

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Special Meeting ~ April 23, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the special meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at Stonington Borough Fire House at 10:01 AM. Present were Burgesses Howard Park, Robert Scala, Michael Adair, Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes from the Board meeting held on March 21, 2016, were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT’S REPORT (PERRY):

- Received Tax collection payment: \$529.36
- Received Frontier telephone property tax payment: \$843.82

Correspondence:

Other:

- Henri Gourd (Berkshire Hathaway): letter regarding 17 Temple Street property
- Sarah Janssens: letter of resignation from P&Z Commission

Request:

- Salt Marsh Opera: request and certificate of insurance for 7/3 Music at Lighthouse
- St. Mary Church: request and certificate of insurance for 6/4 & 6/5 Lady of Fatima Events
- Brain Injury Alliance: request and certificate of insurance for 5/7 bike-a-thon

Meetings:

- None

CLERK-TREASURER’S REPORT (COLEMAN):

- None.

REVIEW OF BILLS:

- The 3/21/2016 through 4/20/2016 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$138,880.73, which included a payment of approximately \$113,000 for the first lease payment on the new fire engines.

REVIEW OF INCOME AND EXPENSES:

- The July 2015 through April 20, 2016 Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of April 20, 2016 is \$277,463.76.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None.

WARDEN’S REPORT:

- Dog Park: Ad hoc committee issued a report and forwarded it to the Board of Selectmen for action. BoS accepted the report and its recommendations. Warden completed

compiling documents related to Dog Park issue in response to subpoena from residents suing the Town.

- Update on Dog Park: There will be an additional fence on the property. There will be a small area to take dogs off leash, then enter into one off-leash area. There will be online registration to use the park. One of the recommendations of the committee was to investigate other locations for dog parks in Stonington. New signage is going up.
- Attended meeting concerning I-95 signage for attractions near exits in Stonington.
- Assisted Town Planner and Engineer with evaluating proposals from consulting firms in response to Town RFP to provide assistance in developing a “coastal resiliency plan” for Town and Borough of Stonington.
- Contacted SVIA to inquire about sharing cost of cannon carriage wheel repairs. SVIA has agreed to split cost by paying for second set of new wheels.
- Met with Fire Chief search committee.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT –

- Contacted state Public Utilities Regulatory Agency (again) about redundant utility poles (about 12) in the Borough

BOROUGH CLOCK:

- No actions.

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- The crew has been busy with brush, garbage pickup and downed branches. Potholes were and are still a big part of spring work. The street drains have been problematic especially with the outflows but their diligence has paid off with full flowing catch basins. We will have an outside contractor come in to add gravel and grade the point parking lot before the parking stops are put in.
- I have met with Joe Hastead and received numbers for paving Church Street, east of Main Street and Orchard Street. Church Street will need some serious grading to get a proper pitch. Church and Orchard are about ten feet wider than most streets in the Borough an unusable feature which requires more product hence more expense There are problems with the height of the sidewalks on the south side of Church Street and the sidewalks are broken from people parking their cars on the sidewalk. which have to be addressed The curbs for the most part are granite but there are whole sections which need new curbing. Hastead Brothers have kept the unit price the same, for us, over the last 4 years and he is willing to do the same again this year. The paving for the two streets will cost \$150,000.00 with an added cost of twenty thousand for resetting the side walk and curbing, replacing curbing in place of the asphalt curbing on the north side of Church Street and replacing the apron for the Borough Garage/ Hall. There is a 15-foot section on the west side of Orchard Street which needs granite and I believe we have the pieces and the owner will pay to have these placed at the time we pave. They want to redo their sidewalk. At the west end of Church Street where it meets Main Street the granite crosswalk will be exposed.
- The highway crew, Sue and Roger has been dedicated to their jobs and we were all lucky in the relatively small amount of snow we had this winter. Though there were early morning calls for the crew to "salt" the roads, we did not have to dig out too much. The crew however had to put the sanders on and off the trucks several times as inclement weather with the threat of freezing dragged on. Their interest for the safety of the residents is foremost. They have been diligent in machinery maintenance and in keeping the garage in good shape and have saves us money by doing so. They are always ready to improve and to keep our Borough looking beautiful. We are lucky as a community to

have such a dedicated crew who hold the Borough close to their hearts.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (CHIEF HOADLEY):

- There were 4 alarms in March 2016. They were as follows:

3-8-16	9:55am	fire alarm activation	27 Church St.
3-12-16	11:00am	CO alarm activation	35 Hopkins St. Lords Pt.
3-18-16	4:39pm	person stuck in elevator	26 Church St.
3-31-16	6:38am	odor of propane	20 High St. Ston.Free Library
- Fire truck dealer has asked for one of our new firetrucks at the New England Fire Chiefs trade show at Foxwoods from June 23-25. It would be taken to Rocky Hill first. Warden Callahan asked that Chief Hoadley get something in writing that the trucks are their responsibility while in their possession. Borough Attorney Nick Kepple will draw up something to present to them.
- VFIS was contacted and the new trucks were insured. The old trucks will be taken off insurance as soon as the trucks leave.
- Now that the budget has passed, the process of hiring a new fire chief can proceed.

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

- I spoke with Virginia Montgomery, who agreed to allow the Borough to fund the pruning of the trees at 68 Main Street, rather than removing them. The Montgomery's did, however, express concern about the safety of the sidewalk in front of their home. The roots push the blue stones up, making for a surface that is not smooth. They have paid for repairs in the past, but the future expense concerns them. Referring to Ordinance SBO-01, the Borough will take care of any part of the sidewalk that has been displaced by Borough-owned trees.
- I met with Mr. Commoli at Commoli Granite to look at stones/plaques for the possible plaque to be placed near the tree which will be planted in memory of Nick Reardon. The price came to \$780. Burgess Barnes will speak to Alix Ogden about funding the plaque. The Borough will pay the difference. The date of planting will be added to the plaque.
- Met with Jeff Callahan and Brad Painter; the new tree in memory of Nick Reardon will be planted near the tree on Wadawanuck Square that will be removed this fall.
- Pruning on Main Street and stump grinding to begin soon.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

- Discussions with O'Malley's about replacing the chain link fence on the property line between Borough Hall and the O'Malley's property.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- Propose that the Borough make a Resolution of Appreciation for the Old Men's Walking Group for their street and sidewalk picking up of trash. Burgess Adair will start a draft.

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

- **Police Incident Report**
During the month of February 2016 there were 48 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 11 Burglar Alarms (10 of which were false), 7 Medical Assists, 6 Motor Vehicle/Parking Complaints, 4 Assist Other Agencies, 4 Check Building, 2 Accidents, 2 Fire Related Calls, 2 incidents of Larceny and 2 Juvenile. There was one incident each of Welfare Check, Vandalism, 911 Hang Up, Motor Vehicle Stop, Assist Citizen, Request Patrol, Police Information and Keys in Vehicle.

- **Website/Communications**
No report

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Discuss proposed revision to SBO-01 “Streets & Sidewalks”**
Tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Consider requests to use Borough property:**
On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Adair, the request by St. Mary Church to use several Borough streets for Our Lady of Fatima Feast/ Processions of Borough Streets on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 8:30 pm-9:30 pm and Sunday, June 5, 2016 from 11:30 am-12:30 pm, was unanimously approved.

The request by Salt Marsh Opera to use Borough Streets between the Town Dock and the Old Lighthouse Museum for the Music at the Lighthouse on Sunday, July 3, 2016 (rain date of July 10, 2016) from 6 pm – 8 pm, was tabled pending clarification of the plan.

On a motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the request by Brain Injury Alliance of CT to use Borough Streets for the 7th annual Bike for Thought Bike-A-Thon on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, was unanimously approved subject to Warden Callahan clarifying the route and duration of the event, and being assured the police have been notified.

- **Consider rescheduling May 2016 meeting**
A motion by Warden Jeff Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes, to cancel the regular Warden and Burgess Meeting of May 16th, and reschedule it as a special meeting to be held on May 9, passed unanimously.
- **Select an auditor for FY16**
On a motion by Warden Jeff Callahan, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, reappointment of O’Connor Davies, LLP as the Auditor for the Borough of Stonington for the fiscal period from July 01, 2015 to June 30, 2016 was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Warden Callahan asked the burgesses to review the CV of Karen von Ruffer Hills, who has been presented by the Borough Democratic Committee as a candidate to replace Burgess Michael Blair.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Adair, adjournment of the meeting at 11:45 am, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
Clerk-Treasurer
May 3, 2016