

Borough of Stonington
Board of Warden and Burgesses Regular Meeting
June 12, 2017, 7:30 PM
Borough Hall

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 pm. Present were Burgesses Michael Adair, Amanda Barnes, Shaun Mastroianni, Amy Nicholas, Karen von Ruffer Hills and Robert Scala, and Clerk-Treasurer Bergin O'Malley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Warden Callahan announced that the new Clerk-Treasurer, Bergin O'Malley, will be recording the Warden and Burgesses meetings, and the audio files will be available to the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Barnes, the minutes from the regular monthly meeting held on May 15, 2017, and the special meeting held May 30, 2017, were unanimously approved.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- Received May collections:\$610.23
- Received reimbursement from the Town for Health District: \$1,114.16
- Received payroll audit refunds from CIRMA: \$2,415.00

CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from the Town of Stonington stating that there will be a public hearing June 20 to discuss the modification of the buffer requirements in the LS-5 Zone
- Letter from First Selectman regarding property adjacent to sewer plant

REPORT OF CLERK-TREASURER

- Nothing to report

REVIEW OF BILLS/YTD FINANCIAL REPORT

Reports were reviewed: the Borough paid \$29,485.48 in bills from May 16-June 8, 2017.

WARDEN'S REPORT

- STEP area closed for maintenance per order of First Selectman and talks continue.
- Participated in conference call with Stonington Resiliency Plan contractor
- Met with Principal from Planimetrics, Inc. re: Borough governance study
- Resolved health insurance issue for Borough employees.
- Worked on resolving inconsistencies in SBO-02 (Motor Vehicles) and -03 (Parking).

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

A. STREETS (Callahan)

- Repaved Cross Street and replaced one catch basin
- Met with Sullivan Paving to plan crosswalk restoration on Summit and Bayview
- Crew filled potholes; reset granite bench at Point with assist from Tim Keena; repainted arrows on lower Water Street; repaired park benches; installed new solar-powered "Yield" sign on Water Street near Cannon Square.
- BOROUGH CLOCK – None

B. FIRE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (Adair/ Hoadley)

- 5-3-17 7:29 pm medical assist with SAC 10 Quana Duck Cove Court
- 5-9-17 11:56 am Lift assist with SAC 48 Harbor View Terrace
- 5-17-17 8:46 am CO detector Activation 160 Flanders Rd.
- 5-20-17 10:09 am MVA IFO 281 Elm St.
- 5-24-17 12:31 pm Fire Alarm Activation 60 Collins Rd.
- 5-28-17 3:37 pm reported explosion in area of 103 Main St. (turned out to be common occurrence of a seagull hitting the live wire)

It was noted that it has been two months since any alarm at the Velvet Mill.

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

- Nothing to report

D. PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Mastroianni)

- Switched gas companies and working out past bills with Osterman.

E. SIDEWALKS (Scala)

- Sidewalks on Bayview have been patched
- Cross Street sidewalks been brought up to date

F. POLICE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS (Nicholas)

During the month of May 2017 there were 39 incidents in the police report for the Borough including 6 parking complaints, 4 burglar alarms (3 of which were false), 4 medical assists, 4 assist citizens, 3 business checks, 2 abandoned vehicles, 2 found items, and 2 animal control incidents. There were one incident each of illegal dumping, keys in vehicle, patrol request, 911 misdial, welfare check, trespass, accident with injury, fire alarm, juvenile, DWI, civil complaint and vandalism. The DWI resulted in an arrest.

G. UTILITIES & SANITATION (von Ruffer Hills)

- Attended first Ledge Light Health District Board Meeting
- Burgess is in discussions with SVIA & PowerSecure Inc. to explore possible Stonington street light conversion to LED.
- Requested signage for duBois beach, and the footbridge regarding litter and pet waste

- Burgess will be monitoring the people putting out trash on the Monday night

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Resident Richard Hanratty wanted to publicly thank Burgess Mastroianni for his work on the overpass issue
- Resident Martha Mitchell raised the issue of tree removal on 25 Main street
- Resident Richard Easton was glad to hear that meetings are now being recorded as he had previously wished. Easton asked for the record to reflect that there was an “intentional disregard” of his suggestion to Warden Callahan to look into finding another bank.
- Resident Richard Hanratty, longtime banker, agreed that a local bank should be used and pointed out that FDIC coverage is limited to \$250,000 so is worth investigating.
- Resident Antonio Mastroianni requested that the small garbage bins be emptied more regularly during the summer. He noted his dislike of asphalt sidewalks and believes owners should better maintain their sidewalks. He also expressed his dislike of the newly installed flashing yield sign at Cannon Square.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. STEP update (formerly known as the Dog Park)

Warden Callahan explained that the First Selectman stated a tentative settlement has been reached, and that he hopes his board will agree to the terms during their next Board of Selectman meeting.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion by Burgess Barnes, seconded by Burgess Adair to approve four requests to use Borough Property ---for the Music at the Lighthouse (7/09); Village Fair (8/05); CT Special Olympics (9/09); Festival of the Holy Ghost (9/2-3)---passed unanimously.

B. A motion by Burgess Callahan, seconded by Burgess Scala, to deny the request to remove a tree at 25 Main St. passed unanimously.

Mrs. Mitchell wanted the tree removed. The Borough has said that if there is any damage to the sidewalk as a result of the tree, the Borough will be responsible.

C. A motion by Burgess Callahan, seconded by Burgess von Ruffer Hills, to approve waiving bid requirement and funding Planimetrics proposal to study Borough governance options passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION: STREET LIGHT AUDIT

Burgess Von Ruffer Hills was approached by the SVIA about replacing the Borough street lights with LED lamps. Burgess Von Ruffer Hills is working with Power Secure to get a proposal together to audit the status of the Borough’s lamps.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

The new light up yield sign by Cannon Square was discussed. The painted yellow and green arrows on the street have had little impact, hence Warden Callahan felt the flashing sign would help remind drivers to yield to drivers coming from the south. Burgess Mastroianni was concerned that the proper process was not followed by Warden Callahan to get this sign in place, and that it doesn't fit with the character of the Borough. Warden Callahan will work to see if the lights on the sign can be dimmed, and he stated that he would be happy to go in front of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a variance.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Burgess Scala, seconded by Burgess Nichols, adjournment of the meeting at 8:40 pm, was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Bergin O'Malley,
Clerk-Treasurer
June 14, 2017