

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 5:00p.m.  
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET  
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy & Vice Chairman Bill Turner  
Commissioner Lisa Tepper Bates, Commissioner Patricia Coan, Commissioner Richard Balestracci  
Chief Jay DelGrosso

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm. A motion to nominate Bob O'Shaughnessy for the position of chairman was made by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved. Motion for Bill Turner for the position of Vice chairman made by Commissioner Tepper Bates, seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved. Motion for Lisa Tepper Bates for the position of secretary made by Commissioner Coan, seconded by Chairman O'Shaughnessy. All in favor, motion approved.

The Chairman was happy to announce the promotion of Todd Olson to Deputy Chief, Bryan Schneider to Captain, Timothy Marley to Lieutenant, and Ryan Rodgers to Sergeant. The board would like to wish them the best with their future endeavors. Chief Delgrosso thanked the commission for their time as the department has never had a promotion like this. The departments Stuff-A-Cruiser event will be taking place December 10<sup>th</sup> this year. The First Selectwoman's office is currently looking for volunteer veterans for interviews for the monument project.

**2. Remarks of the Public**

None.

**3. New Business**

**a. Request for Removal of Handicap Parking Space \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Town resident Travis Truax reached out to request the handicap parking space in front of his residence be removed. When he was granted the space, the board provided it with the stipulation that if he moves, he is to reach out and inform the board so the space could be removed. Motion made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to have the handicap space removed. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

**b. E-Mail Re: Curb Painting Request- Hillside Avenue Ext., Pawcatuck \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Richard Sylvestre reached out in regards to Hillside Ave Ext. in Pawcatuck. He is requesting the curb where the fire hydrant is be painted to identify it as a no parking area. Chairman O'Shaughnessy and Chief Delgrosso took a look at the area and tabled the issue until more information about the issue and explanation of what exactly the action being requested is.

#### 4. Old Business

None

#### 5. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: Mystic Seaport Hotel

b. Letter RE: Mystic Seaport Hotel & Restaurant Expansion, Route 27 Mystic CT **\*APPROVAL & SIGNATURE NEEDED\***

The Mystic Seaport hotel was discussed at the last meeting. The board pointed out several issues with the study. Chairman O'Shaughnessy received an email from the Vice President of Fuss & O'Neill Mark Vertucci to explain the issues pointed out about the study. Vertucci was unable to make the meeting and the matter will be passed onto next month's meeting.

c. Letter Re: No Passing Zone- Route 201/Olivia Lane **\*APPROVAL NEEDED\***

Olivia Lane is accepted as a town road. A letter was sent out the day of the meeting requesting the removal of the passing zone after letters were received by the board about safety concerns. Vice Chairman Turner pointed out an issue with the wording of the letter to DOT, another corrected letter will be sent.

d. E-Mail Re: 111 South Broad Street Residential Development **\*VOTE NEEDED\***

Ryan Pothering the Transportation Supervising Engineer for the Connecticut Department of Transportation responded to the letter of concern for the proposed residential development on 111 South Broad Street. The response from him was that the department does not see any issues with traffic. Vice Chairman Turner shared that last time they were concerned with sight lines, and Chairman O'Shaughnessy brought up that the traffic study did not include traffic generated by Spruce Meadows or all the surrounding roads. Commissioner Coan also brought up issues with school buses and how more children from more residences will add time to pick up and drop off traffic on the road. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated his disagreement with the traffic study and that there will be a traffic impact. Commissioner Balestracci concurred with the points brought forward. Commissioner Tepper Bates shared that the town cannot hold their own traffic study and the issues raised with the traffic study were opinion based and not data driven. She shared that there were not enough solid facts to back up an objection. The town does not have a traffic engineer and is not able to conduct a traffic study to obtain the facts. Vice Chairman Turner asked if the developer could have a solution. Chairman O'Shaughnessy disagreed with the study as it was not as complete as it should have been and there should be a new one done with areas of concern included. Commissioner Balestracci agreed that would be the best solution. Commissioner Coan shared a concern that the traffic study is from 2016.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to send letter stating the study was not complete and that the board disagrees with the study. Seconded by Commissioner Balestracci. Commissioner Tepper Bates abstained; motion approved.

e. Evaluation/Discussion of Olde Mistick Village Apple Fest and State Property Parking

Chief Delgrosso opened the conversation sharing the strain that the numerous events put on the police department, and while the officers do not complain there is a concern for burnout. The garlic festival this year highlighted some of the consistent issues. The apple festival went much better than the garlic festival. The apple festival organizer was good at communicating with the chief. Chief Delgrosso shared that he does not want to add more events but there are currently 4 more events that will be added in the future.



Traffic flow was congested but did not create an emergency situation. State police was unable to send a man to work the event. Chief Delgrosso shared that it would be appropriate to approach the Department of Transportation about permanent signage in the areas under their jurisdiction. Chairman O'Shaughnessy clarified that the approach would be via a letter. Chief Delgrosso shared the issues with the village and they were receptive to fixing the issues. Commissioner Tepper Bates asked if the issue was inadequate parking and if the village has any creative solutions. Chief Delgrosso responded that the number of parking spaces is not the issue, but the amount of people flooding in at one time for the events is what creates the issue. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that it is an overall bigger problem. Individuals parking in the grassy areas by the on ramp created huge problems. Commissioner Bates asked if the solution could be more officers preventing people from parking there illegally, but Chief Delgrosso shared that would be a state police responsibility and the two officers hired to cover the event are enough.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to send a letter to DOT asking them to put up permanent signage outlining specific no parking areas. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor motion approved.

#### **6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Special Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Motion made by Vice Chairman Turner to approve the minutes from the Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Special meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. Commissioner Balestracci abstained motion approved.

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

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

Chief Delgrosso shared the department is ahead on overtime. He is currently working on discretionary/nondiscretionary overtime. New overtime slips are now being used. The chief is working with IT to reevaluate existing contracts to get rid of any unnecessary or redundant contracts.

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

Monthly calls are higher, but once the system is upgraded there will be a better representation of calls for service.

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

Turkey trot is big for the department. The Lobster Trap Tree is being checked on to keep an eye on it. The village never had festival of lights on the schedule, but the village has agreed to start coming to the commission with their events. At this time the village has yet to come to the commission about this year's festival of lights event. Commissioner Tepper Bates asked what the commissions action would be if the village did not come forward with events. Chief Delgrosso shared that if the village chooses not to come forward then statute allows him to require officers be hired. The village does not have to come, but they did agree to.

Commissioner Tepper Bates made a motion to send a letter to town hall asking for information regarding when a special events permit is required. Seconded by Chairman O'Shaughnessy. All in favor motion approved.

##### **d. Letter Re: IT Department**

Deputy Chief Olson wrote a letter to Rodger Kizer of the IT department sharing their appreciation and relief for hiring Jeremy Faber, as well as praising Faber for his work.

e. Letter to Board of Finance Re: Special Events

Chief Delgrosso wrote a letter to the Board of Finance following their request of data in relation to events that Stonington Police Department staffs as opposed to other towns. The Board shared East Lyme as a potential comparison, but it failed to encompass the amount of events Stonington takes on. East Lyme takes on a total of 13 events. Going forward the Chief will evaluate events on size as opposed to number of events. Commissioner Tepper Bates asked if a calculation of man hours spent on events could be done.

f. Letter Re: Thank You- Troop E, Montville

Chief Delgrosso wrote a thank you letter to Commissioner Rovella to thank them for taking the time to assist and work with the Stonington Police Department.

## 8. Consent Agenda

a. Thank You Letters: Donations of Breakfast & Lunch to Police Department

The department sent out thank you letters to Melinda Carlisle, The Holland Family, and Watch Hill catering for the food donated to the department.

b. Letter Re: Thank you- Domestic Violence Awareness Month Lethality Assessments Screening

The State's Attorney thanked the department for the implementation of lethality assessment screenings.

c. Highway Use Permit: Veterans Day Parade

A permit was issued to the Town of Stonington to use the highway for the Veterans Day parade.

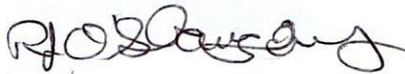
d. Thank You Letter: Westerly Police Department

Chief Paul Gingerella reached out to thank the department for helping with the active shooter incident at the Westerly High School.

## 9. Adjourn

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Tepper Bates seconded. All in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
CHAIRMAN

Lisa Tepper Bates  
Secretary