

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Board Meeting ~ March 30, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

- Warden Jeffrey Callahan called the meeting of the Borough of Stonington Board of Warden and Burgesses to order in Borough Hall at 7:30 PM. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Sibby Lynch, Robert Scala, Howard Park, and Amy Nicholas; and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Michael Blair was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Park, the minutes from the Board Meeting held on February 17, 2015, were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):

- Received February tax collections: \$462.78
- Received Frontier Property Tax: \$895.89

CORRESPONDENCE:

Requests:

- None

Other:

- Town of Stonington: letter from Assessor's Office regarding appeal at 30 Water St.
- Harborside Condominium: letter regarding vinyl gate broken during snow removal.
- Stonington Police Department: letter regarding Blessing of the Fleet 5K race (awaiting Borough application.)

Invitations/Meetings:

- None

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN):

- Met with Stonington Registrars of Voters to review Borough election preparations.
- Met with Registrars of Voters to hold the lottery to determine the order of names on the ballot for both Republican and Democratic candidates.
- Submitted Certification of Ballot Order to SOTS.
- Ordered absentee ballots, regular ballots, sample ballot posters, and voting instructions. They have arrived and are in the Borough Office.
- Presently getting the past four elections amounts of voter turnout.
- Election will be held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at the Stonington Fire Department from 6 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- I encourage all of you to ask your friends and neighbors to vote. If you know of anyone who needs to register to vote, encourage him or her to register.

REVIEW OF BILLS:

- The 2/17/2015 through 3/26/2015 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$37,006.58.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

The July 2014 through March 26, 2015 Budget vs. Actual P&L Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of March 26, 2015 is \$208,765.18.

Other:

- None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

WARDEN'S REPORT:

- Met with Waterfront Commission to discuss fencing of open area adjacent to sewage treatment plant. Agreed to meet with them again in April.
- Continued developing FY-16 budget.
- Worked with adjuster on February firehouse sprinkler break and resulting damage.
- Changed firehouse electricity provider to ConEd Solutions, resulting in 25% reduction in generation charge starting in April. EverSource (aka CL&P) is still the service provider.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT

- Met with residents concerned about seaweed accumulation in Ash Street cove.

BOROUGH CLOCK

- None

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- It seems like never ending snow with the highway crew out many nights salting and plowing. Even on the night of March 29th and morning of the 30th. Regular work hours were filled with removing snow piles and making sure that the catch basin drains were kept clear. During all this the equipment was used heavily. The 09 (older) truck's plow blade needed its cutting blade replaced. This was done by the crew. They also replaced the joystick and the chain sprocket for the spreader. They also replaced the brake light and heater switch on the 09. The plow for the 09 needed new brackets for its trip springs which were worn away by heavy use this winter. This was done off sight. The 09 also has excessive clutch wear and has been adjusted almost all the way out to its limit. This will be dealt with later in the summer.
- They removed the Borough sign on Elm St. to be repaired, picked up a sign and pole knocked down and replaced three garbage baskets.
- Potholes are being done whenever weather permits I propose that we look into an outside contractor to do potholes and crack sealing in the hopes of delaying costly street repairs.
- No brush was picked up due to snowstorms.
- The crew did an excellent job of keeping our streets open and well plowed and sidewalks cleared and safe. A reminder to the residents and the contractors who clear sidewalks and driveways that there is an ordinance against throwing snow back out into the street. It should be piled in the yard or on the strip between the sidewalk and the street. Throwing snow into the street next to the curb forces cars to park farther out into the thoroughfare, narrowing the streets making them harder to plow and impassable by the emergency vehicles We were lenient this year because of the unprecedented snow amounts, but the crew was obliged to return and plow roads which were already done.

- There were some water main leaks on Gold St, which is slated for repaving this year, and on North West St, which will have a patch. Other streets will be repaired and maintained as stated earlier in this report. I am in touch with Aquarion and Hasted Brothers.
- We are looking forward to having Kyle Mola return this summer starting May 18th through June 26. He is on an exchange student program this year so won't be here the whole summer. He will simply have to paint the yellow curbs faster.
- Michael Adair asked if we could make a new resident or resident "Living in the Borough" guide. It is on our website. Burgesses Adair and Nicholas will work on developing a one-page guide.

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

- There were eleven alarms in February 2015. They were as follows:

02/08/15	3:26 p.m.	Open Hydrant IFO 2 Summit St.
02/08/15	7:45 p.m.	Fire Alarm Activation 54 Gold St
02/10/15	11:01 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation 19 Elm St.
02/15/15	1:39 p.m.	Dryer Fire 91 Water St.
02/16/15	1:15 p.m.	Smoke in Basement 252 North Water St.
02/16/15	4:30 p.m.	Box Alarm SBFD Broken Sprinkler Pipe
02/17/15	1:16 p.m.	Water Emergency 5 Ston. Commons
02/18/15	7:26 a.m.	Water Emergency 104 Water St
02/19/15	10:11 a.m.	Odor of Smoke Stonington Thrift Shop
02/20/15		Fire Alarm Activation 107 Water St
02/23/15	11:36 a.m.	Water Emergency 9 Summit St.
- Fire Chief Jeff Hoadley remarked the majority of the calls were frozen and broken pipes due to the cold weather.
- There was a broken sprinkler pipe at the SBFD which caused damage.
- Michael Adair suggested Knox-Box for uninhabited residences.
- Chief Hoadley brought to the attention of the board the frozen snow piles around the Borough and in particular on Main Street, making it practically impossible for the fire trucks to get through.

PARKS, TREES, AND RIGHTS OF WAY (BURGESS LYNCH)

- Asplundh finished tree-trimming job in Borough for Eversource.
- I've asked for list of adjoining property owners who did NOT give permission, so we can keep an eye on those trees.
- The road crew and I are assessing the metal and wood park benches at Wadawanuck Square, Wayland's Wharf, United Church and Wimpfheimer Park that need work.
- Mrs. John Mitchell of 25 Main is concerned about the damage a Borough Tree (given in honor of a beloved resident) is doing to her sidewalk.
- Susan Cordeiro reports that the new lawnmowers are set at 3" cutting height.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

- I have two roofing companies, one of which we used last year, which can do the work on the leak in the back roof of Borough Hall, but the weather (snow, ice, etc.) is not cooperating for the moment. I am on the case, however, and will have a recommendation on how to fix and repair the inside by the stove vent in the kitchen-filing room, when the weather changes so they can get up there safely to estimate.

- On the new electrical supplier, I learned a couple of good lessons from my own change from year to year, which I will discuss at our meeting. The key is to beware what happens to the pricing at the end of the “fixed” contract expiration contract. I learned that they change the rates after the contract with no obligation of informing you of the increase as long as it is below a legislated percentage maximum, which oddly enough, is a fraction under that ceiling, and usually well over what the other suppliers are offering for a new contract.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- A letter has been sent to owner of 33 Bayview Ave. about snow removal. There has been no response.
- Mention of tree roots pushing up sidewalks on Main Street.

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

- **Police Incident Report**
- During the month of February 2015 there were 39 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 6 Parking Complaints, 6 Fire Related Calls, 5 building/bank checks, 3 Burglar Alarms, 3 Assist Other Agencies, 2 Assist Citizens, 2 Suspicious Activities and 2 Welfare Checks. There was one incident each of an Accident no Injury, a Patrol Request, a Found Item, a Medical Assist, a Disturbance, a Harassment, a Lost Item, a Minor Traffic Service and a 911 Misdeal. A Warrant was served in February.
- **Website/Communications**
No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Proposed FY 15-16 budget**
The Public Hearing was held before the board meeting and there were no strong objections. There are still a few minor adjustments to be made.

A motion by Burgess Park, seconded by Burgess Adair, to accept the draft FY 15-16 budget, with minor adjustments, was passed unanimously.

The final version will be distributed to the board members prior to the annual meeting.

- **Consider revised vendor ordinance (SBO-10)**
A motion made by Warden Jeff Callahan, seconded by Burgess Park, to accept the revised Vendor Ordinance (SBO-10), with the change “may be exempt” rather than “are exempt” in paragraph three, was passed unanimously.

The form for applying for a vendor permit has been drafted by Jesse Diggs. The Borough attorney is reviewing it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discuss winter parking regulations – see SBO-06 (Snow Emergency) attached**
Warden Callahan suggests the board can ban parking “on emergency basis.” Burgess Nicholas will email Warden Callahan on her suggestions about parking on Main Street as well as her suggestion that a clarification of when a snowstorm is over and vehicles must be moved so the street can be plowed.

Warden Callahan suggested that the six Borough ordinances pertaining to parking and streets be condensed into two.

- **Consider requests to use Borough property**
None

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Warden Callahan proposed we have our April meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting being held on April 18th at 10:00 a.m. at the Borough Hall. All agreed
- Regarding the ‘dog park’ issue, Warden Callahan will present a proposed revision to the Dog Ordinance (SBO-09) at the April meeting. The revision will delete paragraph 1.

ADJOURNMENT:

- On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Adair, adjournment of the meeting at 8:21 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
Clerk-Treasurer
April 6, 2015