community Center for the annual Village Fair to be held on August 6, 2011, on Wadawanuck Square. The approval is tentative until such time as the Center completes the necessary form (available on our website) which provides necessary insurance information absolving the Borough of liability and indicates the event has been approved by the Stonington Police Department.
- On a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Burgess, the Leslie Buck Fun Walk was approved and the Borough will assume liability for the event.
- On a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Scala, the Board unanimously approved the expenditure of \$20,600 for a Kubota utility tractor to be purchased with funds from the "Truck Fund". The tractor will be purchased from RI Harvesting and will be utilized for assisting in snow removal, grading of gravel beds on some streets, Wadawanuck Square and other such locations and will have a 60 inch mowing capability. The present cub cadet will be sold, but not much income is anticipated from that as it is a small mower.
- In budget deliberations various line items were adjusted. Of particular note was the fact that some Borough employees receive health insurance benefits which are anticipated to cost \$45,000 in the next budget and do not pay any copay for the benefit. Discussion ensued of whether they should also be entitled to the budgeted raise, but the amounts were not adjusted at this point since it was felt it was late in the budget process and "unfair" to consider this now.
- On a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Scala, the motion was made and unanimously approved to send the budget amount of \$1,028,947, to the voters at the Annual Borough Meeting to be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011, at 9 AM, in the firehouse.

Other Business:

- The ditch that runs behind the houses on the east side of Orchard Street was again discussed, and it was noted that it is not draining, and the reason appears to be that clippings have been deliberately allowed to fall into to the ditch. It was decided to report the situation to the Town Inlands/Wetlands Commission for their consideration.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

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