

Borough Of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2018

1. CALL TO ORDER

Warden Jeff Callahan called the monthly meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order in Borough Hall at 7:00p.m. Present were Burgesses Amanda Barnes, Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Karen von Ruffer-Hills and Robert Scala. Clerk-Treasurer Tiffany Cook also was present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Shaun Mastroianni, the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 20 were unanimously approved.

3. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Received \$4,884 in property taxes from the Town of Stonington

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- Other: Letter from the Town regarding the Borough boundary lines study
From Town—Annual tax suspense list request
- Requests: From the La Grua Center to hold its annual music festival in June
From St. Mary Church- Lady of Fatima procession on May 19th

5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER —

Borough recipient approved for assistance from the Williams Fund, for financial hardship.

6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

- Bills for the month of January totaled \$35,900.00
- Net income \$329,092 as of 15 March

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

- Prepared input for Charter Revision Commission to consider
- Attended CRS meeting at SCCOG
- Attended regional housing conference in Norwich.
- Finalized proposed FY 2018-19 budget.
- Arranged for repairs to Wayland's boat dock.
- Met with Sen. Murphy's eastern CT outreach staff
- Held discussions with Town staff regarding Borough-Town boundary
- Attended bi-monthly Climate Change Task Force meeting
- Adjusted Borough Clock for daylight saving time

8. COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

a) Streets

- Received cost estimates for 2018 street repair projects.
- Responded to storms on March 2nd, 7th and 13th.

b) Fire & Emergency Management

There were ONLY 4 Alarms in February 2018, they were as follows:

- 1) 2-8-18 8:35pm MVA Water St. @ bottom of Viaduct
- 2) 2-10-18 8:01pm Chimney Fire 270 North Water St.
- 3) 2-12-18 5:34pm Water Emergency 189 Elm St.
- 4) 2-21-18 3:21pm Child on a bike hit by a car IFO 154 Water St. (bruised ankle)

c) Parks, Trees and Rights of Way

- There was damage involving two trees on Elm Street during the first storm (last week). One tree fell on 13 and 11 Elm Street, and the limbs went through a window on the house at 13 Elm. The tree was removed the next day, and we are waiting for an invoice from the homeowner for the window repair. The owner of the property at 13 Elm would like to plant an Elm tree in the spring. Another tree further up Elm Street is now bending over significantly and may need to be removed.
- We have received a request from the SVIA to place a Little Free Library in Wimpheimer Park.

d) Public Buildings & Charter Revision Commission

- Retaining wall to be constructed around rear entrance to Borough Hall boiler rm
- Receiving bids for painting Borough Hall exterior trim and windows
- Seeking funds in FY 2018-19 budget for new generator and fire escape

e) Sidewalks

- No activity

f) Police and Public Affairs

- During the month of February 2018 there were 34 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 5 Burglar Alarms (2 of which were false), 4 Medical Assists, 4 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 3 Accidents (1 with an injury), 3 911 Hang Ups/Misdial, 2 Animal Control and 2 Welfare Checks. There were one incident each of Motor Vehicle, Check Building, Water Emergency, Assist Citizen, Burglary, Water Emergency, Alarm Panic, Found Item, Keys in Vehicle, Alarm Not Registered and Assist Other Agency.

g) Utilities and Sanitation

- Filed paperwork with Town, on behalf of the Library, to request new streetlight on High Street. Received confirmation that application is under review.
- Received update from Town that LED streetlight project budget is on the Town's agenda for May.
- Town has requested that a contractor identify the streetlight type on the viaduct pursuant to a Borough resident request
- In agreement with Warden Callahan, I have begun drafting a trash ordinance amendment to include an "enforcement clause" for both legal review and presentation to Board for next month's meeting.

9) PUBLIC COMMENT

- Thorough snow removal was noted and appreciated
- Inquiry by a Borough resident as why 40% of budget is allotted to streets and fire suggesting it should be 60%. Warden Callahan pointed out that if capital expenses are included (e.g., new firetrucks and street repairs) slightly over 60% of annual budget is in fact allocated to streets & fire.
- Question raised as to Budget plan.... if changed before April 21st annual budget meeting. Response from Warden Callahan was: If changes are significant, there will be another budget hearing. If the changes are minor, then numbers will just be adjusted accordingly and modified budget presented at annual meeting.
- The sea wall and a portion of adjacent street on Wall Street is cracked from weather and needs minor repair. The budget will absorb this repair under Streets.

10) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Warden Callahan moved approval of the proposed budget, as revised in discussion; Burgess Scala seconded. Approved unanimously after discussion of following comments/suggestions from the Board and residents.
- Regarding Health Insurance, it was acknowledged that the increase in budget line 108 is to absorb Chief Hoadley and his wife in the Borough policy.
 - Regarding Worker's Compensation, it was noted that CIRMA is the Connecticut "pool" for most municipal workers. Because the cost is somewhat high, it was proposed we research other options for worker's comp. The question was raised if the Borough could be included under the Town's health insurance policy, and the response was "no" due to the fact that the Town self-insures.
 - Raises for staff were discussed, noting that no staff has had a raise in several years. The budget includes funds for bonuses to full time and part time staff. Elected official salaries can only be changed by ordinance.
 - Consider using more scrutiny when giving to charity. Many do not show gratitude and there is a sense of entitlement.
 - In reviewing the budget, it was proposed that the line items for the Como and the Library be reduced by \$1,000 each and the money moved to the

Ambulance Corps. Como and Library donations were left at current levels and Ambulance Corps was increased by \$2k.

- Question was raised as to why the Library receives so much money and the reply was that there is a long history of contributions that have slowly grown over years. Warden also noted that if the Library were publicly owned the cost to the Town and Borough would be much greater.
- Fire Marshal Hoadley addressed inspections and stated that there are 200 properties that need to be inspected every 12 months, 95% are within the Borough. The Velvet Mill is most time consuming.
- It was agreed that there are no funds available for the Lighthouse restoration project this year. It was noted that budget would be reviewed at the end of next fiscal year and perhaps we can allot funds then.
- A new leaf blower will be purchased under Truck Fund.
- Cannon wheels need to be repaired

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Warden Jeff Callahan moved adding two items to new business: (1) an application from the La Grua Center to use Wadawanuck Square during the June music festival; (2) consider a resolution of support for the library addition. Burgess Scala seconded. Passed unanimously. Both items added to agenda.

a.) Warden Callahan moved approval of the application by St. Mary Church to use Borough streets for the annual Lady of Fatima procession, pending receipt of a corrected insurance certificate. Burgess Barnes seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Warden Callahan then moved approval of La

Grua Center's request to use Wadawanuck Square for this June's music festival. Seconded by Burgess Nicholas. Motion passed unanimously.

b.) Warden Callahan moved approval of SVIA's request to install a mini library in Wimpheimer Park. Second by Burgess Barnes. No discussion. Approved unanimously.

c.) Warden Callahan moved waiving the bid requirement and accepting the bid from Hastedt Bros. (\$32,000) to repair Main Street between High and Broad Streets in May. Burgess Scala seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

d.) Warden Callahan moved appointment of Rick Larkin from alternate member to regular member of ZBA. Burgess von Ruffer Hills seconded and motion was approved unanimously.

e.) Warden Callahan moved that the Borough split the cost (\$3,000) with the Town of researching the location of the Town-Borough boundary. Burgess Mastroianni seconded. During discussion Callahan explained that the Town has raised the issue of the boundary, after noting that the Borough zoning map lines do not match the boundary as shown on the Town GIS. He also

noted that various old maps dating back to 1827 have inconsistencies among them as to the boundary. Motion passed unanimously.

f.) Burgess Scala moved approval of this year's suspense tax list from Town Tax Collector Camelio. Burgess Nicholas seconded. Total value of the uncollected taxes is \$619. Motion approved unanimously.

g.) Warden Callahan moved that the Board vote to officially support the planned addition to the Stonington Free Library. Burgess von Ruffer Hills seconded. Passed unanimously.

12) OTHER BUSINESS

- None

13) ADJOURNMENT

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, adjournment of the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer
March 26, 2018