

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, June 8th, 2023 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, Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates
Commissioner Patricia Coan, Commissioner Richard Balestracci
Chief Jay DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Todd Olson, Captain Bryan Schneider

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm.

2. Remarks of the Public

None

3. Correspondence

None

4. New Business

a. St. Michael School Annual 5k Road Race & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk ***VOTE NEEDED***

Beth Kennedy and Michelle Perkins spoke to request permission to have its 14th Annual 5k Road Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday November 4th, 2023. No changes to the previous plans were submitted.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the St. Michael School Annual 5k Road Race & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk as submitted subject to the town's insurance requirements and safety issues brought forward by the police department. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce River Glow Event ***VOTE NEEDED***

The Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce came requesting permission to host the River Glow Event on August 5th, 2023 with a rain date of August 6th, 2023. The event has been taking place over 20 years. Commissioner Tepper Bates thanked the organization for the unique event they put on for the community. Vice Chairman Turner questioned if Westerly is also involved with the event. Deputy Chief Olson relayed that Westerly typically has one officer to assist.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce River Glow Event as submitted subject to the town's insurance requirements and safety issues brought forward by the police department. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates All in favor, motion approved.

c. Stonington Historical Society Fourth of July Parade ***VOTE NEEDED***

Rob Palmer wrote a letter to the chief requesting permission to hold the Stonington Society's Fourth of July parade on Tuesday July 4th, 2023.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Stonington Historical Society Fourth of July Parade as submitted subject to the town's insurance requirements and safety issues brought forward by the police department. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates All in favor, motion approved.

5.Old business

a. Stonington Village Fair *VOTE NEEDED*

The Stonington Community Center was present at the May 2023 Board of Police Commission meeting but were unable to vote on the event at that time due to not meeting the needed quorum.

Motion was made by as Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Stonington Village Fair as submitted in the May BOPC Meeting subject to the town's insurance requirements and safety issues brought forward by the police department. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. Commissioner Balestracci abstained from the vote. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Traffic

a. Request for Defined Parking Spaces-East Side of Broadway by Mystic Congregational Church Memorial Garden *VOTE NEEDED*

David Benvenuti came before the commission to ask for assistance in correcting a parking issue by Mystic Congregational Church Memorial Garden. He originally reached out to public works and was referred to the commission to get their approval. Chairman O'Shaughnessy agreed the commission could pass the issue along to public works to see what they could do. Deputy Chief Olson is going to go on location with public works to weigh options.

Motion was made by Vice Chairman Turner to pass along to public works and see how many spaces could be clearly defined in the area. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

b. 11 Cottrell Street Pedestrian Safety

Chairman O'Shaughnessy opened conversation by sharing he had gone with the Chief and Deputy Chief to view the area. The building will be undergoing some major construction to fix the supports of the building. It is projected to take 18 months. OSHA is requiring a 25-foot setback while working on the building to prevent pedestrians walking in areas where there could be falling debris. The work would only take place Monday through Friday. The plans for maintaining the setback have been approved and they were shared at the meeting for informational purposes. Commissioner Coan asked how many parking spaces were being given up for the work to be done. Deputy Chief Olson clarified that the six spots in the area are being used to bump out pedestrians temporarily, and when the work is not happening (evenings and weekends) the spots will become available again. Chairman O'Shaughnessy also relayed the original plan involved leaving up fencing during the course of the entire project but the commission shot that down.

Matthew Beaudoin the owner of Mystic Knotworks spoke as a member of the public and fellow business owner to question the timeline of the construction. Chairman O'Shaughnessy reiterated the full project will be over the course of 18 months, and Chief DelGrosso shared that the phase requiring the setback and use of parking spaces would not last the full 18 months and is a phase of the project.

7.Approval of Minutes from Thursday, May 11th, 2023 Regular Meeting*VOTE NEEDED*

Motion made by Vice Chairman Turner to approve the minutes from the May 11th, 2023 meeting as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Line items are currently in good shape. The overtime budget is currently over because the department is down officers and a portion of the officers testifying in a homicide trial. Comparatively between 2022 and 2023 the budget is not far off.

b. Monthly Report

June 26th, 2023 the department will be swearing in 3 new officers that will be attending the July academy.

c. Special Events Schedule

Chief DelGrosso is working with the administrative assistant to be more open with organizers when it comes to the event process. The hope is to have the process take place online and allow it to be more streamlined.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy wanted to make note of the hard work done by Captain Schneider while working with the town and harbor masters. Captain Schneider shared his work trying to implement a consistent process when it comes to removing boats.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Letter Re: Officer Hewes- Good Job

Chief DelGrosso thanked Officer Hewes for his compassion after receiving a letter from Lia Coppolecchia and her family after Officer Hewes assistance in helping her father.

Motion made by Vice Chairman Turner to accept the Report of the Chief and the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

10. Executive Session

Motion made by Vice Chairman Turner to go into executive session at 5:22pm. Seconded by Commissioner Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved.

a. Police Officer Candidate Interviews

The commission conducted two officer interviews and one dispatcher interview in the executive session on 06/08/2023. The BOPC came out of executive session at approximately 1935 hours and voted to authorize the chief (or his designee) to give a conditional offer of employment to Julia Rich (Officer), John Gabinelle (Officer), and Stephen Whaley (Dispatcher). The motion was offered by Turner and seconded by Bates. At approximately 1942 hours a motion to adjourn was offered by Turner and seconded by Bates. Both votes were unanimous.

11. Adjourn

At approximately 1942 hours a motion to adjourn was offered by Turner and seconded by Bates.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Tepper Bates
Secretary