

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Board Meeting ~ December 15, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

- Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order in Borough Hall at 7:30 PM. Present were Burgesses Michael Blair, Sibby Lynch, Robert Scala, Howard Park, Amy Nicholas, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Michael Adair absent. Before proceeding with the agenda, Warden Callahan took a moment to remember Ed McCreary, a member of this board for a number of terms, who died over the weekend. He will be missed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, acceptance of the minutes from the Board Meeting held on November 17, 2014 was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):

- Received November tax collections: \$1,311.58
- Received donation to Williams Fund: \$50.00
- Received donation to Waldron Fund: \$50.00
- Received payment (Simmons Home Improvement) for dumpster permit fees: \$2,000.00

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN):

- Attended meeting along with Jeff Callahan, Waldron Fund trustees and the CFO of Eastern Connecticut Community Foundation to discuss William Williams Fund investment options.

REVIEW OF BILLS:

- The 11/17/2014 through 12/11/2014 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$18,900.43.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

- The July 2014 through December 11, 2014 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of December 11, 2014 is \$429,376.56.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Requests:

- United Church: request to post sign at Wadawanuck Square for 12/7 event (Lynch)

Invitations/Meetings: None

Other: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

WARDEN'S REPORT:

- On November 24th met with Borough Atty and attorney for concerned citizens to discuss the "dog park" matter.
- Continued working with Fire Commissioner on options for purchasing new fire truck(s).
- Worked on storm water management report for 2014, to be sent to DEEP.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT

- Met at NESS with citizens concerned about seaweed accumulating in Ash Street Cove. Researchers from UCONN Avery Point briefed the group about the build up of “Cladophora,” a green algae, in Little Narragansett Bay, north of Sandy Point. They attribute the problem to excess nitrogen from the Pawcatuck and Westerly treatment plants as well as from fertilizer run off.

BOROUGH CLOCK

- None

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- Crew was busy picking up leaves, vacuuming, using the front loader for wet leaves taking a total of 12 loads out. Wadawanuck and LaGrua have been done but anticipate more will have to be removed before all is done for the season.
- Gutters have been cleared of leaves but this is ongoing and they keep an eye out so as to stay ahead of any potential blockage of the grates for the catch basins.
- Brush is still being picked up with 5 loads going to the dump. They are still getting some black bags.
- Trucks were rigged with plows and sand spreaders for the threat of snow but only spot sanding was needed. They put out "caution tape" along new sidewalk in Wadawanuck Square for the night of the Borough stroll before back filling was done. That has been done now and looks great. Backfilling has also been done on Broad St. sidewalk, which finishes up the job. I have received many thanks and kudos.
- I have been asked to look into the possibility of paving Gold and Front Streets.
- I believe that there are other streets in greater need of paving.
- I would like to remind the board of the highway department's need of a new tractor. That request was tabled because I was too ill to make the last meeting. The tractor needs a new mower deck at the cost of over \$500, it shifts poorly, and transmission keeps breaking.
- We had a nice holiday lunch with Barbara, Sue, and Roger.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (BURGESS BLAIR):

- There were nine alarms in November 2014. They were as follows:

11/03/14	9:12 p.m.	Fire Alarm Activation 12 Grand St.
11/04/14	1:05 p.m.	Wires Down No Water St at McGrath Court
11/05/14	2:12 p.m.	Wires Down 123 Water Street
11/07/14	2:53 p.m.	Life Assist 17 Temple St.
11/08/14	7:44 a.m.	Wires Down 24 Cutler St.
11/09/14	3:10 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Westerly FD Structure Fire
11/11/14	7:21 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Quiambaug FD
11/13/14	7:16 p.m.	Bonfire East Neck Rd. Wamphassuc Point
11/27/14	8:14 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation 16 Coveside Lane
- Audit of fire department electrical consumption as part of NE Utilities program and converting to LED lighting.
- Painting and repairs due to water damage is concluding.
- Meeting with other fire departments about what their truck obligations are and what the process of purchase options have been.

PARKS, TREES, AND RIGHTS OF WAY (BURGESS LYNCH)

- The United Church and Cavalry Church were given OKs to put signs up in the Park.
- A resident brought to our attention that a park bench near the school bus stop has broken wooden slats. The Park has eight of this style bench, and they all should be repaired or replaced. The same style bench could not be found in an hour or so of online searching. Barbara may have a source. I will ask around about re-using the old steel arms and replacing the slats, which may in the end, be the least expensive way.
- The new sidewalk in the Northwest part of the park looks wonderful and so much safer.
- The lights on new little Christmas/Holiday tree in front of the Library came on after the three countdowns, to much cheering.
- It dawned on me that the end of the Right-of-Way that comes out onto Island Road, that was being blocked by a parked car, is not in the Borough.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

- **Budgetary Matters:** My budgeted balances in both the Firehouse and Borough Hall all appear to be reasonable and on target with the yearly projections with the exception of "Electricity" in Borough Hall. (Spent July 1-Dec 11, 2014 - \$1211.89) or 80% of my annual budgeted amount of \$1,500.00 with 50% of the year to go. Cause: last year the installers of the new wiring in Borough Hall reversed the connections so that we were showing no electric usage. When CL&P found the mistake they charged us forward to this fiscal year. This is a small item which will be absorbed in my other Building account overages.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- Northwest Wadawanuck Square sidewalk replaced.

POLICE, PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AND COMMUNICATIONS (BURGESS NICHOLAS):

- **Police Incidents Report**
During the month of November 2014, there were 46 incidents in the police report for the Borough. The incidents included 9 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 7 Medical Assists, 6 Business Checks, 6 Fire/Burglar Alarms/Pole Fires, 3 Suspicious Activity reports, 3 Assist Other Agencies, 2 reports of Harassment, 2 911 Hang/Misdials, 2 Disturbances and 2 Animal Control Complaints. The police responded to a Disabled Motor Vehicle, a Landlord Dispute, performed a Welfare Check and Assisted a Citizen. The Speed Monitor remains on the viaduct.
- **Website/Communications**
No report.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Dog Park update**
Warden Callahan will meet with First Selectman Crouse and town attorneys to discuss the issue. Resident Jesse Diggs asked that Harbor Management be advised as soon as a decision is made, because the abutting neighbors have applied for permission to build a dock.
- **Consider revisions to Vendor Ordinance (SBO-10) – Tabled**

Resident Jesse Biggs asked if we are trying to encourage or discourage vendors. Warden Callahan explained the differences between the old ordinance and the new ordinance.

Burgess Scala suggested designating parking space and location of vendors in the ordinance. Resident Jesse Biggs suggested the ordinance needs to be tightened up. He offered to draft a proposed revision to the ordinance for the Board to consider.

Fire Truck replacement

- **Waive bid requirement, per SBO-11**

Motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Park, to waive the bid requirement in connection with procuring one or two new fire engines, and limit consideration to Pierce Manufacturing Co. of Appleton, WI; with financial arrangements through Oshkosh Capital of Columbus, OH. Approved unanimously.

Warden Callahan said these steps have to be taken before a contract can be signed. Tonight, vote on procurement of two trucks at the same time or staggered purchases. Next, consider and vote on an ordinance authorizing the purchase at the Board's meeting in January 2015. At the same meeting, conduct a public hearing on the purchase. If the Board votes to stagger the purchases, proceed with signing the lease as soon as the ordinance goes into effect. If the Board votes to purchase two trucks at the same time, delay signing the lease until the FY-16 budget is adopted.

Warden Callahan and Burgess Blair distributed a worksheet comparing purchase of two trucks vs. staggered purchase. They agreed that either approach had approximately the same total cost to the Borough, i.e., \$1.2 million.

Burgess Blair thanked everyone attending tonight and all those who attended the public meeting last month. The current trucks are 30 years old. The advantages of buying two trucks now are that they complement one another, the cost is being held by Pierce at the spring 2014 price, and the lease from Oshkosh Capital is at a low interest rate.

Burgess Blair advocates a two-truck strategy vs. one truck now, second in three years. The Borough would also save in repair costs by replacing both old engines now.

Warden Callahan distributed a draft working FY-16 budget, including fire engine lease expenses, and pointed out that it leaves little money for other expenses, such as street repairs. If the Board votes to purchase two trucks now, the Borough will be locked into nine consecutive years with very limited budgetary flexibility, which is why he prefers staggering the purchases. Buy one truck now, pay it off in three years, then make a decision about the second engine.

Burgess Park said we should take into account the positive impact on fire department morale of purchasing both engines at once.

Resident Jesse Biggs asked if we have considered a used fire truck and suggested we stagger the purchase of the two trucks.

Volunteer firefighter Andy Bellinghieri stated fire truck costs do not go down. The increases are mainly due to government regulations.

- **Select purchase strategy**

Motion by Burgess Blair, seconded by Burgess Park to proceed with the purchase of two trucks from Pierce, was passed by majority (Blair, Park, Scala, Lynch). Warden

Callahan and Burgess Nicholas opposed.

Warden Callahan will have Borough attorney draw up an ordinance.

Fire Chief Jeff Hoadley remarked he appreciates the Warden and Burgesses and taxpayer's support.

- **Presentation by Docko on Ash Street cove project**

Keith Neilson, from Docko, presented the results of a brief study he conducted regarding the Ash Street Cove seaweed problem. He suggested three options: (1) install netting across the mouth of the cove; (2) install baffles across the mouth of the cove; (3) change the grade of the beach by importing approximately 1,000 cubic yards of sand and rock. All three approaches have drawbacks, and he thinks DEEP will resist all three but might be persuaded to allow the beach grade to be improved. He estimates the cost of the regrading project at \$40,000. Burgess Blair suggested we present the DOCKO study, along with the financial aspects, to the surrounding Ash and Diving St. residents.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Discuss paving a portion of Library drive in FY-16**

Mr. Bessette (library board) did not attend. Tabled until January 2015 meeting.

- **Consider purchase of new tractor for Streets Dept.**

A motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Scala, to purchase a new tractor for streets department for \$14,950.00, was unanimously approved. The old Cub Cadet will be sold.

- **Consider requests to use Borough property**

None

- **2015 Meeting Schedule**

On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the following meeting schedule was unanimously adopted: Regular Board Meetings will take place on the third Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. If the third Monday is a state or Federal holiday, the meeting will take place on the Tuesday immediately following, at 7:30 PM.

- **Reappoint commission members whose terms are expiring at the end of 2014**

None this year.

OTHER BUSINESS -- None

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 9:39 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
Clerk-Treasurer
December 29, 2014