

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 5:00 P.M.  
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy & Vice Chairman Robert Elmer  
Commissioners Bill Turner, Lisa Tepper Bates & Patricia Coan  
Captain Todd Olson

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

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

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that he testified before the Judiciary Committee regarding House Bill 5372, which is an act permitting clinical social workers to conduct periodic behavioral health assessments of police officers and promoting the increased use of clinical social workers by law enforcement units when issuing emergency certificates. Right now, the Town of Stonington spends \$2600 per year, based on the mandate put on the department due to the Accreditation Bill. These are unfunded mandates. The department is required to do psychological evaluations for 20% of the force each year. If the Bill goes through, it will save the department money. Chairman O'Shaughnessy thanked Commissioner Bates for bringing this to the Commission's attention.

**2. Remarks of the Public**

None.

**3. Correspondence**

**a. Letters (2) in Support of Chief Candidate**

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the following letters will be attached and posted with these minutes.

**1. James C. Davis**

Stonington resident in support of candidate Mike Spellman for Chief of Stonington Police (See Appendix A).

**2. Michael C. Gulluscio**

Letter from Retired Sergeant Westerly Police Department & Former Commissioner Westerly Housing Authority in support of Michael Spellman for Chief of Stonington Police (See Appendix B).

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. Letter Re: Use of Spellman Drive for Road Races VOTE NEEDED\***

Richard Ward, Recreation Administrator

Mr. Ward informed the Police Commission that they have also added the Dean's Mill School Color Race to be held Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. All events are held on Spellman Dr. and only two of the events require blocking off Spellman Dr. from the practice football field down to the pavilions. Mr. Ward stated that arrangements are made with Public Works. Captain Olson sees no issues.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to approve the Girls on the Run 5K Race to be held Saturday, May 7, 2022, the Stonington Cross-Country 5K to be held Wednesday, August 17, 2022, and the Dean's Mill School PTO Color Race to be held Saturday, May 21, 2022, as submitted, subject to the requirements the Administration may deem necessary, and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

##### **b. Planning & Zoning Commission Site Plan Application – Harbor Heights, II \*COMMENTS NEEDED\***

Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that this has been before the Police Commission before and there has been a modification to their plans. They are proposing 123 apartments instead of the original 124 apartments and they have increased the turn ratio. No changes to parking, safety or traffic.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning and Zoning; that, in regard to the Site Plan Application, Harbor Heights, II, the Police Commission sees no issues with this application as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

##### **c. Planning & Zoning Site Application – Sea Research Foundation \*COMMENTS NEEDED\***

Sergio Cherenzia, Cherenzia & Associates, LTD., on behalf of the Mystic Aquarium  
Keith Sorensen, Senior Vice President of Facilities and Capital Projects

Mr. Cherenzia stated that modifications will be internal to the aquarium. Mr. Sorensen showed the plans to the Police Commission and stated that the project is within the courtyard. This is being done to improve guest experience and they expect to begin in the fall.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning and Zoning; that, in regard to the Site Application for the Sea Research Foundation, the Police Commission sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety with this application. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, with the exception of Commissioner Coan who recused, motion approved.

#### **5. Old Business**

##### **a. Report of the Police Chief's Personnel Selection Committee**

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the Committee met on February 26<sup>th</sup> and interviewed the candidates. The Committee invited two candidates, Lt. Schneider and Lt. Col. Delgrosso, to move on to the interview to be held March 16<sup>th</sup>. Once the Committee gets the report back from the interviews on the 16<sup>th</sup>, they will move forward.



## **6. Traffic**

### **a. E-Mail Re: Request for "Narrow Bridge" Sign – Somers Lane \*POSSIBLE ACTION\***

Captain Olson stated that, ever since the new guard rails were put in when the culverts were fixed, the road is narrower. He believes the signage is appropriate.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to send this on to Public Works to install "Narrow Bridge" signs in both directions on Somers Lane and also to send a letter informing the requestor of the Police Commission's decision. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

### **b. E-Mail Re: Pedestrian Control Feature Upgrades \*FYI\***

According to Captain Olson, this is at Mason's Island Rd. and Hewitt Rd. at the Route 1 intersection. He believes it will be beneficial.

### **c. E-Mail Re: Horizontal Curve Signs on State Roads**

FYI.

### **d. E-Mail Re: Speeders on Lantern Hill**

Captain Olson commented that they have put up the speed signs and put officers out in the area when they are available. He further commented that this is a major throughfare. This area is on the hotspot list. Vice Chairman Elmer asked when is speeding the worst to which Captain Olson stated during the morning and afternoon and speeding can be sporadic mid-day. He has the data from the traffic signs.

## **7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

## **8. Report of the Captain**

### **a. Budget Report**

Captain Olson stated that we are 67.3% through the year and have used 64.5% of the budget. He noted that Reproduction and Printing costs have increased and outfitting new officers is very expensive. They will be able to do line-item transfers.

### **b. Monthly Report**

According to Captain Olson, nothing stands out in the monthly report. He noted that there was a home invasion that was not random. There was also a robbery and several departments are looking for the suspect.

### **c. Special Events Schedule**

Captain Olson stated that the events are picking up. He noted that Lt. Peckham is working on a comprehensive plan for the Irish Parade and he is doing a terrific job.

### **d. Letter Re: Drug Take Back Day**

This will be held Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. The event is coordinated with Human Services. They will not accept liquids or needles.

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

**9. Consent Agenda**


- a. Thank You Note: Desmond Family**
- b. E-Mail Re: Ragnar Relay Approval**
- c. E-Mail Re: Pawcatuck River Duck Race Approval**
- d. Letter Re: Highway Use Permit – Pawcatuck River Duck Race**
- e. Memos Re: Planning & Zoning Permit Application Motions**
- f. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Irish Parade**

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

**10. Adjourn**

At 5:28 p.m., Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Bill Turner  
Secretary

4/14/2022