

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting ~ Sept 21, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

- Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the regular meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order in Borough Hall at 7:30 PM. Present were Burgesses Robert Scala, Michael Blair, Michael Adair, Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, Howard Park, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes from the Board meeting held on August 17, 2015, were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):

- Received Tax collection payments: \$543,950.41
- Received Wamphassuc Point Fire Protection Fees: \$25,949.00
- Received Lord's Point Fire Protection Fees: \$24,146.00
- Received Stonington Fire District Fire Protection Fees: \$59,398.00
- Received State Town Road Aid Grant: \$7,762.00
- Worked with auditors on annual audit

CORRESPONDENCE:

Other:

- R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates: email regarding Architectural survey
- State Historic Preservation: email regarding Historic Resource Inventory survey
- Port. Holy Ghost Society: letter regarding parking situation in the area (reply by Warden Callahan included in packet)

Request:

- Stonington Historical Society: request for 10/17 event
- Aaren Simoncini: request to use Wayland's Wharf for 10/02 wedding

Invitations/Meetings:

- None

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN):

- None

REVIEW OF BILLS:

The 8/17/2015 through 9/17/2015 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$43,960.50.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

The July 2015 through September 17, 2015 Budget vs. Actual P&L Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of September 17, 2015 is \$652,973.28.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

WARDEN’S REPORT:

- Dog Park: The Town has been notified that the residents whose house abuts the dog park intend to sue the Town and numerous individual employees. The Borough is not named in the notice.
- Worked with PURA and EverSource to accelerate removal of redundant utility poles.
- Coordinated with EverSource to complete connection of Cannon Square flag lights to power. Lights working as of September 4, 2015.
- Completed annual CRS recertification for FEMA, in order to maintain 10 percent discount on flood insurance for Borough residents. Package submitted on September 16th. Is this where you said “have received a reply from FEMA, we are good for another year?”
- Finalized FY 15-16 fees for the fire districts and associations (Wamphassuc and Lords Point Associations, and Stonington Fire District) with which we contract fire protection services. All payments have been received.
- Worked with Tree Commissioner on several tree issues on Main Street and Wadawanuck Square.
- Met with team conducting Borough’s annual audit.
- Marched in annual Special Olympics CT sailing regatta parade.
- Coordinated with Town Planner and architectural consultant on survey to be done in Village in late October.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT

- Several streetlights repaired.

BOROUGH CLOCK

- None

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- Crew carried out general maintenance on equipment as well as the weekly lawn cutting, weekly garbage pick up. They also cut back overgrowth on Summit Street and Lees Court. Leaf pick-up from the gutter of Cliff St. and weeds removed from Water St, Hancox St, Diving St, 3 1/2 loads of brush picked up and still necessary to leave notices about not using black plastic bags. Handicap parking area painted at the library and took inventory of benches for replacement or repair. New “Borough” sign placed on Elm St. “Dead End” sign and “no parking” sign on Broad St. Also fixed leaning sign posts on Temple and Harmony Streets. Fixed flag post on Wadawanuck Square and put out flags for Labor Day and September 11th.
- Notices were put out for Gold St paving, which started with granite curbing and sidewalk repair. I expect the paving to start in earnest this week and then the sink holes on Hancox St. can be addressed as well as the puddle problem on the west side of Elm St

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

- There were 10 alarms in August 2015

8/1/15	10:15 am	Box 5 SBFD
8/1/15	4:10 pm	Suspicious package Wadawanuck Square
8/4/15	5:32 pm	Fire alarm activation 107 Main St
8/8/15	10:27 am	Fire alarm activation 103 Main St.
8/12/15	8:27 am	Garbage Truck on Fire Dodson Boat Yard
8/15/15	8:12 pm	Fire alarm activation 14 Main St
8/19/15	12:41 am	Fire alarm activation American Velvet Mill

8/21/15	7:35 pm	Fire alarm activation 1 Broad St.
8/26/15	10:46 am	Fire alarm activation 148 Water St.
8/31/15	8:12 am	Fire alarm activation 103 Main St.

- Aquarion is continuing the painting of the fire hydrants. The flags have been installed. There has been some vandalism of the reflective flags. The ring around the hydrants will be removed from Water St. and Main St.
- Warden Callahan and Burgess Blair met with the fire department about recruitment of firefighters. We have a pension, pay per call, tax credits and training. However, we still need local, young firefighters to join the fire department. Perhaps a fee (?) for recruiting new firefighters, incentive to recruiting and keeping new firefighters. Warden Callahan suggests Burgess Blair come to the next meeting with a presentation and proposal. This will be put on the October meeting agenda.
- Burgess Blair asks that if any borough resident or any Burgesses and Warden have thoughts on recruiting, contact him before the next meeting.

PARKS, TREES, AND RIGHTS OF WAY (BURGESS BARNES):

- The two trees in front of Richard Easton's house, which were discussed and voted on at the August 2015 meeting, were removed by an arborist hired by Mr. Easton. The stump removals are scheduled.
- Discussion was held of walking the rights of ways. The most recent report was in 2008 and is on the Borough website.
- Put discussion of walking the rights of ways on the October agenda.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

Minutes of the Public Building Group of the Borough's Warden and Burgesses held in Borough Hall at 2:00 PM, Tuesday September 15, 2015:

Present: Jeffrey Callahan, Michael Adair, Michael Blair, Dave Ackles of EMCOR Services and Architect Peter Springsteel.

- **New Furnace for the Firehouse:** Dave Ackles said the new furnace has arrived in Massachusetts and work to dismantle and remove the old furnace in the firehouse will begin on Monday, September 21 at 8:00 AM. The complete installation should take a week. Start time for the remainder of the week will be 7:00 AM. Warden Callahan will see that the EMCOR team has a key for access. EMCOR will need no other help except for access.
- **Sensor Devices:** There are many types of features, specifications and costs of these remote monitoring systems. EMCOR has previously given us two proposals. Mr. Ackles has agreed to submit one new proposal that falls in between the features of these proposals. Four temperature sensors and four phone numbers to notify fire personnel about abnormal high or low temperatures in the sensor locations and the furnace itself are the primary requirements. Beyond these, the system has great flexibility to add additional capabilities if it is required later.
- **Borough Hall Roof and Chimney Projects:** Architect Peter Springsteel presented a redrawn proposal of roof alterations which would eliminate the leakage and run-off problems by increasing the pitch and adjusting the overhang above the gutter. The dropping pine needles from the huge tree on the O'Malley property will be discussed at our next Warden and Burgess meeting. It appears that the volume of the tree's droppings overwhelm the "leaf guard" system currently in place. Peter agreed to come up with a

rough estimate of how much the project might cost. This figure might change after his discussions with the proposed General Contractors, but it will give us a starting point.

- **Borough Hall Chimney:** Peter has recommended that we take down and remove the bricks from the top of the chimney to the roofline and rebuild from that point up. An insulated double walled steel tube liner topped by a fixed cap will be installed from the furnace right through to the top. This will improve both the draw and the ability to keep the system clean. A catch receptacle that can be emptied with particles that collect in the venting system has been discussed but may not be necessary. Both the roof project and the chimney project will be overseen by a General Contractor recommended by Peter and assigned the job by the Borough Board. Peter will be interviewing General Contractors next week.
- **Timing:** The Firehouse work will start this coming Monday and will be completed by the end of the month. The Chimney work should start in a few weeks and will run into mid or late November.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- Notice of sidewalk repair has been sent to 182 Water St.
- Notice of bush trimming has been sent to 103 Elm St.
- Repairs to (what number?) Main St. sidewalk should be done in 2-3 weeks.

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

- **Police Incident Report**
During the month of August of 2015 there were 72 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 9 Burglar Alarms (all false), 6 Suspicious Activities, 6 Motor Vehicle Stops/Parking Complaints/Misdemeanors, 5 Minor Traffic Services, 5 Medical Assist, 5 Fire Alarm/Fire Other/Fire Box, and 5 incidents relating to Animal Control. There were 4 Motor Vehicle Accidents including a Hit and Run Accident. There were 3 Assist Citizens, 3 Assist Other Agency, 3 Harassment Complaints, 2 General Information Response, 2 Phone Nuisance Complaints, and 2 Building Checks. There was one incident each of Alarm Panic, Marine Incident, Loud Music, Alarm Not Registered, Phone Larceny, Identity Theft, Found Item, Juvenile, Threatening, Radio Infraction and an Ambulance Mutual Aid. The police responded to a Stolen Motor Vehicle incident.
- **Website/Communications**
No report

OLD BUSINESS:

- The audit report was presented by Katherine McNair of O'Connor Davies. Highlights included:
 1. Another increase in the Borough's net position of \$56,079 to \$5,176,899.
 2. A budget surplus of nearly \$30k despite record spending on snow removal
 3. Signing a 9-year lease-purchase agreement for approximately \$1.2 M for two fire trucks
- O'Connor Davies recommended formation of audit committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Consider revisions to Borough tree policy**
Warden Callahan submitted revised Borough tree policy.

A motion made by Burgess Park, seconded by Burgess Blair to accept the revisions to the Borough tree policy was unanimously approved.

Warden Callahan stated there is a need for the tree policy to eventually become an ordinance, incorporating parts of other existing ordinances that pertain to Borough trees. The tree walk will be rescheduled.

- **Consider requests to use Borough property**

On a motion made by Burgess Park, seconded by Burgess Adair the application to use Wadawanuck Square and Borough sidewalks on Saturday, October 17 from 10 am-4 pm by the Stonington Historical Society for a self guided walking tour of 7 village homes, was unanimously approved. Burgess Nicholas asked if Stonington Police had been notified. Evelyn Lyons confirmed they have been.

On a motion made by Burgess Blair, seconded by Burgess Park the application to use Wayland's Wharf on Friday, October 2 from 4:30-6:00 pm by Aaren M. Simoncini for a private wedding ceremony, was unanimously approved.

- **Consider proposal from C. O'Malley to remove tree near Boro Hall**

A motion made by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Adair, to compensate Cormac O'Malley \$2,000 of the proposed cost of \$4,892 for removing the spruce tree on Mr. O'Malley's property was unanimously approved. The tree overhangs Boro Hall and drops a lot of needles and other debris on Borough Hall roof.

Following the vote, Mr. Easton expressed frustration that he had to pay the entire amount for the removal of trees in front of his house. He was reminded that those trees were public trees that he wanted removed and which he offered to pay for. Unlike Mr. O'Malley's tree, the trees that Mr. Easton wanted taken down posed no danger to either the public or to public property, i.e., Borough Hall.

- **Consider waiving public bid requirement for modifications to Boro Hall roof**

A motion made by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Blair, to waive the public bid requirement for modifications to the Boro Hall roof was unanimously approved. Architect Peter Springsteel, acting as the Borough's agent, will accept bids from qualified general contractors.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Warden Callahan urged the burgesses to clean out their files in the Borough office.
- A letter pertaining to the historical survey is in the meeting package. The Borough has been selected. The survey will be held in October.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:49 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
Clerk-Treasurer
September 30, 2015