

Stonington Board of Police Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Stonington Police Headquarters

173 South Broad Street

Pawcatuck, CT 06379

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy
Commissioners Bill Turner, Robert Elmer, and Patricia Coan
Chief Jay DelGrosso and 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.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy welcomed Chief Jay DelGrosso who was sworn in on Monday as the 10th Chief of the Stonington Police Department and thanked him for his service to the State Police.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy also mentioned the incident that occurred yesterday on Route 2. He stated that coordination between the Stonington Police, Westerly, Connecticut State Police, Rhode Island State Police, and Massachusetts State Police was exceptional and the incident was brought to a successful conclusion. It showed the importance of communications between all the agencies. We have a new radio system here in Stonington and are in the process of working that out between the Stonington Police Department and Rhode Island. There are some little glitches in communications that hopefully can be worked out. Communications is an important thing in these types of incidents and the Commission and Department are looking forward to solving that problem in the future.

Some good news – one of the biggest problems in the Town of Stonington is parking in Downtown Mystic. Chairman O'Shaughnessy has been meeting with the Seaport and hopefully within the next month or so, maybe a little sooner, the Seaport is going to dedicate half of their South lot to paid parking. There will be a shuttle so people will be able to park in the South lot of the Seaport for \$10 and they will provide a shuttle to take them Downtown and can drop them off on Church Street and make the circle. The Seaport is presently working to also provide a boat so people can have a choice – they can come Downtown by the shuttle that will be included in their \$10, or they can take a ride on a boat that will come down so hopefully parking in Downtown will be reduced in the near future.

2. Remarks of the Public

None

3. Correspondence

a. Letter Re: Spellman Drive Road Race Date Change *FYI*

Date change only. Events approved at former meeting.

A motion to accept the changes was made by Commissioner Elmer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

4. New Business

a. Pine Point School Request for Exemption from Town of Stonington Noise Ordinance *VOTE NEEDED*

Pat St. Germain

Associate Director of Development, Pine Point School

Ms. St. Germain began by thanking the Chief and the Town of Stonington for their marvelous action with yesterday's pursuit and for keeping Pine Point in the loop, they really appreciate it.

The event being discussed is a fundraiser on May 21st. This is usually held every other year off campus, but they are holding it on campus this year because for almost two years no one could come to campus due to the pandemic. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. and they are requesting an extension on the end time until 11:00 p.m. The music will end at 10:45 p.m., event will end at 11:00 p.m.

The Commission has asked that letters be sent to neighbors from the Police Department asking them to attend May meeting.

Motion to table to May 12 meeting made by Commissioner Elmer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Blessing of the Fleet Event *VOTE NEEDED*

Jennifer Crowley Fyke

Georgia Crowley

Sunday procession from St. Mary Church, through the streets to the Town Dock. No issues in the past.

Motion to approve the Blessing of the Fleet Event as presented made by Commissioner Elmer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning & Zoning Site Plan & Groundwater Permit Application – 392 Liberty St., Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

There was no one in attendance at meeting concerning this application. Chairman O'Shaughnessy has questions for the applicant concerning the nature of the business.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to pass this until applicant can be spoken to. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Planning & Zoning Site Plan Approval & Coastal Area Management Review Application – 20 Clark St., Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Anthony Nenna

On-Site Engineering

3 Crestview Drive

Westerly, RI

Richard Lotz

3 Pond View Court

Pawcatuck, CT

This application is for the demolition of a 3,380 square ft. concrete building and the construction of a new 4,080 square ft metal building for boat repair and storage. There will be two entrances onto Clark Street, and they are proposing to widen the curb cut for larger vehicles. There is no off-street parking and there will be no trailers backing up. Three employees, plenty of parking.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to pass along to Planning & Zoning the following: the Board of Police Commissioners sees no issues with traffic, parking, or safety with this application as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

e. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – Thirty-Eight, LLC 38 E. Main St., Mystic *COMMENTS NEEDED*

There was no one in attendance at meeting concerning this application.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to table this application until applicant can be spoken to. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

f. Planning & Zoning Subdivision & Groundwater Permit Application – Christie Properties North Stonington Road (CT Route 201) *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Michael Christie

Application for subdivision for housing on acreage of 4 lots on Route 201 just before North Stonington Line. Permitting for driveways will go through State Department of Transportation as Route 201 is a State Road.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to pass along to Planning & Zoning the following: the Board of Police Commissioners sees no issues with traffic, parking, or safety with this application as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

g. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – Jannat, LLC 54 South Broad St., Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Attorney Zachary Kohl, Esq.
New London, CT

Craig Lamphere, Traffic Engineer

This application is for the construction of a 1-story, 3,500 square ft. convenience store with fuel pumps, a canopy, and associated paving. This is the redevelopment of this site which was a gas/service station for nearly 70 years. There will be 4 2-sided fuel pumps and 19 parking spaces (plenty under requirement), space provided on all sides of the canopy to allow traffic to flow through the site, and marked one way entrance and exit. The site will eventually include sidewalks under the Pawcatuck Sidewalk Plan. Hours of operation will be 6:00 a.m. to midnight. Overall impact on traffic on intersection at traffic light at Pawcatuck Shopping Center is negligible. There was nothing noticeable in the traffic and accident analysis.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy has concerns about site lines in that area in both directions and telephone poles are a concern.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to pass along to Planning & Zoning the following: the Board of Police Commissioners has an issue with the site lines of traffic turning left and heading west on Route 1 and that needs to be addressed. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

5. Old Business

None

6. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: Non-Standard Driveway Proposal – 48 South Broad St., Pawcatuck *VOTE NEEDED*

Steve Fraser, Professional Engineer
B&L Companies

This is part of the Pawcatuck Sidewalk Improvement Project. Fraser has been working with Susan Cullen on improvements on South Broad Street in Pawcatuck. This is a high priority project for this corridor. There is a particular driveway within the corridor at 48 South Broad Street for which they are proposing a non-standard, steeper than standard driveway and they are looking for approval from a safety standpoint for this.

After much discussion about various options for this driveway, it was determined that the proposals were not ADA acceptable and concerns were raised about the Town and Police Department liability should someone be injured at this location.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion that the Board of Police Commissioners is not in favor of permitting this plan as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

b. State Department of Transportation Letter Re: Colored Traffic Signal Equipment – Route 27 at South Drive to Mystic Seaport

Letter discussing improvements to the traffic signals on Route 27 at South Drive of Seaport.

c. Letter Re: Rose Lane

Anonymous letter received. Filed.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, March 10, 2022 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the minutes from the Thursday, March 10, 2022 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Approval of Minutes from Friday, March 18, 2022 Special Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the Friday, March 18, 2022 special meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Report of the Chief

Chief DelGrosso commented on the outstanding job by all members of the Stonington Police Department involved in yesterday's incident on Route 78 and Route 2. He said the Department was well prepared and how they were trained and how they worked together, and worked with the other agencies involved was impressive. He also stated the radio systems worked well and the dispatchers understood what needed to be done. Information was relayed to area schools in a timely manner by Captain Olson through the Everbridge notification system, and Lieutenant Schneider made notifications to Board members. The First Selectman and Superintendent of Schools were also notified. After the incident he stated there was a de-briefing that went very well.

a. Budget Report

Other than a couple of line items that are over, the Department is well under budget.

b. Monthly Report

c. Special Events Schedule

d. Letter Re: Dylan Foley Resignation *VOTE NEEDED*

Recruit Dylan Foley, who was attending Academy, resigning from position as Patrol Officer. Motion to accept resignation made by Commissioner Coan. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

e. Letter Re: Christopher Appleton Resignation *VOTE NEEDED*

Probationary Officer Christopher Appleton resigning from his position as Patrol Officer. Motion to accept resignation made by Commissioner Elmer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Captain Olson mentioned there is currently a hiring process out on Police App which closes on the 15th. This is the first process in which we are taking applicants from the CPCA testing, from which there are 26. There are 12 applicants from the LEC, and a total of 5 lateral applicants from other agencies. The LEC is holding a regional agility test that the Department will be taking part

in around May 1st. The next session at the Academy begins in mid-June. We are also starting the hiring process for a CSO – three are returning, looking for a fourth. The candidate for the Records Clerk position accepted the position and her background will be completed tomorrow. She will continue the hiring process with the Town Hall and should be on board sooner rather than later.

f. Axon Body Camera Update – Lt. Schneider

Lt. Schneider brought a body cam for the Commissioners to see. Department wide training went well. Body cameras are typically worn on the upper torso. They provide GPS technology of where officers are located in the field and can live stream camera stream into building in safety situations. Nothing is stored in house; it is all cloud storage. Retention schedule for videos is in place. The Department will meet the State requirements by July 1st. Officers will activate their body cams when they get out of the car, shut it off after a call, categorize videos in a timely fashion, and use backend software to make this successfully work. This will be done in stages. Only body cams are deployed at this time. In car cameras are in the building. Infrastructure is being installed shortly and cameras will be installed in cars early to mid-May.

Captain Olson recognized Lt. Schneider's work on this project. Lt. Schneider brought the cameras to the officers and programmed everything. He worked with Axon over and over again, worked with the IT Department all by himself and then he took an entire week and trained the entire Department himself. He did all the training for the entire thing, no one else knew the information to be able to assist. He had to put a massive amount of work into this, it was a daunting task and the officers welcomed him with open arms. With regard to the cameras, the officers are looking forward to having a witness with them out there and give Lt. Schneider a lot of credit for taking it on and taking it home. Thank you very much to Lt. Schneider.

g. EconoLodge Use Agreement *VOTE NEEDED*

Bill Middleton has offered for the Stonington Police Department to use a section of the lobby area as a substation. There will be a conference room with a bathroom, microwave and refrigerator. He will be offering this at no charge to the Department on a month-to-month basis.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve forwarding the EconoLodge Use Agreement to the Board of Selectman for their approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

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

10. Consent Agenda

a. Letter Re: Thank You – Officers Rodgers & Wallace

b. Letter Re: Spellman Drive Road Races

c. Gardens By The Sea Tour Event Paperwork

d. Memos Re: Planning & Zoning Applications

e. Highway Use Permits:

1. Pawcatuck River Duck Race

2. Mystic Half Marathon

f. Good Friday Walk Paperwork

g. Letter Re: Good Job – Animal Control Officers Giesing & Reese

h. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Powell

i. Letters Re: Life Saving Commendation

j. Note of Thanks – Tina Moss

k. Highway Use Permit – Good Friday Walk

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

11. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

William F. Turner

Bill Turner
Secretary