

**THE BOROUGH OF WOODMONT  
31 Clinton Street  
Woodmont, CT 06460**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
August 25, 2016**

**The Annual Meeting of the residents of the Borough of Woodmont  
was held on Thursday, August 25, 2016.**

**Meeting Opening**

The meeting was called to order by Warden Edward W. Bonessi, Jr., at 8:04PM.

In attendance, thus meeting the requirements for a quorum with at least thirty Woodmont residents in attendance were a total of fifty-one registered freeholders in attendance.

**Pledge**

Warden Bonessi of 83 Beach Ave led the group in saluting the American flag and in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Introduction of Officials & Staff**

Warden Bonessi reviewed ground rules for the meeting and then introduced Burgesses and Officers.

**Approval of 2015**

Warden Bonessi reminded everyone that the minutes are a summary of what happened. The minutes were reviewed by Borough residents. A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Dick Austin of 14 Village Rd, seconded by Richard Carey of 103 Hawley Ave and the Motion carried unanimously with adjustments by Pat Del Vecchio of 56 Mark St.

**Comments of the Warden**

A visual presentation of 2015-2016 projects and improvements was shown and an orated overview was given on the following subjects:

- Borough Taxes and City Grant (the rebate of taxes we pay to Milford to cover standard municipal public works)
  - Additional police coverage
  - Maintaining Borough property
  - Flood & Erosion Control Liability Insurance
  - Woodmont Library
  - Borough Staff
  - Freeholder Directed Projects
  - \$130,000+

#### Base public works contract:

- Snow Removal, etc.
- Street paving projects
- Sidewalk and seawall repairs
- Storm drain projects Drainage Groin Repair/Replacement
- Landscaping contract
- Street lighting expenses
- \$452,000 (requested)

#### Beaches

- Re-Grading Category G Middle Beach
- Finalized DEEP COP Renewal to 2045!
- Street-End Beaches Cleaned
- Explained difference between beach sand levels from the 1950's to present

#### Public Works

- 2 Miles of street paving
- 8 handicap ramps
- The largest amount of paving completed in a single year in 50 years!

#### Building Committee

- Phase 1 Completion within 4% of budget
- Phase 2 Sale of 31 Clinton Street \$190,100
- Permits for new 2 bay garage
- Many Thanks to Chairman Chuck Rockwell and members Bob Kish, Donna & Jim Mallico, Pat Del Vecchio, Raquel Bonessi, Tim Phelan, Steve Langley, Rich Lutz and Kit Schmeisser for hundreds of hours of planning, meetings and site visits!

#### Report Submitted by Building Committee Chair, Chuck Rockwell:

I am happy to report that Phase I of the building project and close out of the STEAP Grant were completed. Figures as of June 30, 2016, follow.

Phase I consisted of primarily engineering and design work, demolition and renovation of the first-floor apparatus floor into a new multipurpose hall, to include a warming kitchen and three new bath rooms, and upgrades to the building systems.

Flooring, front doors, installation of kitchen cabinets and appliances, air conditioning compressor, and a new garage are planned for Phase II, to be paid out of the proceeds from the disposition of the old Borough Hall, which was sold to a private party for use as a single-family home.

I wish to express a note of thank you to all Building Committee members and advisors who attended many late meetings going over minute details for a job well done.

The numbers our phase of the project was brought in for speaks for itself and the conscientiousness of the Building Committee members regarding costs.

The winning contractor's bid was \$ 493,744.00; the construction costs rose to \$517,478.00 with change orders, the largest occurring AFTER construction had finished when the building department and its inspectors who had previously approved all plans and specifications made changes after the fact.

The budget for construction was \$500,000.00, paid with STEAP Grant funds, with the Borough paying for design, engineering and other project costs out of its funds.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. D. Rockwell, Chairman

#### Office of Tax Collector

- New Acting Tax Collector
- Updating data base Further Improvements to QDS Webster Bank Commercial Lockbox 2013, 2014 & 2015
- Tax Lien Sale January 2017

#### Police and Safety

- Over 90% shift fulfillment
- Sufficient Parking & Speeding Tickets Issued

#### Emergency Preparedness

- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Emergency Preparedness
- CERT provides first responder service in a disaster situation that overloads local emergency capabilities.
- CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations and light search and rescue operations.
- 12 CERT Members in Woodmont
- Highest Density of CERT Volunteers in Milford!

#### Creating a POD (Point of Distribution)

- A POD is a central location that provides any combination of Food, Water, Blankets, tarps, cell phone charging or medication in a disaster.
- The Borough is trying to get the Borough Hall to qualify as a potential POD.

#### Woodmont Amateur Radio Association

- 501(c)(3) Non-profit
- Part of ARES. Amateur Radio Emergency Service
- Provides Emergency Communications Services to the Borough of Woodmont. Has mutual aid agreements with West Haven Veteran's Hospital and the Town of Orange
- Part of the National Weather Service Skywarnnetwork providing real time information from trained observers •
- Provides operators, equipment and communications coordination for various nonprofit events in the region. •
- Developing a relationship with City of Milford Emergency Services and Board of Health

#### Woodmont Library

- 1,826 Books Lent
- 35 New Library Cards Issued

#### Beautification Committee

- Gateway gardens replanted and maintained.
- 2 Memorial Bench installations.
- 21 benches repaired and repainted (2 dedications, 10 replacements)
- Railings repainted
- Ordered damaged or missing signage
- Facilitated new fundraiser: Memorial Brick project

#### **Anticipated 2016-2017 Projects**

- Complete garage
- Borough Hall aesthetics
- Landscape rear grounds and park
- Memorial Patio Campaign
- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Revisit "Line of Sight" Safety Program
- A/C Borough Hall?
- Middle Beach Sand Replenishment
- next STEAP Grant Application

#### **New Business / 51 Freeholders in Attendance**

Ellen Austin of 14 Village submitted the following set of rules that she felt should be adhered for Borough facilities.

Attention Borough of Woodmont Clerk,

In accordance with past precedence that has been set over the years, the following actions or functions are not permitted in any Borough operating facility:

- 1) No Smoking
- 2) No Consumption or Distribution of Alcohol.
- 3) No Weddings/Parties that employ a disk jockey or a live band.
- 4) No Selling of Merchandise.
- 5) No Selling of Food Products.
- 6) No Selling of Services such as (teaching class).

Sincerely,  
Ellen Austin  
14 Village Rd.

Warden Bonessi said that he was familiar with the situation of the Milford Board of Education listing a course to be taught at the library. Warden Bonessi stated that the building is not owned by the Borough and the library facility is the property of the Board of Education. Warden Bonessi noted that the policy Ellen Austin presented is not part of a Borough Ordinance or Charter.

Carmen Corvino of 31 Chapel St said that libraries are not what they used to be and have become a learning experience. Classes were held by the librarian for no pay and she started teaching for the city. I am in favor of this class, it helps promote the library.

Ellen Austin of 14 Village Rd Motioned to cancel a class scheduled by the City of Milford Board of Education to be held at the Woodmont Library, seconded by Nancy Austin of 14 Village Rd, and the Motion Failed with only three votes in favor.

Dick Austin of 14 Village Rd complimented the Board for doing a great job. Dick Austin expressed frustration with being unable to reach someone in person and have someone take responsibility when calling Borough Hall. Dick Austin said that a Borough resident should be running the library and to please resolve this.

Russell Feinmark of 167 Beach Ave wanted to make the Board aware of an individual serving in the military and who is currently deployed is being charged interest penalties for taxes owed. Warden Bonessi responded that it has been explained to him that he must apply for an exemption through the city assessor's office. It is a statutory law by the State of Conn to charge penalties.

### **Approval of Proposed 2017-2018 Borough Budget**

Pat Del Vecchio of 56 Mark St Motioned for purposes of discussion and to approve the Borough Budget for next year, seconded by Dick Austin of 14 Village Rd, and the Motion passed.

Discussion concerning the budget.

Christopher Schmeisser, Finance Burgess of 5 Belmont St gave an overview of the proposed budget and how it was determined.

Michael Graetz of 32 Beach Ave said that two years ago, he Motioned to put aside \$1,000 for a lighting study. The streets are too dark and this is something that never gets addressed. Michael Graetz Motioned to remove \$2,000 from Borough Reserves to design a plan to light Beach Ave, seconded by Richard Carey of 103 Hawley Ave, and the Motion carried. A discussion followed.

Frank Grazioso of 27 Hawley Ave asked for an explanation of the current lighting plan. Warden Bonessi said that the Borough had gone along with the recommendations of the UI and is in favor of revisiting a plan for lighting. John Barrett of 32 Hawley Ave explained how lighting works and reasoning for the existing lighting. John Barrett also said that a new state statute is requiring that all street lights be replaced with LED light fixtures.

Jay Arnold of 4 Clinton St said we have approximately \$140,000 in tax receipts and we are not using the appropriate percentages of those revenues for police protection. Most crimes are committed at night and our patrols are conducted during daylight hours. Warden Bonessi said that we tried to schedule evening shifts but they did not match police shifts and nobody signed up. Most Freeholders wanted patrols at night on non-holiday weekends. Warden Bonessi said we would try to coordinate with the police department. A discussion followed.

Freeholders wanted to know if Borough Hall would be open in case of emergency as an emergency shelter. Warden Bonessi explained that Borough Hall is being designated as a POD and want a POD is. Warden Bonessi went on to say that we do not know all the rules and will know what they are when we are officially approved.

Dan German of 114 Beach Ave is concerned about skate boarders on the bump out. Warden Bonessi said that new surfacing alternatives are being considered. Dan German mentioned that cement has chipped away on the sea wall and Warden Bonessi said that Jim Mallico will take care of it. Dan German would like to have someone sweep the sand off the sidewalks.

Freeholders are concerned about bicyclists who are speeding through Beach Ave going the wrong way. Warden Bonessi asked Burgess Kelly Graham of 14 Hawley Ave to see what can be done.

### **Adjourn**

Warden Bonessi of 83 Beach Ave entertained a Motion to adjourn the meeting. Pat Del Vecchio of 56 Mark St Motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mike Krauss of 77 Hawley Ave and the Motion passed unanimously by voice vote at 9:48PM

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Minutes taken by William Guelakis

Attached Freeholder Signatures:

THE BOROUGH OF WOODMONT  
31 CLINTON STREET  
WOODMONT, CT 06460

FREEHOLDER/RESIDENT SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	DATE
1. Kathy Walker	3 Clinton St	8/25
2. Paul Hoffman	3 Dunbar Rd.	8/25
3. Debs Hoffman	3 Dunbar Rd.	8/25
4. Carmen Corvino	31 Chapel St	8/25
5. Jim Mallico	3 MONT ST	8/25
6. Jerry VITHE	90 Treach	8-25
7. Tom Torgo	28 Chapel	8-25
8. Genev. Martins	121 Hawley Ave	8/25/16
9. Jeannette Knipe	18 Chapel St. Apt. B.	08/25/16
10. Dan German	114 Beach Ave	8/25/16
11. Vicki Pellham	8 Dixon Street	8/25/16
12. Carleen Oldman	10 Dixon St	8/25/16
13. ED BONESSI Jr	83 Beach Ave	"
14. Michael Gratz	32 Beach Ave	8/25/16
15. Pat McVeech	56 West St	8/25/16
16. Jan Oravetz	26 Chapel St	"
17. Sue Oravetz	26 Chapel St	8/25/16
18. Kate Langley	21 Devol St	8/25/16
19. Ed Bonessi III	83 Beach Ave	8/25/16

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FREEHOLDER/RESIDENT SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	DATE
1. Myra Saxon	4 Village Rd.	8/25/16
2. Burt Saxon	4 Village Rd.	8/25/16
3. Dennis Sanzone	118 Beach Ave	8/25/16
4. Lynn Ulinskis	15 Anderson Ave	8/25/16
5. Al Ulinskis	15 Anderson Ave	8/25/16
6. Charlene Tibor Tamas	4 Villa Rosa Terrace	8-25-16
7. Frank Grazioso	27 Hawley Ave	8-25-16
8. Ellen Gustin	14 Village Rd	8-25-16
9. Richard Gustin	14 Village Rd	8/25/16
10. Jerry Fiorenza	11 Spencer St.	8/25/16
11. Pat Fiorenza	11 Spencer St.	8/25/16
12. Rich Carey	108 Hawley	8/25/16
13. Dolores Hannon	110 Beach Ave	8/25/16
14. Nancy Austin	14 Village Rd	8/25/16
15. Michael Krauss	77 Hawley Ave	8/25/16
16. Jay Hama	110 Beach Ave	8/25/16
17. Barbara Wagner	29 Clinton St	"
18. Chris Frasca	16 Wall St	8/25/16
19. Russell Feinmiller	167 Beach Ave	8/25/16



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FREEHOLDER/RESIDENT SIGN-IN SHEET

<u>NAME (PLEASE PRINT)</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1. John Barrett	32 Hawley Ave.	
2. GRANTON KELLY	Hawley.	
3. Robert Listorti	58 Hawley	8-25-16
4. Bob Vitch		
5. Jason Marino		
6. CRUCE, ROGER		
7. Wm Hudak		
8. Raphael H. Bressi	83 Beach Ave.	
9. Edward Bonetti III	" " "	
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FREEHOLDER/RESIDENT SIGN-IN SHEET

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	ADDRESS	DATE
1. Tina Andranovich	1564 New Haven Ave	8/25/16
2. Jeffrey Andranovich	1564 New Haven Ave	8/25/16
3. <i>Chuck R</i>	28 Park St	8/25/16
4. Chris Schmassin	5 BELMONT ST	8/25/16
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