

Board of Warden and Burgesses
Minutes of Regular Meeting ~ January 18, 2011
Approved February 22, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Borough Warden & Burgesses was called to order at 7:32 PM by Warden Don Maranell. Present were Burgesses, Kathryn Burchenal, Paul Burgess, Jeffrey Callahan, Howard Park and Clerk-Treasurer, Frederick Souza. Burgesses McCreary and Scala were absent.

Public Comment:

Friends of Wadawanuck Square was on hand to discuss a couple of issues which they had presented in correspondence. Specifically, there were questions regarding the restoration of the light posts on the square and their cost and in the correspondence information is provided that the group will be seeking money from the SVIA and also asking that the Borough contribute the remaining money needed to complete the project by including it in the upcoming budget. There was also a request that the cost of aeration (last year's was \$1102) be included in the budget for the upcoming fall. Additionally, the group shared that the Beech tree on the square has been vandalized with carving on the bark and asked what could be done about that. They are also planning to engage an arborist to prune four trees each year, the cost to be borne from fundraising activities on their part.

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Burgess Burgess, seconded by Burgess Callahan, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Administrative Assistant's Report (Perry):

- Received tax collections for December: \$1,417.25
- Received donations for Wadawanuck Square Fund - \$990.00 (Paid for 1 lamp restoration; currently have 2 unpaid bills totaling \$8,250)
- Received \$100.00 for Williams Fund
- Received Veterans Tax Relief from State: \$30.40
- Send 3rd quarter invoice to Stonington Fire District
- Working on W-2 and 1099 forms
- Processed annual coding as Assessor

Clerk-Treasurer's Report (Souza):

- Met with Don Maranell to discuss a pending request from the Williams fund, and an allocation of \$500 was expended.
- Renewed two CD accounts which came due at the end of the calendar year at Washington Trust. They were renewed for 180 day terms at a rate of .35%.
- Have exchanged several emails with representative of the Waldron Fund regarding two recently received requests.
- Have discussed election information with several people. Most notably representatives from the Republican Party and one potential candidate running unaffiliated.
- Have had several conversations with both the registrars of voters and with the Secretary of the State's office regarding election protocol. Have arranged for a meeting with the registrars to discuss the election calendar and each individual's responsibilities regarding same.
- Anticipating candidate lists from both parties and will be certifying that information to send to the SOTS tomorrow.
- Have received election information and shared it with a potential candidate not affiliated with either party.

Review of Bills: The financial reports were reviewed and briefly discussed. Burgesses were reminded budget work will be shortly forthcoming.

Warden's Report:

- **Snow removal:** William Coon Construction removed snow over two days last week, great job, should finish viaduct today. Street Department did a great job considering how in some areas residents did not remove cars in a timely manner to allow better plowing. We may have to consider looking at the snow /parking ordinance for help to improve smaller street plowing.

- **FIOA Training:** Have not heard back from our attorney. If too hard will find someone else that is qualified to give the training and try to schedule for our next meeting.
- **Budget:** We have received a lot of input; next meeting we should begin deliberations. We need to discuss if we are having additional meetings.
- **Church Street Seawall:** Letter went out to contractors, will have presentation for the February meeting.
- **Hyde Street:** Met with Rick Olisky. He will have a presentation for this meeting.
- **Wayland's Wharf:** The fence/railing is getting pretty bad. We need to discuss removing sidewalks, reaping any undermining, patch the land side of the seawall and coming up with a better design for the fence. We should also discuss pressure washing and treating the gazebo.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire(Scala): No report submitted.

However, the report from the Fire Inspector regarding activity in and around the Borough was made available to the Board.

Parks, Trees & Rights of Way (Park):

- **Trees;** Spoke with Nick Reardon about putting a Tulip Tree in the NE corner of Wad Square and he suggested an OAK which was always my first choice. We are looking into prices of trees which have substantial size and this might be a deciding factor.
- **Parks;** Wadawanuck Square; Spoke with Friends of Wad Square and Barbara. We seem to have several thousand dollars available for the O'Briens to pay towards the lamp post bill. We have not spent any Taxpayers money on this project and the hope is that it will remain so. I do have a meeting scheduled with SVIA in the hopes that they will see fit to donate some money towards the project.
- **Rights of Way.** Don has not filled me in on the ongoing right of way issues with the Borough land under the Viaduct.

Utilities and Sanitation(McCreary): No report submitted-Burgess out of Town

Public Buildings(Callahan):

- **BOROUGH HALL:** Contractor expects to receive new door to fire escape this week. Will install when weather moderates. About 28% of heating oil budget has been used thus far. Heating oil price is up about 11% over last year.
- **FIRE HOUSE:** The heating system has been functioning satisfactorily during the recent cold spell. We have now used about one third of the propane budget for the year. Propane prices are up about 4% over this time last year. Roof leaks have been patched.
- **ADMINISTRATIVE:** The part of the Borough budget entitled "PUBLIC BUILDINGS" only contains the budget for Borough Hall. The budget for the other public building – the firehouse, lines 311 -317 plus 566 – is contained within the FIRE DEPARTMENT budget. I recommend changing "PUBLIC BUILDINGS" to "BOROUGH HALL/HIGHWAY GARAGE."

Emergency Management, Sidewalks, & Street Lights (Burgess):

- **Street Lights**
CL&P contacted regarding light out at Elm Street and Bayview.
- **Emergency Management**
No Activity
- **Sidewalks**
Sidewalks inspected after snow storms for compliance with snow removal ordinance. Overall compliance excellent.

Police, Public Affairs & Communications (Burchenal):

The Stonington Police Department is in the midst of upgrading the program that handles the incidence reports. At this time they are not able to provide a report to the Borough, but will do so as soon possible. Additionally, Burgess Burchenal has been working with the administrative assistant to update the Borough web page.

Old Business:

- The Right of Way issues under the viaduct have been on hold since Frank Eppinger was faxed on September 29, 2010, regarding an answer to the issue and there was no response. He will be contacted again to try to resolve this matter ASAP.
- Burgesses were reminded that Planning and Zoning and the Zoning Board of Appeals are in dire need of representatives and encouraged to seek volunteers.
- Jeff Callahan will seek information to follow through on the double light pole situation on Wall Street which was discussed last month.

New Business:

- Preliminary design work was available for the Hyde/Maple Street project and the budget for it. Much discussion transpired and the planner was asked to move forward with tweaking the design.
- The Wayland's Wharf issues regarding drainage, seawalls, the gazebo and the fence were discussed, and Burgesses were reminded that slightly over \$5000 is put aside for improvements to the area. Rick Olisky offered some ideas regarding what might be done to replace the fence and improve the gazebo. Burgess Callahan requested a drawing be prepared of the suggestions and ideas.
- Plans for the Church Street Seawall will be available at the February meeting.
- On a motion by Warden Maranell, seconded by Burgess Callahan, \$4000 was unanimously appropriated to cover the cost of restoring one of the light posts on Wadawanuck Square. The funds to come from contingency.
- A request to add a 15 minute restricted parking spot in front of Quantum Hobby at 17 High Street elicited discussion and action was tabled.
- A letter from the Borough Attorney announcing that the present Borough attorney, Michael Zizka will be retiring and transferring our account to an associate initiated discussion regarding whether the Borough should investigate using a more local firm. After some discussion, it was decided that we should request "Statements of Qualification" from interested attorneys and also let Murtha Callina (the present firm) participate as a potential firm.

Other Business:

- As soon as the weather improves, the two corners of Wadawanuck Square on the Eastern side, will be modified for handicap accessibility to match the corners on the Western side which were done last year.
- A request from a bicycle club to use the Borough streets during the weekend of June 11, 2011, was found to be problematic given that is the weekend of the garden club tours which often bring as many as a thousand visitors to the Borough. It was therefore decided to let the organizers know of the conflict.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Frederick J. Souza ~ Borough of Stonington Clerk/Treasurer