

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 5:00 P.M.  
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy & Vice Chairman Bob Tabor  
Commissioners Robert Elmer & Bill Turner  
Chief Darren Stewart & Captain Todd Olson

**Absent:** Commissioner Lisa Tepper Bates

**1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Remarks of the Public**

**Matt Beaudoin, 18 Johnson St., Pawcatuck, CT & Mystic Knotwork, 25 Cottrell St., Mystic, CT**

Mr. Beaudoin addressed some concerns that he has observed regarding Cottrell St. He stated that there are site line issues turning out of Haley St., in front of Mystic Salad Co., and onto Cottrell St. Mr. Beaudoin suggested removing one or two parking spots and replacing them with bicycle racks to help with the site line issue. Chairman O'Shaughnessy thanked Mr. Beaudoin for informing the Police Commission and they will take his suggestion into consideration.

**Helen Ahearn, 18 Lincoln Ave., Mystic, CT**

Ms. Ahearn informed the Police Commission that she has multiple concerns. She commented that vehicles roll through the two-way stop signs on Lincoln Ave., there are vehicles speeding down Washington St., and she also noted that vehicles have been parking facing the wrong way on Washington St. Ms. Ahearn further commented on the volume of music at neighboring restaurants. She is interested in the Police Commissioners looking at speeding vehicles between the hours 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and she suggested a four-way stop at the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and Washington St.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy informed Ms. Ahearn that he appreciates her comments. He stated that her issues with music at the neighboring restaurants is an issue for the Planning & Zoning Board and Chief Stewart commented that the 10 p.m. noise ordinance does not apply to anything that town zoning has agreed to. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that this Commission is concerned with traffic safety. Vehicles parking the wrong way can be addressed. Installing stop signs would not be a solution to speeding and Chief Stewart does not encourage the use of speed bumps. Chief Stewart is not sure if the speed limit is posted in that area, however, he can have an officer monitor the speeding in the area.

Vice Chairman Tabor commented that when the M Bar restaurant came before the Police Commission, the Police Commissioners passed along concerns about noise to Planning & Zoning.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy informed Ms. Ahearn that they will see to putting additional enforcement in that area and he thanked her for her comments. Chief Stewart asked Ms. Ahearn to spread the word to her neighbors that more enforcement of traffic issues has been requested.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented that Commissioner Bates will not be in attendance since she has an emergency meeting with United Way due to the impending tropical storm. He also noted that Commissioner Elmer will be late to the meeting.

#### **Rev. Cal Lord, Stonington Police Department Chaplain**

Chaplain Cal Lord informed the Police Commissioners that the four Chaplains continue to give prayer and support to the Police Department and have been a source of encouragement. The Chaplains meet every month. He further stated that the Chaplains hope to attend the Art Festival and pass out water to the officers working the event. The Chaplains want to be a visible and spiritual force.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy commented that he has heard all positive feedback about the Chaplain Program. Chief Stewart noted that Human Services has hired Deanna Rushlow as a Community Outreach Specialist and she will also be helping the Department and the Community along with the Chaplains and 211. Chaplain Lord thanked the Police Commission for allowing them to serve. Vice Chairman Tabor thanked the Chaplains for their continued service.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Feast of the Assumption Friday Night Procession \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chief Stewart commented that all the paperwork for this event is complete and this is an event that has been held for many years. He recommends the Police Commission approves the event.

Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to approve the Feast of the Assumption, Friday & Sunday Processions, to be held Friday, August 13, 2021 and Sunday, August 15, 2021, as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **b. Battle of Stonington 5K \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the Battle of Stonington 5K race is being held by Kelley's Pace and that 97% of the race is held in the Stonington Borough.

Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to approve the Battle of Stonington 5K, to be held Tuesday, August 24, 2021 as presented for the section held in the Town of Stonington (outside the Stonington Borough). Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **c. Miss America Pageant Parade in Mystic on Labor Day Presentation \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Shantel Krebs, President & CEO, Miss America Organization Board Chair

Ms. Krebs, on behalf of the Miss America Organization, thanked the Police Commissioners for their service. She shared an overview of the Miss America Organization with the Police Commission. This is the 100-year anniversary for the pageant. This year, the competition is being held at Mohegan Sun in

December. The Miss America Organization is a non-profit, and was founded on volunteers. It is a very structured organization and has licensing with each state and contracts with each contestant. She further explained the 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) exemptions. Ms. Krebs stated that the organization has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships. Ms. Krebs commented that the "Show Us Your Shoes" event includes all fifty-one candidates, one from each state and one from the District of Columbia. They are asking the Police Commission to approve the parade which will have thousands in attendance and be a live-streaming event. Every state will have a state leader participating.

Ms. Krebs informed the Police Commission of the proposed parade route. They will begin in the parking lot at the Mystic Aquarium. Two coach buses will drop off contestants at the Milne Center lot which will also be used for the staging of the cars. The buses will unload and then move to the Maritime Dr. lot. The parade will leave the parking lot, turn right onto Coogan Blvd., turn left onto Route 27, turn right onto Willow St., turn left onto Broadway Ave., turn right onto Route 1, turn left onto Cottrell St., drop off the contestants at Mystic River Park for them to board a boat that will go upriver to the Mystic Seaport. After lunch at the Seaport, the contestants will board the coach buses at the Seaport around 1:30-2:00 and depart to Ocean Beach and visit other local attractions. Ms. Krebs noted that the Miss America Organization's security team, which consists of three to four people, have reached out to Chief Stewart. In case of an emergency, there is a plan to relocate to Stonington Middle School on Mistuxet Ave. They will also have a hospital route plan in case of an emergency. The security will be walking the parade route and there will possibly be some support from the Navy. Police officers will be assigned positions along the route as determined by Chief Stewart.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked what vehicles will be part of the parade? Ms. Krebs stated that there will be fifty-one convertibles and one vehicle pulling a float for former Miss America's. She stated that Mr. Rob Valenti will be providing convertibles via the Connecticut Auto Retailers Association. Ms. Krebs stated that she has submitted an application to use Mystic River Park but has yet to make a presentation to them. Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted his concerns that there are no commitments in place to arrange and provide the boats or for the use of the Mystic River Park. Vice Chairman Tabor later expressed his concerns with possible security risks while waiting for water transport at Mystic River Park. It was noted that the Miss America Organization will pay law enforcement costs. Chairman O'Shaughnessy further stated that he was impressed with the Miss America Organization's security team and it was noted that there is no additional security provided by individual contestants.

Commissioner Turner commented that he loves the idea of the parade. He stated that Mystic is very busy and asked the timeframe for the parade? Ms. Krebs stated that the parade will start at 10 a.m. with staging beginning at the Mystic Aquarium at 8 a.m. The parade will take one hour and the contestants will leave after lunch around 2 p.m. Commissioner Turner asked if there were ever any missteps with prior events? It was noted that, if it rains, they will still proceed with the parade and perhaps sell ponchos and umbrellas and possibly ask for a twenty-minute delay if the Chief approves. Commissioner Turner asked if there are any fundraising components, to which Ms. Krebs stated that they ask for some sponsors, however, they want a hometown feel for the event. It should be simple, quaint and quick. All fundraising is done prior to the event. All previous parades were held in Atlantic City. Commissioner Tabor asked how many spectators do they anticipate since it will be advertised on radio and local networks? Chief Stewart commented that it would be similar in size to the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Ms. Krebs noted that an alternate plan, if they could not get Mystic River Park approval, would be to continue down Cottrell St., turn left onto Washington St, turn right onto Willow St. and head into Seaport Marine for promotional backdrop purposes.

\*Commissioner Elmer arrived at the meeting (5:48 p.m.).

Ms. Susette Tibus commented that the use of the Milne Center will not interfere with the Mystic Aquarium's operations. If it is decided that the alternate plan be used (no Mystic River Park or boats) then the contestants will head back to the Aquarium for lunch.

Chief Stewart introduced "plan c" which would help eliminate the unknowns. This plan will keep the event simple while showcasing downtown and the contestants. They will start and end at the Mystic Aquarium. Once the parade vehicles get past the Mystic Seaport on Route 27 the parade route will begin and continue right onto Willow St., left onto Broadway Ave., right onto Route 1, right onto Holmes St., left onto Route 27 and back to the Mystic Aquarium for lunch. The security team and the Navy can stage at the Mystic Seaport and join the parade at that point instead of trying to walk the entire route. Chief Stewart commented that if they plan on using a boat, they would need to coordinated with the State DOT to open the bridge. With any of the proposed routes, State DOT will need to be contacted for a Highway Use Permit for the use of Route 27 and Route 1. Chief Stewart wants 100% success for the first event and he further noted that Holmes St. provides a great backdrop for the event.

Mr. Chris Regan asked, since the parade route could potentially go down Holmes St., could it go down Bay St. and through the emergency entrance to the Mystic Seaport so lunch plans can commence there? Vice Chairman Tabor stated that the emergency entrance is not conducive for fifty-one cars to gain access.

Chief Stewart noted that the Miss America Organization could request exclusive rights to sell merchandise on the day of the parade.

Ms. Krebs asked the Police Commission to allow her ten minutes to deliberate the three proposed parade routes.

\*\*Ms. Krebs came back to the meeting for approval for "plan c" as laid out by Chief Stewart; start at the Mystic Aquarium, left onto Route 27, right onto Willow St., left onto Broadway Ave., right onto Route 1, right onto Holmes St., left onto Route 27 and back to the Mystic Aquarium. There will be no stopping and they will have plenty of opportunity for photography while in motion on Holmes St. Chief Stewart will take care of asking for the Highway Use Permits from State DOT.

Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to accept the proposed parade route "plan c" as discussed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. Discussion: Chief Stewart noted that they still need proof of insurance, a hold harmless agreement, a letter from the organization in regard to their commitment, and fill out a solicitor's permit to claim exclusivity for merchandise. There was some further discussion on how to apply for the solicitor's permit. Commissioner Turner asked if they will have any music, to which Ms. Krebs stated that they will just have the music playing in cars. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Ms. Krebs publicly thanked the Police Commission, Ms. Tibus, Mr. Regan and the Mystic Aquarium for all their efforts and she further stated that they will not be disappointed!

#### **4. Old Business**

None.

#### **5. Traffic**

##### **a. Letter Re: Route 27 @ Williams Street Crosswalk**

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that this is a letter from CT DOT in regard to a request to put in a crosswalk less than 200 yards from another crosswalk. It was not approved by CT DOT.

##### **b. E-Mail Re: NO OUTLET Sign – Riverbend Drive, Mystic**

This sign has already been installed.

#### **6. Approval of Minutes from Monday, May 3, 2021 Special Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to approve the minutes for the Monday, May 3, 2021 Special Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **8. Report of the Chief of Police**

Chief Stewart commented that three people are at the Police Academy and they are still commuting. This will affect the Training Overtime budget since each officer will be paid ten hours each week for the twenty-six weeks for travel. Tuition for the twenty-six weeks at the Academy is approximately \$11,000 per officer. Chief Stewart further commented that they lost the CT State Police lateral, he decided to stay with the State Police. The Department has a lateral from South Carolina lined up. Officer Browning just returned from completing the lateral's background check. He will be ready to come on in September. CSO's have been out writing parking tickets.

##### **a. Budget Report**

Chief Stewart noted that the enclosed year-end budget is not the final report, however, the Police Department's budget overall is in the black.

##### **b. Monthly Report**

Chief Stewart stated that Mystic has been very busy. The number of calls is going up. There has been an increase in the number of motor vehicle accidents. Chief Stewart noted that the Department is down another officer due to the retirement of Officer Barrell.

##### **c. Alarm Report**

##### **d. Special Events Schedule**

##### **e. Officer Herbert Barrell Retirement**

Chief Stewart stated that Officer Barrell was with this Department for thirty-two years and he wishes him all the best. Chief Stewart recommends the Police Commission accepts his retirement.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to accept the retirement of Officer Barrell and to have the Chief send the Police Commission's thanks and congratulations. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**f. New ACO Vehicle**

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the new ACO vehicle has arrived and that the Commissioners could take a look at it at the end of this meeting.

Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to accept the Report of the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

**9. Consent Agenda**

- a. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Half Marathon**
- b. Letter Re: Feast of the Assumption Sunday Procession**
- c. Connecticut Family Violence Model Policy Compliance Survey \*FYI**
- d. Letter & Memo Re: Officer Long – Good Job**

Chief Stewart commented that Officer Long saved a life while off-duty in another community. He believes this is Officer Long's third save in the last six months. He will confirm this and put in a request for Officer Long to receive the Medal of Valor award. Selectwoman Strunk commented that there is a lot of good news out there and it should be highlighted.

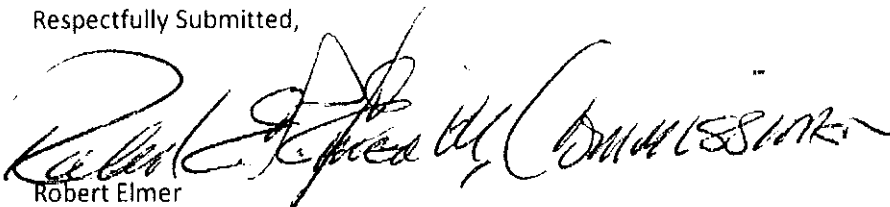
Vice Chairman Tabor made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**\*\*At this time, Ms. Krebs from the Miss America Organization came back to the meeting with her final proposal for approval – see 3. New Business c. Miss America Pageant Parade in Mystic on Labor Day Presentation \*VOTE NEEDED\***

**10. Adjourn**

At 6:22 p.m., Commissioner Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Elmer, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Robert Elmer  
Secretary