

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, September 15th, 2022 at 5:00p.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  
Chief Jay DelGrosso & Captain Todd Olson

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

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

**2. Remarks of the Public**

None.

**3. Correspondence**

a. Thank You Letter-Stonington Veteran Monument

The Board received a thank you letter on behalf of the VFW 1265 Harley P. Chase Post in Pawcatuck and Town of Stonington for the donation of \$250 supporting the Stonington Veteran Monument Project. The donation is in memory of David Motherway Jr.

b. E-Mail Re: Stonington Beautification Concerns for Downtown Pawcatuck Crosswalks **\*FYI-  
FOR OCTOBER AGENDA\***

The Chief, Captain, and Selectwoman Danielle Chesebrough received an email from the Stonington Beautification Committee concerning the crosswalks in downtown Pawcatuck. This issue will be addressed in the October meeting.

**4. Planning and Zoning Application: Mason's Island Subdivision \*COMMENTS NEEDED\***

Peter Giordano presented revised plans showing the proposed cul-de-sacs for the Masons Island subdivision. The original plans were viewed and heard on 7/14 and had no concerns, but Masons Island Fire District requested a revision to make the road a cul-de-sac. No questions were raised from the board, and there were no concerns for traffic, safety, or parking.

**5. 111 Brookside**

111 Brookside continued to next month's meeting.

**6. Mystic Chamber of Commerce Cottrell Street Event \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Bruce Flax presented the proposed map and program for the October 15<sup>th</sup> event on Cottrell Street. Approval has been received from the Coast Guard for the fireworks and insurance coverage has been received. Permits are still being worked on. The road would close at 10:00am but Stanton Road would remain open as requested by the Mystic River Park Commission. The beer garden will be by the toy store stretching into the street. Bicycle fencing will be used. Commissioner Turner questioned the beer security. Beer must stay in the beer garden, wristbands will be required, and the beer distributor will be

assisting. Commissioner Turner also addressed police coverage for the event. Chief DelGrosso relayed coverage will be the same as any other event. Chief DelGrosso requested Bruce Flax reach out and contact Lieutenant Schneider to make sure the departments boat is included in the operation.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to approve the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Cottrell Street Event pending permit applications. Seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **7. Bid Waiver Request \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Captain Olsen brought up Lieutenant Schneider's bid waiver for Strobes n More for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Maintenance labor increased slightly from previous year but with adjustments it still is within budget. Strobes n More takes care of outfitting and maintenance and is local which would make taking vehicles for maintenance easier for the department.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to approve bid waiver. Seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **8. Traffic**

##### **a. Lantern Hill Road**

The chief met with a concerned citizen that wanted a stop sign ahead sign placed at Lantern Hill Road. A sign is already there and the citizen will be updated.

##### **b. Traffic Study Conducted on Timing of Mason's Island Road at Route 1 Light for State**

The Mason's Island Road at Route 1 Light is an issue the board has been aware of since 2004 and the board has wanted to address. Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared personal concern for the issue. Anne Taylor shared concern due to the hazardous nature of the intersection to vehicles and pedestrians. Another concerned citizen shares that he often runs through the area and has had several close encounters almost being struck by vehicles and has been grazed by passing cars.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to mail a letter to the commissioner of DOT describing the issues observed on Masons Island Road and Route 1. Seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

##### **c. Route 1 @ Lord's Point**

Chairman O'Shaughnessy received an email from Liz Stern who was unable to attend the meeting, but had Tim and Suzanne Tyler read her email on her behalf. They asked that the commission make note of their concerns and advise them of protocol regarding traffic concerns for state and town roads including Lord's Hill Road, Montauk Avenue, and Route 1 as the areas of concern. Mark Ginsburg a resident of Montauk Avenue shared concerns about people coming quickly from both directions, and the signs present that state not to pass on the right. He expressed an interest in increased patrols and a traffic study. Suzanne Tyler also expressed concern with the greenery in the area becoming overgrown and creating a sight problem. Chairman O'Shaughnessy mentioned previous action taken by Captain Olsen to address the greenery. Jen Daily also came forward to back up the complaints already addressed. Chairman O'Shaughnessy read a note left on the table prior to the meeting from Steven Slosberg who was unable to attend. Steven Slosberg wanted to register his support for anything that could help alleviate the accidents at Lords Hill Road. Peggy Roberts asked the commission what the history was with the commission on this area of road. Chairman O'Shaughnessy clarified that within the last 5 years of his time on the board this was the first-time concerns were brought forward and addressed. Chief DelGrosso discussed the increasing traffic coming to the area due to the area being a popular



destination. Chief DelGrosso also shared he had pulled the accidents that occurred at Lords Hill over the last 2 years. Over that span of time there was 1 in 2020 with no injuries, 1 in 2021 with no injuries, and 3 in 2022 with injuries. One of the accidents in 2022 being an illegal U-turn. That number of accidents over that span of time while unfortunate regardless of number is not enough to justify a traffic study. Chief DelGrosso did relay that the department can have more presence and activity monitoring the area. Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared that the speed on state roads is not for the board to change, and Captain Olsen shared that often when asked to lower the speed limit it is often increased instead. Chairman O'Shaughnessy also responded to the suggestion of adding more signs by sharing that the more signs an area places up the more there is a bigger risk of the signs being ignored. Chief DelGrosso finished up the conversation by sharing interest in taking a look at the no passing sign and the vegetation sight lines. The vegetation will be discussed with the town. He also shared to contact his office with any continued or new concerns and questions as he would be willing to meet and discuss.

#### **9. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, August 11, 2022 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner Turner motioned to approve the minutes from Thursday, August 11, 2022 Regular meeting. Seconded by Chairman O'Shaughnessy, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **10. Report of the Chief**

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

Chief DelGrosso reported the budget is on track. He is continuing to look at budget and meet with vendors to look for more affordable options. He is looking into the copiers used in the department and how OT is being spent.

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

Commissioner Bates inquired about the number of welfare checks that occurred during the month, and where the comparison columns on the monthly reports were. Captain Olsen shared that the current system does not break it down further than it being identified as a welfare check. A welfare check could include checking in on family members someone has not heard from in a length of time, or anonymous calls in reporting someone who could need system. Which is another reason the department is looking to upgrade the current system.

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

Chief DelGrosso commended the department for the number of local events they serve, but expressed worry for officer burnout having to be ordered in to work the events. He also noted how it might drive potential employees away knowing how many events the department works. Chairman O'Shaughnessy mentioned in the past there had been up to 60 events in a single year. Commissioner Bates inquired about the mutual aid agreement in place. Chief DelGrosso clarified that there is a mutual aid agreement in place, but departments like New London and Norwich are already understaffed. Captain Olsen added that there are new issues that have to be handled when working events such as bomb dogs, special event plans, and use of drones that require special training that narrows the pool of officers available to fill the role.

##### **d. Electronic Speed Signs**

Chief DelGrosso shared that the electronic speed signs are out and collecting data to help decide when officers should be out for enforcement. The public is being made aware that the signs are there, and signage will be added to them explaining their purpose.

##### **e. Borough Speed Signs**

The Borough purchased a speed sign and has agreed to continue paying Traffic Logix licensing fees and pay for future maintenance and repair costs for the sign. The department has offered to take possession of the sign, use the software used by the department, and place the signs for the Borough.

f. Hiring Process

There is currently only 1 reserve officer. Chief DelGrosso and Captain Olsen expressed desire to bump the reserve officer pay to rate 3.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to approve moving the reserve officer pay to rate 3. Seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

**11. Consent Agenda**

Chief DelGrosso responded to all of the letter received, and shared them with the officers involved.

a. Letter Re: Thank You- Black Bear Dojo Donation to Police K-9 Unit

Chief DelGrosso thanked Black Bear Dojo for holding a fundraiser which resulted in donation to the Police K-9 Unit.

b. Letter Re: Thank You-Officer Hewes

Joseph Rose thanked Officer Hewes for being kind, compassionate, and caring while dealing with the victim and his family.

c. Letters Re: Thank You- Officer Friend & Officer Cullen

Laerta Campbell called to compliment Officer Friend and Officer Cullen for their outstanding services. She stated they were both wonderful and caring.

d. Letter Re: Thank You- Chief John Rich

Chief DelGrosso thanked Chief John Rich for his compassion and comfort while responding to a Stonington resident in crisis.

e. Letter Re: Thank You- Chris Gomes

Chief DelGrosso thanked Chris Gomes for being a member of the department and representing the department in a positive way.

f. Letter Re: Thank You- Blessing of the Fleet 5k Race

Ann-Marie Houle and Michele Crowley thanked the department for supporting the 2022 St. Mary Church Blessing of the Fleet 5k Road Race.

**12. Executive Session**

a. Interview of Lateral Candidates

At 6:02pm Vice Chairman Elmer made a Motion to go Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. 1-200(6)(A) regarding an appointment to fill an open Police Officer position in the Stonington Police Department.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No further discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

At 7:23pm exited Executive Session. No motions were made, and no votes were during the executive session.

At 7:30pm Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to recommend that town of Stonington Board of Police Commissioners to appoint Michael Intieri- to fill an open Police Officer position for the town of Stonington. Appointment is contingent upon his successful completion of a physical & psychological examination certifying his ability to perform the essential job functions of the position, a polygraph examination, successful completion of an ongoing background check.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner.

No further discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

**13. Adjourn**

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Turner".

Bill Turner  
Secretary