

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Regular Monthly Meeting - June 18, 2018**

NOTE: The meeting was preceded at 6:30 by a public hearing to receive input on the draft charter revision. Six residents attended.

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 Shaun Mastroianni, Robert Scala, Karen Von Ruffer Hills, Michael Adair, and Amy Nicholas. Also present was Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Mastroianni, the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 21st were unanimously approved.

3. REPORT OF ADMIN ASSISTANT

Received property taxes from Town: \$211.49
Received dumpster renewal fees: \$100.00

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Stonington COMO: Village Fair request for 8/4
Stephen Bessette: Weekly Fun Runs & Battle of Stonington 5k (8/21)
Stonington Historical Society: Fourth of July Parade

5. REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER: None

6. REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIALS

Bills for month ending June 15th totaled \$31,145.
YTD ordinary income through June 15th is \$140,002. Reserve is approximately \$300,000.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

1. Completed repairs to Wayland's Wharf dinghy dock and sidewalk
2. Attended resiliency meeting with Sen. Chris Murphy
3. Reviewed/edited Charter Revision Commission draft
4. Working on organizing Borough insurance policies

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. Streets (Callahan)

1. Filled more potholes
2. Painted cross walks
3. Put out flags for Memorial Day and Flag Day

BOROUGH CLOCK –

1. Attempting adjustment to north dial setting

b. Fire & Emergency Management (Adair/Hoadley)

SBFD responded to 18 Alarms in May 2018, they were as follows:

- 1) 5-1-18 10:20am Lift assist with Mystic River Ambulance 8 Pearl St.
- 2) 5-3-18 3:49pm Fire Alarm Activation 324 Elm St. (Workers)
- 3) 5-4-18 5:04pm Lift Assist with SAC 229 North Main St.
- 4) 5-9-18 11:36am MV Fire IFO 6 Union St. (minimal damage engine comp.)
- 5) 5-10-18 1:57pm Medical Assist with SAC (tire explosion)
- 6) 5-13-18 9:15am Fire Alarm Activation 40 Trumbull Ave. (nothing found)
- 7) 5-14-18 8:21am Fire Alarm Activation 15 Owens Dr. (burnt food)
- 8) 5-15-18 8:02pm Fire Alarm Activation 7 Temple St. (burnt food)
- 9) 5-17-18 1:29am Propane Alarm Activation 14 Chesebro Lane (faulty cooktop)
- 10) 5-17-18 2:19pm Fire Alarm Activation Ston. Commons (Workers)
- 11) 5-17-18 2:20pm Odor of gas 17 Hancox St. (nothing found)
- 12) 5-20-18 12:48pm Fire Alarm Activation 348 N. Main St. (nothing found)
- 13) 5-21-18 9:45am Fire Alarm Activation 530 Stonington Rd. (Workers)
- 14) 5-24-18 12:52pm Fire Alarm Activation 6 Union St. (ASP Workers on site)
- 15) 5-25-18 11:42pm Medical Assist with SAC (women injured on sailboat)
- 16) 5-26-18 10:17pm Wires down IFO 12 Water St. (RV antenna caught wires)
- 17) 5-29-18 8:03pm Tree down across road IFO 68 Island Rd.
- 18) 5-30-18 1:53pm Tree on Wires IFO 69 Tipping Rock Rd.

Chief Hoadley and I have discussed one other issue of longer term concern, a concern that is shared by volunteer companies throughout the town, state and country as a whole, a manpower shortage. Our own issues are stabilized for now, but our current manpower is half of what it used to be. Furthermore, the majority of our current people don't even live here. The age of our Borough's residents, costs of the houses and costs of living here are, and will continue to preclude most of their participation as firefighters. As one family leaves and finds their way to Stone Ridge or similar places, their house sells to a successful retiree who has no interest climbing ladders. The entire culture of our youth in years gone by gloried in local participation in so many ways from local baseball teams to fairs and local duties. Those days are gone. Fire safety responsibilities won't go away for this Borough. We can do now with what we have by leaning on our other nearby fire facilities who work with us and we with them when called upon. But all of us must not turn a blind eye to this manpower shortage hanging over this Borough.

At this point, Chief Hoadley discussed the Borough FD junior fire fighter program and informed the Board that he strongly supports the application from Jakob Burns to become a junior fire fighter. See new business.

c. Parks, Trees, Rights of Way (Barnes)

The beautiful copper beech donated by Bill Morris was planted on the northeast corner of Wad Square. If you haven't seen it yet, please have a look - it's really lovely.

Bartlett did the first treatment on the tree in front of Peyton Horne's house and also pruned the tree - especially the side facing her home and sidewalk. They also trimmed trees on Wad Square, Main Street, and Water Street. We are still waiting to find Elm trees for Elm Street, but there is not a great rush on this.

Pear trees have been planted in front of the Orchard Street Inn.

d. Public Buildings & Charter Revision Commission (Mastroianni)

The Boro Hall window trim has been painted. Still researching quote about doors being painted. The fire house gardens have been weeded.

e. Sidewalks (Scala)

Getting estimates for repairing sidewalk near footbridge.

f. Police (Nicholas)

During the month of May 2018 there were 58 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 14 Motor Vehicle Stops/Infractions, 7 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 7 Fire-related Calls, 5 Check Buildings, 5 Medical Assists, 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents, 2 Burglar Alarms, 2 Assist Citizens, 2 Nuisance, 2 Animal Control, and 2 911 Hang ups. There was one incident each of Motor Vehicle Abandoned, Sudden Death, Harassment, Traffic Enforcement, Welfare Check and Suspicious Activity.

The large number of Motor Vehicle Stops were a result of a request for increased enforcement of the 20 MPH Speed limit on Main Street.

g. Sanitation and Utilities (von Ruffer Hills)

- Issued 20+ trash violation letters throughout Borough
- Responded to request to remove streetlight and redundant poles on Summit Street.
- Followed up on new streetlight requested by Library - await update from Town
- Received update from Town which has approved budget to move forward with an LED Audit (streetlight assessment) and Streetlight Acquisition Project. RFP responses due 6/26.

Drafted Ordinance SBO-7 Violation Letter/Notice imposing fine as authorized in SBO-G01. Await final legal approval for distribution when needed.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

It was noted by a Borough resident that there may be a problem with the certificate of liability insurance for the Fun Runs and Battle of Stonington 5k. Specifically, two entities (Borough and Nat. League of Cities) are named as certificate holders. Stephen Bessette told Warden Callahan he would look into the matter.

It was expressed that the Borough should advertise more about hearings, with the hope that more members of the community will engage in decision making process.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. The Breakwater Restoration Project current status, reported by the Stonington Harbor Management Commission (SHMC): Additional grant funding (\$130,000) was received in early 2018 from CT Port Authority's Small Harbor Improvement Program Project. These funds will be used to complete design work started in 2015. It will then be necessary to obtain construction funding for the actual repairs. Letter submitted to CTPA on May 31 designating SHMC project lead; CTPA approves sole-source contract to Docko for design completion; use any balance of funds for construction or transfer excess funds to South Pier Project (funds expire so would rather excess funds go to South Pier Project). The CTPA and the Town have agreed in principle and waiting formal approval. Repair plan and details were provided to the Board.

b. Charter Revision Commission submitted revised draft of the Charter to the Board. The final version will be sent back to commission in July after vote by W&B. There was discussion to have one more public hearing to allow for more community members to attend meetings regarding the Charter Revisions. It was expressed that there was not enough promotion or advertising about the meeting. Notices will be put up at the Library and Tom's News Stand.

c. In consideration of appointing a member on the Town's Stormwater Task Force, Burgess Robert Scala volunteered to take the appointment. Burgess Mastroianni moved the appointment of Mr. Scala and Burgess Von Ruffer-Hills seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. On a motion by Burgess Scala and seconded by Burgess Adair, the request to use Borough streets and property for weekly Fun Runs and Battle of Stonington 5k, compliant with a Safety Plan, was approved unanimously. Burgess von Ruffer Hills then moved approval of the requests to use Borough Property for the July Fourth Parade and the Annual Village Fair. Burgess Scala seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

b. Warden Callahan moved to approve the application by Jakob Burns to become a Borough Junior Fire Fighter. Burgess Adair seconded. Chief Hoadley had endorsed this application earlier in the meeting. Approved by unanimous vote.

c. In consideration of providing partial funding for the July 4th Parade, Warden Callahan moved to provide \$800.00 for the event. Burgess Scala seconded. After discussion among the Board, Warden Callahan amended his motion to donate the total estimated parade cost of \$1,200 to

the Historical Society. On the revised motion by Warden Callahan to provide the total \$1,200.00: 4 approved; 1 (Adair) opposed; and 1 (Nicholas) abstained.

d. Warden Callahan moved that both Jesse Diggs and Sherman Crites be reappointed to another 3-year term on Stonington Harbor Management Commission, with terms ending June 30, 2021. Burgess Mastroianni seconded. Approved unanimously.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

Burgess Mastroianni moved using \$4,000 from the Borough's contingency fund to help pay for emergency repairs to the Fire Department ladder truck. Burgess Scala seconded. All were in favor, none opposed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 7:50 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Cook, Clerk-Treasurer
June 25, 2018