

**Board of Warden and Burgesses**  
**Minutes of Monthly Meeting ~ August 15, 2016**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order at Borough Hall at 7:31 pm. Present were Burgesses Karen von Ruffer Hills, Robert Scala, Amy Nicholas, Amanda Barnes, and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgesses Howard Park and Michael Adair were absent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, the minutes from the Monthly meeting held on July 18, 2016, were unanimously approved.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):**

- Received July collections: \$641,309.51
- Received Town 2016/2017 Disbursement: \$197,370.00
- Received CIRMA'S Member's Equity Distribution: \$1,444.00
- Processed quarterly reports
- Started preparation for field audit, which begins August 17th

**Correspondence:**

**Other:**

- Betty Richards: email regarding issues south of the Cannons
- Frederick Souza: copy of letter to Town registrars regarding issues of voting at firehouse
- Stonington Free Library: thank you for contribution and increase over previous year
- Paul Janssens: email regarding serving on Zoning Board of Appeals
- Letter from Mardi Mitchell concerning public tree at 25 Main Street

**Requests:**

- United Church: request to post sign for 8/20 event (Barnes)

**Meetings:**

- None

**CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN):**

- None

**REVIEW OF BILLS:**

- The 7/18/2016 through 8/10/2016 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$41,649.69.

**REVIEW OF INCOME AND EXPENSES:**

- The July 01, 2015 through June 2016 Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of August 10, 2016 (Is this the correct date?) is \$118,691.42.
- The July 01, 2016 through August 10, 2016 Income and Expenses Budget vs. Actual was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of 8/10/2016 is \$518,059.96.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Moved to before New Business

**WARDEN’S REPORT:**

- Dog Park: Town has submitted application to install fence to subdivide the open area adjacent to sewer plant, as recommended by ad hoc committee. Application was on the agenda for the July P&Z Commission meeting. Presentation and discussion of the matter was postponed to 23 August due to a procedural error.
- Contract for consultant on development of Town coastal resiliency plan has been signed. Meetings between consultant (ARUP) and Town staff and Climate Change Task Force will begin in September.
- Participated in discussions of follow up to June Borovision 2020 presentation. Working with Town Planner to develop plan of action. Next public session scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> in La Grua Center.
- Worked on annual fire protection service bills for fire districts that contract with SBFD.
- Began preparing annual recertification report for Community Rating System flood insurance discount. Due end of September.
- Received several complaints about Pokemon players around Cannon Square.

**FIRE COMMISSIONER REPORT – (CHIEF HOADLEY/WARDEN CALLAHAN)**

- There were 15 alarms in July 2016
 

7-2-16	11:45 am	fire alarm activation 23 Wolcott Ave. Lords Pt.
7-6-16	7:13 pm	dog stuck in fence 9 Church St.
7-7-16	12:00 pm	fire alarm activation Stonington Commons
7-10-16	3:53 pm	lift assist with SAC 194 Water St.
7-11-16	5:06 am	lift assist with SAC Waylands Wharf
7-11-16	7:18 pm	tree limb on wires 26 Grand St.
7-16-16	10:52 am	MVA Main & High St.
7-18-16	11:35 am	wire down IFO 65 Boulder Ave. Lords Pt.
7-18-16	1:11 pm	Fire alarm activation 86 Collins Rd.
7-22-16	1:42 pm	CO detector activation 95 Water St.
7-22-16	2:34 pm	Fire alarm activation 455 Stonington Rd.
7-24-16	7:43 am	Box 15 Velvet Mill
7-29-16	6:51 am	Fire alarm activation Stonington Lighthouse
7-30-16	11:40 am	MVA Rt. 1 @ North Main St.
7-30-16	11:08 pm	Fire alarm activation Stonington Commons
- Worked with attorney Duggan to develop Offer & Employment letter for new chief.

**BOROUGH CLOCK:**

- No actions

**STREETS (BURGESS PARK):**

- The crew painted the handy cap parking place places, the cross walks on Main St and are repainting yellow curbs.
- Moved the “stop” sign on Broad St.
- Fixed the broken stanchion, south sea wall at Waylands Wharf and replaced missing caps on three others close to the gazebo. They also reinforced the ladder on the wharf.
- Repaired the person hole cover at Harmony St. Dug out the outflow at North West St. There was much sea weed in the pipe. A camera has been scheduled for Wednesday the 17th to inspect the drain from the catch basin at Church and Water Streets down to the outflow.

- Placed cones to refrain motorists from park so the Tree Commissioner could have the Ginkgo trees sprayed. Barricades were placed as directed by the police department, for the Village Fair
- Temporary “slow” sign placed on Water St and a temporary “no parking this side” placed on Gold St.
- Repair to the Hancox St drainage system has been ordered and notices prepared.
- Extension of the work at Orchard St. is being investigated.
- Received complaints about Pokemon players but the little Pokemon.go creatures even appear up here in the high desert country of New Mexico, pursued by the large Pokemon creatures. I think it a phenomenon we must live with.

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

- The Ginkgo trees near the Pandolfi’s house were treated in early August by Bartlett. A tree in front of Peyton Horne's house on Main Street will be treated this week (possibly tomorrow), and at that time, Bartlett will also trim trees on Water Street (near Wad Square), which have dead limbs.
- The Board has received a request about a tree near 25 Main Street, which is on the agenda
- Request from Cormac O’Malley pertaining to tree in front of their house at 45 Main Street.

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):**

- Firehouse doors with broken seals: I have taken a series of pictures of our firehouse windows that look “frosted white” because of broken seals on the insulated panes. I have not yet had a chance to talk to the other firehouses and check their similar overhead doors panes. But I will follow up and report on our next meeting.
- O’Malley fence: We now have four estimates for various alternatives to the O’Malley fence situation just on the Western border of Borough Hall. I don’t believe the O’Malley’s have made a final decision on what their decision will be, but hope to have some report on the situation and how it affects our own section of the rusted wire/metal post border on our Borough Hall property line for our next meeting discussion.

**SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):**

- Met onsite with owner of 20 Omega Street about electrical wire hook up for resident’s electric car about where the cut should be.
- Sidewalk on Grand Street near Tom’s News has been repaired.

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

- **Police Incident Report**  
During the month of July 2016 there were 80 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 9 Parking Complaints, 8 Accidents 3 of which were Hit and Run, 7 Larcenies, 7 Medical Assists, 7 Suspicious Activities, 6 Animal Control, 5 Burglar Alarms (4 of which were false), 4 Nuisance Calls, 4 Assist Citizens and 4 Fire related calls. There were 2 Juvenile Calls, 2 Business Checks and 2 Suspicious Motor Vehicles. There was one incident each of General Information, Found Item, 911 Misdeal, Welfare Check, Disturbance, Vandalism, Soliciting, an Animal Bite, a Domestic Disturbance (2 arrests), a Minor Traffic Service, an Ambulance Standby, Officer Activity and a DUI.

In total there were 8 Arrests this month:

- one for larceny
- two for breach of peace
- two for criminal mischief
- one for assault and breach of peace

- one for larceny, drug possession and criminal mischief
- one for a DUI on Bayview Avenue

Burgess Scala mentioned the late night activity at Wayland’s Wharf. There was discussion of a girl falling off the roof of the gazebo last week. Neighbors have been advised to call police if there are disturbances at night.

- **Website/Communications**  
No report

**SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT – (BURGESS VON RUFFER HILLS)**

- I continue to oversee the Redundant Utility Poles project and am happy to report that there is ongoing progress as I continue my dialog with PURA to ensure wires are transferred and redundant poles removed. We are down to 5 of the 13 Redundant Utility Poles.
- Discussion about the yellow trash bag going out the night before trash pickup. Burgess Von Ruffer Hills will draft a letter .

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Resident Richard Easton had a question about the financial statements. Congratulated the Board on the surplus at the end of FY 2015/16. Question was “which year the expenses go in and do they go in the appropriate year?” Warden Callahan assured him that invoices received during the transition at the beginning of a new fiscal year are assigned to the appropriate year.
- Resident Richard Easton asked about the recently passed changes to SBO-01 and how we notified the Borough residents about the use of skateboards, hover boards, and similar devices on sidewalks. Warden Callahan said we published it on our website and in the New London Day legal notices. It is a problem at Richard Easton’s house on Main Street. Easton’s suggestion was we post it at Tom’s News and on the Bulletin Board at the Borough Hall.
- Resident Richard Easton asked about the “home invasion” that happened at the beginning of July that was mentioned during the July meeting but not discussed. Police Commissioner Nicholas stated it was not in the police report, and she can only report the information she is given by SPD. Resident Easton asked why it was not talked about. Warden Callahan said he had been in discussion with the resident, who was very upset, but had gotten the impression that the resident didn’t want to further publicize the incident. Warden Callahan suggested that Easton should contact the Stonington Police Department. Burgess Nicholas went to the police chief for clarification on rumors going around about the incident.
- Resident Richard Easton asked for an update about why meetings of the Warden and Burgesses were not recorded. Warden Callahan talked to the Borough Attorney who said we are not required to record the Warden and Burgesses meetings, but Public Hearings must be recorded.
- Matt Trumbull of Stonington Commons commented about the electrical meter box at Cannon Square. Warden Callahan explained that we needed electricity to light the flag. We had no choice in the meter box. A bush could be planted near it, but not too close to it.
- Resident Richard Easton asked about Paul Janssens’ previous terms on ZBA. What were the circumstances of his leaving the board previously? Warden Callahan said he rotated off at the end of his terms.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Dog park update**  
Town has submitted an application to install fence to subdivide the open area adjacent to sewer plant, as recommended by the ad hoc committee. Application was on the agenda for

the July P&Z Commission meeting. Presentation and discussion of the matter was postponed to 23 August due to a procedural error.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Consider requests to use Borough property**  
None
- **Consider referring transfer of Temple Street parcel to P&Z for section 8-24 review**  
Under State law, whenever a municipality sells or acquires land it must go to Planning and Zoning for a “Section 8-24 review”. Resident Richard Easton asked if a contract been signed and if there has been an appraisal done yet. Warden Callahan assured him a contract had not been signed and an appraisal will be done.

A motion made by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes to refer the proposed transfer of a Temple Street parcel to P&Z for section 8-24 review, was unanimously approved.

- **Discuss request to remove tree at 25 Main Street**  
Warden Callahan referred the issue to the Tree Commissioner to investigate.
- **Consider candidate [Paul Janssens] for ZBA**  
A motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, to appoint Paul Janssens to fill an open position on ZBA was unanimously approved.

Warden Callahan will contact Paul Janssens and Bob Montgomery.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Burgess Scala suggested refinishing the Board meeting table. Warden Callahan will refer the request to refinish the table to Building Commissioner Adair.
- A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Barnes to go into Executive Session at 8:15 pm to discuss the fire chief search status, was unanimously approved. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:25 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:26 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman, Clerk-Treasurer  
August 16, 2016