

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting ~ January 19, 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 7:31 PM. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Michael Blair, Howard Park, Robert Scala, Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, the minutes from the Board meeting held on Dec 21, 2015, were unanimously approved with the following changes: "Susan Tohbe has declined a second term" and the date on the regular meeting schedule to read 2016 in place of 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):

- Received Tax collection payment: \$4354.98
- Received State Disability Exemption Payment: \$9.09
- Received donations for Williams Fund: \$200.00 – total
- Processed quarterly payroll reports
- Processed annual payroll reports
- Processed W-2 forms
- Filed annual Federal & State reports for W-2 forms
- Working on 1099 forms

Correspondence:

Other:

Robert T. Crane: email regarding offer to serve on ZBA

Richard Easton: letter of resignation from P&Z Commission

Brad Painter: email regarding Maple Tree at Wadawanuck Square

Request:

None

Meetings:

None

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN):

- Joint meeting, along with Warden Callahan and Waldron Fund members, on an application.

REVIEW OF BILLS:

- The 12/21/2015 through 11/14/2016 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$26,616.08.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

- The July 2015 through January 14, 2016 Budget vs. Actual P&L Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of January 14, 2016 is \$443,598.49.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

WARDEN'S REPORT:

- Dog Park: Town Board of Selectmen have appointed a committee to recommend steps to resolve the dispute over the use of the lot adjacent to the Borough sewer plant. The warden is an *ex officio* member of the committee. Burgess Park has offered to serve on the committee.
- Drafted revisions to SBO-17, having to do with Borough Planning & Zoning and ZBA.
- Town has been awarded a grant of \$150,000 for “resiliency planning” based on the application submitted by the Town Planner with assistance from the climate change task force. Grant will be managed by the Town Planner and Town Engineer.
- Received a certificate of appreciation from the Stonington Ambulance Corps that recognizes the assistance provided by the Borough while the SAC building was renovated in the fall.
- Began work on 2016-17 Borough budget.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT:

BOROUGH CLOCK:

- Replaced light fixtures illuminating clock south and east faces.

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- Curb painted yellow on Main St. across from Cannon Square.
- Cold patched potholes in numerous places.
- Crew spent time picking up branches from parks, sidewalks and streets notably Dennison Ave. They vacuumed up leaves on Water St and on Main St. and five loads of brush and Christmas trees taken to the dump, while weekly garbage is slowing down typical of the off season.
- Plows were picked up; new spotlight installed to the salt spreader, and general maintenance to equipment especially to the salt spreaders. A good thing they were ready, as we have had to “salt” three times.
- Handicap sign put up on Pearl St.
- Inside maintenance in Borough Hall, painting front of hallway and staircase.
- There was a complaint of non-drainage at the corner of Water and Church Streets and the crew investigated the out flow pipe which was partially plugged due to wave action against the shore. We had extended the out flow pipe several years ago, which has greatly reduced the problem of rocky debris washing up into the pipe but that area of the harbor gets much wave action due to the angle of the shore line compressing the surge. The crew removed what they could reach at low tide (we are having extreme astrological tides at this time), then moved to inspect the other end from the catch basin at the bottom of North West St. They removed whatever debris they could reach. I placed a call with Jim Neiburg at the WPC asking him to contact Sue Caldera and set up a time to blast out the pipe They were unable to do so, (due to the tide), on Friday the 15th and will try again on Tuesday the 19th.
- I had a request to ascertain the feasibility of placing a catch basin at the top of Wheeler Court to prevent runoff into the new construction at the corner on Wheeler Ct. and Front Street. I suggested a curtain drain instead to divert the water to the West onto their property thence the responsibility would be the owners.

- I was asked about a curb cut on Front St. which I explained would require a letter to the neighbors and a proper drawing to be presented to the board but felt that there would be little resistance to the application.

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

12-2-15	7:31 pm	CO detector activation Stonington Library
12-5-15	7:28 pm	Fire alarm activation 53 Main St.
12-7-15	12:12 pm	CO detector activation Stonington Library
12-9-15	7:50 am	Fire alarm activation 220 Wampassuc Pt. Rd.
12-9-15	11:33 pm	Fire alarm activation 220 Wamphassuc Pt. Rd.
12-10-15	5:07 am	Fire alarm activation American Velvet Mill
12-12-15	2:24 pm	Fire alarm activation 41 Main St.
12-12-15	10:55 pm	Box 31 Stonington Inn
12-15-15	9:33 am	Fire alarm activation 152 Elm St.
12-23-15	4:42 am	Box 15 American Velvet Mill
12-27-15	9:31 am	Structure Fire 2 School St.
12-29-15	9:42 am	Fire alarm activation 80 Water St.
12-30-30	6:27 pm	MVA IFO 160 Flanders Rd.

- One new member accepted into the fire department.
- Chief Hoadley announced that he will not run for chief in September. Burgess Blair praised Chief Hoadley's dedication and leadership of the Fire Department.
- Ladder Truck is back in service.
- New trucks are 1/2 to 2/3 done; A trip to Appleton, Wisconsin has been scheduled for February.
- New radios for the new trucks are being considered. Chief Hoadley has several bids for the equipment. The radios will be installed in Rocky Hill. There is a lead-time of two weeks. Warden Callahan and Burgess Blair have asked to see the quotes. The money will come out of the new equipment budget.
- Chief Hoadley continues to seek out possible buyers of the old trucks.

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

- Warden Callahan and I met with Brad Painter and carefully looked at the maple tree that is posted for removal on the southwest corner of Wadawanuck Square.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

- Painting front hallway and staircase in Borough Hall.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- None

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

- **Police Incident Report**
During the month of December 2015 there were 58 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 9 Fire Related Calls, 6 Medical Assists, 6 Motor Vehicle/Parking related calls, 5 Building Checks, 4 Juvenile Calls including one arrest, 3 Animal Control Calls, 3 Larceny Incidents, 2 Assist Other Agencies, 2 Welfare Checks, 2 General Info, 2 Alarm Not Registered and 2 Suspicious Activities. There was one incident each of a Domestic Disturbance which resulted in an arrest, Missing Person, Sector Board Check,

Assist Citizen, 911 Hang Up, Pistol Permit, Nuisance, Order to Repossess, HS Check, Harassment, Identity Theft and a Panic Alarm.

- The SPD is planning on installing a camera to monitor the Police Boat, the Harbor Master's Boat and, possibly, the Town Docks.
- The "Radio Infractions" detailed in the month of November represent tickets issued for a stepped up enforcement of moving violations such as seatbelt, cell phone use, etc.
- Police Chief mentioned that both The Stroll and Halloween were times when there were lots of people in the streets. They put additional police on both nights.

Website/Communications

No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Consider removal of maple tree near southwest corner of Wadawanuck Square

Burgess Barnes has spoken with another arborist, Brad Painter, who recommended that the tree be removed. His recommendation is in our packets. During the inspection, Brad Painter looked at some of the trees on Wadawanuck Square and suggested that plans be made to stagger the removal and replacement of trees. Burgess Blair asked if there have been other options taken to save this maple tree. And, to look at all the trees and what can be done to extend their lives rather than remove them. There was a consensus to be more proactive in planning for all of the trees' health and removal and replacement. Resident Lynn Schroeder spoke against removing the tree, but remarked that she appreciated the care and concern with which this decision has been made. Burgess Adair asks that we get information on trees that were previously in Wadawanuck Square. (We have the tree survey that was done in 2007.) Resident Richard Easton said at the last meeting the Board said Acorn Tree should not be asked for a opinion on the condition of the tree since there would be a conflict of interest, because Acorn had given us a quote for removing it. After the December Board meeting, Mr. Easton asked Mr. Pearson of Acorn for his recommendation, which was to prune the tree back, remove low branches under the wires, damaged limbs and other dead wood. Mr. Easton pointed out that Mr. Pearson is a CT licensed arborist, while Painter is not. Warden Callahan reminded Mr. Easton that he had suggested that the Board consult with Mr. Painter, which we did.

Burgess Park expressed concern that if another wind event happens in the future and that tree comes down, the Borough could lose power.

Resident Lynn Schroeder asked why both trees on Main Street have not both been replaced. Warden Callahan replied that one tree has been replaced and he continues to talk with the homeowner about the second tree.

The Board tabled the decision about the maple in Wadawanuck Square until a future meeting, after consultations with another arborist.

Discuss condition of wheel on Borough Cannons:

Burgesses Scala and Burgesses Park have met and Howard Park has an opinion that the wheels are rotting due to water intrusion. Some wheels are worse than others. Mr. Park presented a detailed proposal to restore the wheels.

A motion by Burgess Blair, seconded by Warden Callahan, to assign Howard Park the task of repairing the worst of the four cannon wheels (for a fee of \$4,000), passed unanimously. Warden Callahan will contact Mystic Seaport to see if they are interested in bidding on repairing the remaining three wheels; and he will contact the SVIA about sharing the cost of the repairs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consider requests to use Borough property: None

Consider appointing Lissa Van Dyke to second term on ZBA and candidate Tony Crane to a first term.

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Scala to appoint Lissa Van Dyke to second term on ZBA and candidate Tony Crane to a first term, passed unanimously.

Consider revisions to SBO-17, Planning & Zoning Commission and ZBA

A motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park to revise SBO-17, which established the Borough's Planning & Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals in 1975, passed unanimously. The purpose of the revision is to clarify the role of alternate members.

Set dates for Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting – (3/21/16 & 4/23/16)

A motion by Burgess Blair, seconded by Burgess Park to set the Budget Hearing for March 21st, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. and the Annual Meeting to April 23rd, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., passed unanimously.

Executive Session - Discuss Fire Chief Retirement/Replacement

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Scala, that the Board of Warden & Burgesses, the Clerk-Treasurer, and the Borough fire chief enter into executive session pursuant to CT General Statute 1-200(6)(a) to discuss selecting a Chief of the Borough Fire Department, passed unanimously. The Board came out of executive session at approximately 9:15.

Establish search committee for fire chief position

A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Park, that the Board establish a personnel search committee to select and negotiate a contract with a new chief for the Borough Fire Department, passed unanimously. The committee will consist of between five and nine members, to include the Warden, the Fire Commissioner, the Fire Chief, one resident of the Borough who is not an elected official, and at least three other active or life members of the fire department, who will be chosen by the Fire Chief and Fire Commissioner. It may include a representative of one or more of the contracted fire districts and associations served by SBFD.

OTHER BUSINESS:

In view of the trip to Wisconsin, Warden Callahan proposed that we cancel our regularly scheduled February meeting and schedule a special meeting to be held on Monday Feb. 22nd at 7:30 pm at the Stonington Borough Fire House. The annual inspection of the Fire Department will begin at 7:00.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 9:31 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
Clerk-Treasurer
January 26, 2016