

THE BOROUGH OF WOODMONT
Minutes of the Board of Warden & Burgesses
September 5, 2017

The meeting of the Board of the Borough of Woodmont was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at Woodmont Borough Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Warden Ed Bonessi at 8:00 P.M. In attendance were Burgesses: John Barrett, Kelley Graham, Robert Kish, Chuck Rockwell, and Christopher Schmeisser.

Also present were: Clerk Wm. Guelakis, Tax Collector Lynn Foss, Treasure Robert Listorti, and Beautification Committee Chair Pat Del Vecchio.

Initiate of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

The August 21, 2017 minutes were reviewed by the Board. Burgess Rockwell made a Motion to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Burgess Wagner, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Freeholders I

John Hannon of 110 Beach Ave. said that Richard Carey of 103 Hawley Ave. have applied for a sideline setback waiver for a small addition to convert a laundry area to a first-floor bathroom due to medical issues. Looking to the Board for a letter of approval.

Pat Del Vecchio of 56 Mark St. reported that now that we have additional trash barrels, we now have more people putting their personal trash in them. A discussion followed.

Report of the Tax Collector

Tax Collector Lynn Foss reported that we are now within \$14,000 of budget as of August 31st. Sending the attorney information on taxes not paid from 2013, 2014 and 2015 to start foreclosure proceedings. Burgess Schmeisser wanted to know the dollar amount being sent to the attorney for collection, Tax Collector Lynn Foss did not have that information and forward it later to Burgess Schmeisser.

Report of the Warden

Warden Bonessi reported:

- We had a successful annual meeting
- Have been in contact with the Mayor to work on a grant for the Belmont St groin
- The weekend storm has brought in additional trash and construction material along the beach
- Creating a list for fall projects
 - Working to get the loft completed in the garage
 - Plantings
 - Getting sprinkler system quotes for Borough Hall

Report of the Constable

Constable Mallico submitted the following report for August 2017:

8/03 - No problems, Everyone quiet tonight

8/04 - Fire on Anchor complaint x 2, person had valid permits,

(2 fire assist, 1 in Borough assist)

8/11 - Kids on bikes on Beach Ave near park and couple on swing in park. Left when asked to. (1 parking ticket)

8/12 - Extra checks of Doolittle, Mark, Abigail no parking issues, Anchor no issues, 3 hr parking @ Village Rd (1 parking ticket)

8/18 - Heavy rain so very quiet, nothing unusual (1 Verbal warning)

8/19 - Oyster festival shift was shortened by 2 hrs.,no violations Doolittle park quiet, stop sign violation @ Chapel & Kings Hwy.(1 Verbal warning)

8/25 - Wrong-way driver Usher & Beach, group of teens at Doolittle park left when asked @10 PM. (3 Verbal warnings)

8/26 - Assist out of Borough (alarm @ great clips), Medical assist in Borough. Everything good in Borough no violations.

9/01 - A quiet,(1 assist in Borough)

9/02 - Ck's throughout Borough, park, beaches, (2 assist outside Borough) Adams alarm suspicious activity.

9/03 - Ck'd speeding Dixon & Beach, Dixon & Hawley no speeding observed. No issues throughout Borough or Doolittle park, no parking issues,(1 Verbal for cell phone while driving)

9/04 - Verbal dispute Adams plaza, complaint of suspicious car at 5 Beach Ave. (nothing found) extra ck's Anchor, Doolittle park, no speeding violations observed at Beach & Dixon or Hawley & Dixon.

Gas- \$78.13

Report of the Clerk.

Clerk Guelakis reported hardware issues with laptop. Warden Bonessi requested that pricing for a new one be obtained and reported on at the next meeting.

Report of the Treasurer

No Report.

Committee Reports:

Planning & Zoning

Burgess Wagner recommended that we support Richard Carey's application, of 103 Hawley Ave., for a zoning variance since all his neighbors are supporting it.

Police & Safety

Burgess Graham emailed the police department again about a couple of people wanting cross walks. The commissioners due not meet frequently during the summer and he will bring up in the next meeting. I emailed Mike Devito about the Borough radar gun that is missing. Warden Bonessi reported that the gun used over the weekend belonged to the city; the radar gun must be calibrated

twice a year and I have a feeling that someone took the gun to have it calibrated. I would like to get the old gun back before we decide to upgrade to a newer laser radar gun if we decide to do so.

House

Burgess Rockwell said that the new sub pump has been installed in a new location and is located where the water problem is. This is amendment to my report from our last meeting.

Lighting

Burgess Kish reported that Carmen Corvino requested that the street lighting be brightened up at the end of street, west of Borough Hall, there is no street light from here to the end of the street. I may request an additional street light be located west of the Borough Hall building, or possibly a spot light attached to the building pointing in that direction.

Beaches

Burgess Kish reported that DEEP followed up concerning his request concerning the beach at the end of Anderson Ave. with does and don'ts in accordance to beach maintenance. One of the most important things in their world is the Coastal Jurisdiction Line (JCL) where work above this line is permissible and others below this line requires a permit. To pursue any maintenance on this beach or any of the end beaches, we will need to determine the JCL, estimated to cost \$3,700 from Westcott and Mapes. CJL facts can be downloaded from the DEEP website, also a document about general permitting for work allowed and not allowed.

Public Works

Warden Bonessi reported that Jim Mallico marked out the catch basin that needs repairing. Warden Bonessi said that he told Jim Mallico that we may not be able to do any paving.

Finance

Burgess Schmeisser reported that we have \$89,000 until June 30, 2018 in city based funds. Borough Capital Reserve account currently has a balance of \$209,000, we currently have a total of \$240,000 – \$250,000 in all reserve accounts plus additional proceeds from the Borough tax collections. We need to keep a careful list of what we rank in accordance of expenditures since funds are going to be considerably tight this year. Any additional snow plowing or additional expenses will have to be paid for from Capital reserves taking away from sand replenishment.

Library

No Report.

Beautification

Beautification Committee Chair Del Vecchio reported:

- Asked E and D Landscaping to cut back and clean up Rosa Ragusas along Beach Ave. as well as entrance gardens and to replace and add mums as needed.
- In addition, reminded them of need for replacement evergreen trees at garden at New Haven Ave.
- Received complaint of high weeds in front of bench at Clinton St. and Beach Ave. Need permission to add that to E and D responsibilities. GRANTED.

Approval of Bills

Bills are going around.

Unfinished Business

None.

Old Business

- **To consider changing the meeting time for the Board of Warden and Burgesses**

Agenda item withdrawn. Rarely requested, and would bring additional hardships upon members of the Board of Warden and Burgess and Officers.

- **Self-Insurance for the Borough**

Agenda item withdrawn, currently in committee.

New Business

- **Establish a protocol for “public” and “non-profit” rental requests**

Warden Bonessi discussed issues of the Borough as a part time institution vs the city as a full-time institution. Warden Bonessi continued to recommend that the Borough setup ground rules for the use of Borough Hall, especially with many of the requests are to use Borough Hall for free.

Burgess Schmeisser said that we need to be careful before jumping into any decision and that we need to reach out to the Connecticut Council of Municipalities (CCM) for advice. As a municipality and once a forum like this is opened to charitable groups for free, there are strict limits in choosing what groups that can use this facility. This is an area we need to explore. Burgess Schmeisser said secondly, political party use and campaign finance issues can lead to serious civil and criminal penalties concerning the misuse of public properties. This is another area we need to explore.

Warden Bonessi requested that a committee be formed to investigate these issues with Burgesses Barrett, Rockwell and Schmeisser, and events coordinator Teddi Mickus.

Burgess Wagner suggested that the policy be put in writing for everyone to read. Warden Bonessi said that this policy would be posted on our website and be amended to our contract for the use of Borough Hall.

A discussion followed on whether the use of Borough Hall be inclusive of only Milford residents.

Burgess Barrett Motioned to Table agenda item, Establish a protocol for “public” and “non-profit” rental requests, until further information can be assembled and a proposal be presented forth, seconded by Burgess Graham, and the Motion passed unanimously.

- **Changing of addresses of 3 Clinton St to 70 Beach Ave where current 70 Beach Ave will become 72 Beach Ave**

Agenda item Tabled until additional information received.

Burgess Wagner Motioned to Amend the Agenda to include the approval of a letter of support for a setback waiver that Richard Carey of 103 Hawley Ave. has applied for, seconded by Burgess Kelley, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Burgess Wagner Motioned to approve a letter of support for a setback waiver that Richard Carey of 103 Hawley Ave. has applied for, seconded by Burgess Rockwell, and the Motion passed unanimously.

Freeholders II.

Hearing None.

- At 8:40 P.M. Warden Bonessi entertained a Motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was made by Burgess Rockwell, seconded by Burgess Wagner and the Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by William Guelakis
Woodmont Clerk