

**Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Special Board Meeting ~ April 18, 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 11:00 am. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Sibby Lynch, Michael Blair, Howard Park, and Amy Nicholas and Clerk-Treasurer Lisa Coleman. Burgess Robert Scala was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Park, the minutes from the Board Meeting held on March 30, 2015, were unanimously approved.
- On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Park, the minutes from the Budget Public Hearing held on March 30, 2015, were unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT'S REPORT (PERRY):

- Received March tax collections: \$1,556.85
- Received donation for SBF: \$500

CORRESPONDENCE:

Other:

- Town of Stonington Dept. of Planning: notice of public hearing on 5/4 for zoning regulation text amendment
- Geraghty & Bonnano. LLC: copy of letter to Attorney Kepple regarding open area adjacent to Water Pollution Control Authority
- Stonington Free Library: letter regarding library driveway
- CIRMA: letter reporting Equity Distribution for Borough: \$1,138.00 (payable on July 27, 2015)

Requests:

- LaGrua Center: email from Jane Simmons Meiser regarding plans for community music festival on June 20. (Formal application to follow for consideration in May)
- United Church: request to post sign at Wad. Square for 5/16 plant sale (Lynch)
- Stephen Bessette: letter for permission for Battle of Stonington 5K run and Fun Run Series (application to follow)
- Saint Mary Church: Application and insurance for Lady of Fatima procession on 6/6-6/7
- Saint Mary Church: Application and insurance for Blessing of the Fleet 5K Run on 7/23
- Saint Mary Church: Application and insurance for Blessing of the Fleet procession – 7/26

Invitations/Meetings:

- None

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT (COLEMAN):

- Was served papers on behalf of the Borough regarding the appeal of the approval of Zoning decision on 28 Water Street.
- Received statement from SOTS on Jeff Callahan's petition. In the future elections if someone on the ballot is endorsed by both the Republican Party and the Democratic

Party they do not need to petition to be on the ballot AND they will not be listed on the ballot as a petitioning candidate.

- Continue to coordinate with the Stonington Registrars of Voters.
- Warning of the election will run in the New London Day this coming Sunday, April 19, 2015
- Absentee ballots are available in the Borough Office.
- 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 3/30/2015 through 4/17/2015 report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Bills for the period totaled \$18,244.44.

REVIEW OF PROFIT/LOSS STATEMENT:

The July 2014 through April 17, 2015 Budget vs. Actual P&L Report was reviewed and is on file in the Borough Office. Net income as of April 17, 2015 is \$169,560.50.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- None

WARDEN'S REPORT:

- Met with Borough Attorney to discuss use of open area adjacent to sewage treatment plant.
- Completed developing FY-16 budget.
- Worked with adjuster and Glatfelter agent on February firehouse sprinkler break and resulting damage. Anticipate payment of about \$14k after paying ServiceMaster for cleanup. Awaiting proposal from Curran & Heyniger to make repairs.
- A suit has been filed with New London Superior Court challenging P&Z's approval of a special permit for property at 28 Water Street.

SANITATION/UTILITIES REPORT

- None

BOROUGH CLOCK

- Reset clock after short Borough power outage on 2 April

STREETS (BURGESS PARK):

- The crew was busy with regular duties as well as putting away the equipment. The last of the salting (we hope) has lead to pressure washing the spreaders and putting them away. New sprocket on the 09 spreader, new clutch on the 09, bucket reinforced on the new tractor, cutting edge on the plow has the equipment ready for next year.
- Brush pickup, new flags at Cannon Sq. and The Point. Cold patch in potholes and started sweeping.
- Cut dangerous remainder of signpost.
- Catch basin at the point was repaired by Tim Keena, he has one more to do. Had Hastedt brothers paving company fill some potholes with hot patch, which will last longer than cold patch.
- Met with two of three paving contractors who I have contacted. I have received

estimates for Gold Street, Orchard St and the library driveway. Also costs for cutting and patching some of the worst places on roads not slated for this years paving. Also crack sealing. I will wait for the last contractor's numbers and plan to meet with him middle of the week.

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

- There were ten alarms in March 2015. They were as follows:

03/02/15	10:20 a.m.	Box Alarm, System Malfunction
03/02/15	3:55 p.m.	Car vs. Garage 10 Stanton Rd.
03/05/15	11:07 a.m.	Fire Alarm Activation Calvary Church
03/05/15	6:23 p.m.	Explosion Under Amtrak Bridge L.P.
03/06/15	2:01 p.m.	Arcing Amtrak Wires 29 Lindberg Rd. L.P.
03/10/15	7:02 p.m.	Lift Assist 103 Main St.
03/14/15	2:53 p.m.	Fuel Spill 32 Water St.
03/16/15	4:15 p.m.	Person Locked Out of House 20 Church St.
03/17/15	7:06 p.m.	Wires Down IFO 7 Carriage Dr.
03/31/15	7:20 p.m.	Vehicle Fire 32 Water St. Ston. Commons
- Fire Chief Jeff Hoadley addressed the question of the cause of the Lord's Point explosion under the Amtrak Bridge. Melting ice under the bridge dripping onto the transformer caused the explosion.
- A motion by Burgess Blair, seconded by Warden Callahan, to approve a \$3,300 expenditure to replace the wire on the alarm system from North Water St. to the viaduct, passed unanimously.
- Burgess Blair asked the board to return to the discussion of replacing the alarm system. Chief Hoadley said to remove the system would cost about \$50,000. The value of the system is that it still works with a power loss, the generator in the firehouse would supply the power.
- Chief Hoadley advised Warden Callahan to contact OSHKOSH to get the rate for the lease on the fire trucks locked in.

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

- Two requests for posters at Wadawanuck Square have been received, one for the Chicken Barbecue for the Uganda Mission and the other for the United Church Plant Sale on May 16th.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (BURGESS ADAIR):

- The roofing companies have been contacted regarding the Borough Hall roof.

SIDEWALKS (BURGESS SCALA):

- None

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

- **Police Incident Report**
During the month of March 2015 there were 64 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 10 Parking Complaints (3 tows), 8 Traffic Enforcement calls, 6 Medical Assists, 5 Burglar Alarm Calls, 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents (4 with no Injury), 4 building/bank checks, 3 Fire Related Calls, 3 911 Hang Ups, 2 Animal Control, 2 Assist Citizen calls, 2 Alarms not Registered and 2 Keys In a Vehicle. There was one incident each of a Found Item, Assist Other Agency, a Welfare Check, Suspicious Activity, a

Harassment, a Motor Vehicle Search, a Motor Vehicle Stop, a Disturbance, a Larceny and a Suicidal Call. There was a call related to a Protective Order Violation and a Hit and Run Accident.

- **Website/Communications**

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Set FY-16 mill rate**

A motion by Burgess Park, seconded by Burgess Blair, to adopt a property tax rate of 2.7 mills for FY-16, was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discuss possible revisions to Dog Ordinance (SBO-09)**

Warden Callahan opened the discussion by summarizing his reasons for proposing that the Borough Dog Ordinance be revised by eliminating the first article, which requires that all dogs that are not on their owner's property be on a leash. The fundamental reason for eliminating that portion of the ordinance is that enforcement of the provision must be done by the Town police/animal control officer. SPD Chief Stewart has been advised by the State's Attorney that prosecution of that provision is legally tenuous. Rather than attempting to address problems with uncontrolled dogs through this questionable ordinance, it would seem to make more sense to have the SPD use the applicable State statutes to deal with problem dogs, something they have done for years.

Attorney Michael Bonnano, representing residents whose property abuts the open area adjacent to the Borough water pollution control facility, objected to the proposed change. He argued that deleting the leash provision could create problems in other parts of the Borough, and the Borough should enforce the provision more effectively rather than turning responsibility over to the Town. He also discussed the ongoing issues his clients have faced with unleashed dogs in the WPCF open area.

Borough Attorney Nicholas Kepple responded by reiterating, in greater detail, Warden Callahan's rationale for the proposed change.

Following this lengthy discussion, the matter was tabled for further consideration at a future meeting.

- **Discuss possible revisions to Salaries Ordinance (SBO-12)**

A motion by Burgess Park, seconded by Burgess Blair, to adopt revised ordinance SBO-12, was unanimously passed.

Barbara Perry will have this published in the New London Day.

- **Consider requests to use Borough property**

On a motion by Burgess Blair, seconded by Burgess Park, the request by St. Mary Church to use several Borough streets for the Blessing-of-the-Fleet 5K Run on Thursday, July 23, 2015 from 4 pm – 7 pm, was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Blair, the request by St. Mary Church to use Borough Streets and the lawn of the Town Dock for the Blessing of the Fleet Procession and social event on Sunday, July 26, 2015 from 11 am – 4:00 pm, was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Burgess Nicholas, seconded by Burgess Adair, the request by St. Mary's Church to use Borough Streets for Our Lady of Fatima Feast processions on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm and Sunday, June 7, 2015 from 11:30 am – 12:30 pm, was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The May 2015 Board meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m. The Board will gather at 7:00 pm. The swearing in of new officials will be held at 7:15 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

- On a motion by Burgess Adair, seconded by Burgess Park, adjournment of the meeting at 12:05 PM was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Coleman
Clerk-Treasurer
April 24, 2015