

**Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses
Special Meeting~September 28, 2017
MINUTES**

1.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 7:30 p.m. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Amanda Barnes, Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Karen von Ruffer Hills, and Robert Scala, and Clerk-Treasurer Bergin O'Malley.

2.APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on August 21 were unanimously approved.

3.REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Received August collections:\$65,615.88
- Received all 3 Fire District Fees: Stonington Fire District: \$62,405.00; Lord's Point Association: \$25,369.00; Wamphassuc Point Association: \$27,263.00

4.CORRESPONDENCE

- State Preservation Office: letter regarding resiliency planning and historic resources
- Peyton Horne: letter regarding linden tree at 75 Main Street
- Richard Sattler: letter regarding trees at 41 Orchard Street
- Town of Stonington: copy of correspondence regarding footbridge and Amtrak Electrification
- Town Engineer: email regarding notification of property owners to work zone of upcoming blasting operation
- Requests: None
- Meetings: None

5.REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

- Bergin O'Malley is moving to California, so this was last meeting as Clerk-Treasurer. Grateful for having been a part of the team, and for the dedication and civility that the Board and Barbara and others involved in local government possess.

6.REVIEW OF BILLS/ YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

- Total of \$79,320.11
- Close to budget. Borough is in good financial shape.

7. WARDEN'S REPORT

- Led BoroVision 2020 presentation at La Grua on August 24th and performed analysis of results. Researched history of charter revisions since 1960 and found that all were relatively minor.

- Represented Borough at annual CT Special Olympics parade and sailing regatta.
- Assisted attorney who is handling the purchase of the small, Borough-owned parcel at 17 Temple Street by the new owner of the abutting house. Signed papers completing transaction (for \$6,300) as authorized by the Board in its November 2016 regular meeting.
- Met with Town Engineer regarding Stormwater Management Plan implementation.
- Sent out invoices for contract fire districts – WPA, Lords Pt, Stonington Upper District. Payment received from all three districts.

8. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

a. STREETS (Callahan)

- Painted cross walks on Water, Elm, and Main Streets.
- Repaired damaged sidewalk and steps on Summit Street.
- Completed vacuuming of catch basins
- Began repaving on Front Street.

b. FIRE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Adair/ Hoadley)

1. 8/2/17 03pm Amtrak power lines arcing next to footbridge
2. 8/6/17 1:17pm Fire Alarm activation 11 Shore Rd.
3. 8/11/17 11:02 pm Dryer Fire 11 Carriage Drive serious smoke damage throughout house.
4. 8/20/17 8:49 am Fire Alarm activation 274 North Water St.
5. 8/21/17 3:57am Box 15 Velvet Mill - first in some time. The ongoing problem appears to have been mitigated.
6. 8/30/17 8:05am Fire Alarm activation 145 Water St.
7. 8/30/17 7:59 pm Mutual Aid to Weq. FD Structure Fire.

Two large signs saying "NO EXIT" have been placed on the firehouse drive intersecting Water St. because of the dangerous blind right turns onto the viaduct. On-coming traffic headed South can not be seen clearly because of the wall.

c. PARKS, TREES AND RIGHTS OF WAY (Barnes)

- Received a request from Diana Beck at 170 Water Street to trim a tree in front of her home.

d. Public Buildings (Mastroianni)

- Looking for quotes on painting and water damage in the kitchen
- Looking for landscape architect for the pocket park

e. SIDEWALKS (Scala)

- 86 Water Street paved with very nice paving stones
- Did the trees in front of Mrs. Beale's house

f. POLICE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Nicholas)

During the month of August 2017 there were 57 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 11 Medical Assists, 6 Animal Control, 6 Parking/Motor Vehicle Complaints, 3 Burglar Alarms (2 of which were false), 3 Fire Related Calls, 3 Suspicious

Activities, 2 Found Items, 2 Domestic Disturbances, 2 Suicidal, 2 Accidents, 2 Keys in Vehicle, and 2 Lost Items. There were one incident each of Harassment, Disabled Motor Vehicle, Ambulance Standby, Assist Citizen, 911 Misdeal, Alarm Panic, Welfare Check, Motor Vehicle Abandoned, Forgery, Vandalism, Burglary, Business Check and Loud Music.

There was one arrest related to one of the suspicious activities.

Comment on CSOs (Community Service Officers)

The CSOs are hired yearly to support the local police. They can issue town tickets only and help direct traffic, as in the case of the Tuesday night Fun Runs. They are supposed to get to know members of the community and are individuals interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

g. UTILITIES AND SANITATION (von Ruffer Hills)

- Submitted various Trash Ordinance Notices to neighbors not in compliance
- Ongoing dialog with Town of Stonington regarding LED Streetlight proposal

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Resident Richard Hanratty--wanted to acknowledge the great work of the maintenance crew, especially Nathan.
- Saw a rat when walking by 66 Water Street

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nicholas, Warden Callahan and Burgess Adair were unanimously reappointed as Borough representatives to the Southeastern CT Water Authority advisory board.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. No requests to use Borough property

b. A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess Adair, to accept the offer by resident Bill Morris to donate a maple tree to be planted in Wad Square, passed unanimously.

c. A motion by Warden Callahan, seconded by Burgess von Ruffer-Hills, to approve a request to plant three to five trees along the sidewalk in front of 41 Orchard Street, subject to approval of spacing and species selection by Tree Commissioner, passed unanimously.

d. Discussion of follow-up actions after August Borovision meeting: Warden Callahan summarized the Borovision meeting agenda and the results of polls taken before and after the meeting. A clear majority (about 70 percent) of those voting want the Borough to remain independent and favor revising the Borough charter in order to make the government more sustainable. Callahan reminded the Board that charter revision is a serious endeavor. The process is dictated by state statute and may take over a year to complete. If the Board votes to initiate the process, we will need to form a charter revision commission of perhaps 9 to 11 members, only one third of whom can be elected officials. Ideally the commission would complete its task in time for the question of

adopting the revised charter to be put on the ballot in the May 2019 election. The Board might also consider forming a committee whose purpose would be to study the charter revision process and make recommendations to the Board before deciding on forming a charter revision commission. However, the two-step process would reduce the time available for the commission to complete its task before the May 2019 deadline. The Board should make a decision at its October meeting on how to proceed.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

In view of Ms. O'Malley's announcement earlier in the meeting, we need to find a replacement clerk-treasurer who will serve until the next election in May 2019. Under the charter, the Board has the power to appoint a replacement. Warden Callahan will talk to the chairs of the Borough party committees and will take suggestions from anyone.

13. ADJOURNMENT (V)

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, adjournment of the meeting at 8:22 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Bergin O'Malley, Clerk-Treasurer
October 2, 2017