

**BOROUGH OF NEWTOWN
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT**

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses on **Tuesday, December 8, 2015** in the Borough Office at Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT. Warden Gaston called the meeting to order at 7:39 p.m.

Present: Warden James Gaston, Senior Burgess Joan Crick, Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher, Burgess Betsy Kenyon, Burgess Anthony Baiad, Burgess Bill Lucas, Burgess Chris Gardner, Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez, Treasurer Paula Brinkman, Clerk Ann LoBosco

Absent: Zoning Officer Jean St. Jean

Burgess Lucas made a motion to accept the November 10, 2015 minutes with the correction in the Treasurer's Report "Interest on the CD Account was \$16.95 making a total of \$73,655.10, seconded by Burgess Kenyon and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: None.

Tree Warden: There will be an administrative hearing tomorrow night which was requested by Peter Caracciolo, 3 Lorraine Drive, in response to Warden Gaston's letter regarding the bamboo issue. The letter was sent to Mr. Caracciolo as well as 6 surrounding property owners. Rob McCulloch will present his findings as evidence; 3 issues will be addressed including 1) Identifying whether it is running bamboo; 2) On which property did the bamboo originate; and 3) Remedy to solve the problem. Mr. McCulloch feels that the opportunity to treat the bamboo chemically has passed given the fall is the most opportune time for the process to be successful. He suggests cutting it down in the spring and then spraying the bamboo next fall. Ms. Crick wants to be sure that it is done correctly.

Warden's Report: Warden Gaston was approached by Andy Clure (former ETH Board of Managers member) about the possibility of the Borough moving their office to the space currently being occupied by Town Historian Dan Cruson. He feels this will give ETH an opportunity to rent out the existing Borough space which may create more revenue. Ms. Crick and other members feel that the current space gives the Borough more exposure to the public. Discussion followed.

Tax Collector's Report: Tax Collector Enriquez reported the following for November 2015: Total Taxes Due for the List of 2014: \$187,871.54; Current Taxes: \$179,276.32; Back Taxes: \$1,542.11; Interest: \$1,044.64; Liens & Fees: \$288.00. Total Submitted to Treasurer to Date: \$177,050.00. Current Taxes Collected: \$179,276.32 representing 95.1%.

Burgess Kenyon made a motion to accept the Tax Collector's Report for November 2015, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Ms. Enriquez presented the new Quality Data Service, Inc.'s Software Service Agreement for approval. Warden Gaston asked what the two services being covered are specifically. Ms. Enriquez said the \$2,300.00 cost is for the software including training, conversion and project management services. The \$200.00 cost is for QSearch Tax Payer Inquiry which will enable Borough taxpayers to make payments and view their payment history online using the Quality Data System link.

Burgess Lucas made a motion to enter into the software/service contract from Quality Data Systems for \$2,500.00, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Jay Maher and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paula Brinkman read the November 2015 report: No deposits were made this month from Tax Collector Jodie Enriquez making a total of \$177,050.00. The Capital Reserve Account was closed on October 31, 2015 and the balance was transferred to the Operating Account. Interest on the 1 Yr. CD was \$32.80 making a total of \$73,687.90.

Burgess Baiad made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 2015, seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Ms. Kenyon made a motion to transfer \$235.05 from Contingency to Streets & Parks to cover this month's bill, seconded by Second Senior Burgess Maher and unanimously approved.

Zoning Officer's Report: No report due to Ms. St. Jean's absence.

Historic District: Burgess Kenyon had nothing new to report.

Sidewalks: Second Senior Burgess Maher had nothing new to report.

Streets & Parks: Second Senior Burgess Maher had nothing new to report.

Old Business: The house at 48 Main Street has been condemned by the Town due the blight issue causing structural damage resulting in a safety issue. Ms. Brinkman asked about the window which is boarded up at 50 Main Street and whether something can be done to fix the problem. Ms. Enriquez said she will look into the matter.

New Business: The 2016 Board of Burgesses Meeting Schedule was presented for approval.

Second Senior Burgess Maher made a motion to accept the 2016 Meeting Schedule for the Board of Burgesses, seconded by Burgess Baiad and unanimously approved.

Public Participation: None.

A regular meeting the Board of Burgesses will be held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Borough Office in Edmond Town Hall, Newtown, CT.

There being no further business, Burgess Baiad made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m., seconded by Burgess Lucas and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann M. LoBosco
Borough Clerk