

**Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Board Meeting ~ February 17, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

- Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order in Borough Hall at 7:32 PM. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Sibby Lynch, Robert Scala, Howard Park, and Amy Nicholas. Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman and Burgess Michael Blair were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, acceptance of the minutes from the Board Meeting held on January 20, 2015, was unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY, 12 FEB 2015):

- Received January tax collections: \$3,118.58
- Processed 1099 forms and filed federal and state reports.
- Closed out Williams Fund CD; proceeds being held in General Fund account.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Requests:

- United Church- request to post sign at Wad Square for 2/14 event (Lynch)
- Aaren Simoncini- request to conduct wedding at Wayland's Wharf on October 2nd (see New Business)

Invitations/Meetings:

- None

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN): NONE

REVIEW OF BILLS:

- The 12/15/2014 through 1/16/2015 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$69,777.72. Snow removal costs accounted for over 60% of the total.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

The July 2014 through February 12, 2015 Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of January 16, 2015 is \$286,770. General Fund reserve is \$217,418.

Other:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jesse Diggs asked about the status of the fire truck purchase. Warden Callahan explained that the ordinance authorizing purchase of two trucks was passed at the January W&B meeting and had not been challenged, so it stands. The deal will not be completed until the budget for next fiscal year, including funding for the trucks, is passed in April. Stephen Bessette commented that he has performed many weddings in the Borough without seeking or obtaining permission from the W&B.

WARDEN'S REPORT:

1. Participated in meetings in Town emergency management center during and after blizzard. Escorted Governor Malloy on visit to Borough after blizzard.
2. Began developing budget for FY 15-16
3. Met with Chris Stone, DEEP stormwater program manager, and Town public works staff to discuss potential coordination between Town and Borough.
4. Attended Board of Selectmen meeting on 4 Feb to defend CIP requests for funding to restore public restrooms in Borough water pollution control facility and funding for Town climate change task force.
5. Received estimates from EMCOR and MPG Mechanical to replace fire house boiler.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT

Contacted PURA regarding old utility poles left standing in the Borough

BOROUGH CLOCK

- None

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

Streets and Roads. To say the crew was busy is an understatement. Starting with the blizzard the crew put in 67 hours each from January 26 through January 30. The crew worked tirelessly through the night, snow plowing, to be able to keep the roads open for Emergency Vehicles. It wasn't until the snow slowed down that the crew made a conscious effort to dig out our citizens. We also had need for 3 outside contractors with their various bobcats, front loaders and large dump trucks. We needed their services to load the large amounts of snow onto their trucks and remove it to the point and, on the East side, to the park. We also had two individuals who ran our tractors to clear piles of snow the crew made, and to clear sidewalks. The new and smaller truck proved invaluable on the smaller streets with its narrower plow and sand spreader. Our crew worked throughout to pick up piles of snow on side streets and dead ends, load them in our dumper and remove to the point

February 1st through the seventh, another 130 hours was expended keeping the Borough streets as clean as possible. Sidewalks and side roads were a problem and the crew lost a lot of sleep just keeping the roads open for Emergency Vehicles and worked in frigid temperatures. For example, on the first the police department called for black ice salting, on the second they salted and plowed for 13 hours. Then on the third they worked their regular eight hours then were

called later that night to salt black ice. So it has been during this wintery time. There is still much to do and we can see still more snow on the horizon. The crew is responsible to make sure that the equipment is ready to go and that they too are ready. This has been an unprecedented snowfall for our area and we are lucky that our Warden, Jeff Callahan, was able to meet with town officials and Governor Malloy, who he brought into the Borough, to show him the situation. We received numerous phone call and e-mails complaining about snow removal and in all cases I was able to point the problems out to the crew and they were able to appease the individuals and their problems. Often accompanied by a thanks from them. I rode with the crew and on several occasions had to remind the individuals who were throwing snow back out into the street that it was illegal to do so, that it could block an Emergency Vehicle, or cause one of their neighbors to get stuck. I had to call the crew back to a road previously plowed to clear it again after an individual cleared his sidewalk into the road. This took the crew away from other work and added time to their tally. However, by and large, we as a group, pulled together to make the Borough a safe and as possible.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (BURGESS BLAIR/CHIEF HOADLEY):

There were 20 calls during the month of January. The list is on file in the Borough Office. Fire Marshal G. Brennan submitted his activity report for the period 27 October 2014 to 21 Jan 2015. The Borough alarm box system was turned off after it malfunctioned several times. In early February the alarm contractor discovered a short in the alarm wire that runs over Dodson's boat storage area, where the boat fire occurred two years ago. A temporary fix was made and the system was turned back on.

Yesterday afternoon (Feb 16th) at about 4:30 pm, a sprinkler pipe burst in the fire house, flooding much of the second floor. The sprinkler water supply was shut off and members of the department began cleaning up the debris. Service Master was called in to aid with clean up and drying out the area. The incident has been reported to our insurer, VFIS.

The broken sprinkler was repaired and the system is back up.

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

Asplundh, CL&P's tree service, has been collecting permission slips from Borough residents. They have not started actual tree trimming yet. United Church and Calvary Church were given permission to post signs in Wadawanuck Square.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

Nothing to report.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA): NONE

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

- **Police Incident Report**
- During the month of January 2015 there were 62 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 10 building/bank checks, 10 Fire Related Calls, 7 Burglar Alarms, 4 Assist Citizens, 4 Medical Assists, 4 911 Hang Ups/Misdials, 3 Accidents including one Hit and Run, 3 Parking Complaints, 2 Assist Other Agencies, 2 Welfare Checks and 2 Reports of Disturbances one of which resulted in an arrest. There was one incident each of a Disabled Motor Vehicle, DUI, Suspicious Activity, Trespassing, Harassment, Phone Larceny, Animal Control, Found Item, Identity Theft and a Panic Alarm.
- **Website/Communications**
No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discuss paving a portion of the library drive.

Stephen Bessette, a member of the Stonington Free Library Board, spoke of the long-standing problem at the head of the drive. Cars turning around at that point dig a rut in the gravel drive, which collects water and freezes in winter. Additionally, snow plowing causes gravel to be thrown on the adjacent lawn. To prevent this problem, the SFL is asking that the Borough (which owns the drive) pave the upper portion of the drive. Warden Callahan said that we would consider including such a project in our street paving projects for the coming fiscal year. He also asked Mr. Bessette to have the Library Board send a letter to the Borough that makes clear that the Library Trustees support this approach to solving the problem. In addition, Warden Callahan asked Mr. Bessette if the Library Board has or could obtain clear documentation of the arrangement made many years ago, by which the Library was given/deeded ownership (by the Borough ??) of the land on which the library sits.

Discuss revisions to the Borough's vendor ordinance (SBO-10)

Revisions to the existing ordinance have been discussed for several months in the wake of issues that surfaced last summer, when permission was given to one vendor to operate a "food truck" at the Point. Jesse Diggs has provided the Board with a proposed rewrite that includes more specific criteria as to size, location, length of time, to be considered by the Board before granting such permits. He also has drawn up a proposed application form to be used by vendors seeking a permit. Several members of the public spoke in favor of greatly restricting vendors at the Point in particular. Burgess Park stated his opposition of having any vendors at the Point, but other burgesses felt that there could be value to the general public in having some vendors under certain conditions. Warden Callahan will bring another draft of the revised ordinance to the March meeting.

- **Consider expiring Borough ordinance, SBO-18 Demolition**

Warden Callahan has received a recommendation from Borough Attorney Kepple that the Borough align its penalty with that imposed by the Town, namely \$500 per day for violations of the ordinance. On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, the Board voted to increase the daily penalty to \$500, up to a maximum of \$25,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss the FY-16 budget.

The first decision to be made was the dates of the annual meeting and the mandated public hearing. After a short discussion, the annual meeting was set for Saturday April 18, 2015 at 10 am in Borough Hall. The public hearing will be held on Monday March 30, 2015 at 7 pm in Borough Hall, to be followed by the monthly meeting of the Board. It was agreed that the regularly scheduled meeting for March (the 16th) will be cancelled, and a special meeting scheduled for March 30th. Following these decisions there was discussion of the draft budget that Warden Callahan distributed to the burgesses. The proposed budget includes an increase in property taxes of approximately 7.8%. The warden explained that this tax hike is necessitated by the commitment the Borough is making to lease/purchase two new fire engines over the next 9 years at a total cost of about 1.2 million dollars. Without a revenue increase, there will not be sufficient funds to take care of Borough buildings, repair streets, or perform other municipal functions. All burgesses were asked to go over their parts of the budget and provide feedback to the warden by mid March.

- **Consider requests to use Borough property**

Request to have a wedding at Wayland's Wharf on October 2, 2015. (See correspondence) The request states that as many as 130 people may attend, and this fact caused concern among some members of the Board. Specifically, where will all these people park and how will nearby residents react? The warden offered to communicate with Mr. Simoncini and raise these issues. In addition he will remind Mr. Simoncini that there can be no alcoholic beverages on the premises and that he must submit the standard form and proof of insurance. (email sent to Mr. Simoncini on Feb 18th)

OTHER BUSINESS:

- None

ADJOURNMENT:

- On a motion by Burgess Adair, seconded by Burgess Scala, adjournment of the meeting at 9:44 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Callahan
Warden
February 21, 2015