

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 5:00 P.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  
Chief Jay DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Todd Olson, Captain Bryan Schneider  
Absent: Commissioner Richard Balestracci

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

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

**2. Remarks of the Public**

Michael Schefers, Stonington Borough Warden

Mr. Schefers introduced himself to the Board of Police Commissioners as the new Stonington Borough Warden and thanked Chief DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Olson and Captain Schneider.

**3. Correspondence**

**4. New Business**

**a. Portuguese Holy Ghost Society Processions \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Bill Dittman, Secretary, Portuguese Holy Ghost Society

Mr. Dittman was in attendance to represent the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the event will be held September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 and they have submitted the use of town property application, however, still need to provide insurance.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the Portuguese Holy Ghost Society Processions as submitted, as the Police Commission sees no issues with this event, subject to the requirements the Administration may deem necessary, and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**b. Mystic Aquarium Run/Walk for Penguins \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Josh Adams, Mystic Aquarium

Mr. Adams was in attendance to represent the Mystic Aquarium. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the event will be held November 4<sup>th</sup>. This event has been held previously and it requires the hiring of an officer for four hours for the crosswalk on Coogan Blvd.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the Mystic Aquarium Run/Walk for Penguins as submitted, as the Police Commission sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety, subject to the

requirements the Administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**c. Westerly-Pawcatuck Veterans Day Parade \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Dan Lapointe, Westerly-Pawcatuck Veterans Day Parade

The event is scheduled for November 11<sup>th</sup> and it begins at the Pawcatuck Shopping Center, heads down West Broad Street and then over the bridge into Westerly. There are no changes to this event. Mr. Lapointe noted that the insurance information is on file with the Chief's Administrative Assistant.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the Westerly-Pawcatuck Veterans Day Parade as submitted, subject to the requirements the Administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**d. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: PRC Holdings, LLC \*COMMENTS NEEDED\***

Dave McKay, Boundaries, LLC.

Mr. McKay informed the Police Commission that this property is located at 8 Alice Ct. They are proposing an 8220sqft office building with indoor storage space. He showed the Police Commission the site plan and noted that the parking lot will have appropriate lighting. Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked how many employees would be at the location to which Mr. McKay stated the maximum would be eighteen. Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that he spoke with neighbors and no one had any issues with this plan. Chief DelGrosso is good with the plan. Vice Chairman Turner asked if any remediation needs to be done to which Mr. McKay answered no.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to send comments to Planning and Zoning that the Police Commission sees no issues with this application as it relates to traffic, parking and safety. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**e. Stonington Soccer Tournament \*FYI\***

Deputy Chief Olson stated that he was contacted by Katie Quinlan in regard to setting up a soccer tournament to take place at Spellman Park. This tournament will not affect the police department other than the volume of traffic. The police department will assist with posting no parking signs. This is not a town sponsored event and it has proper insurance. The fire department and emergency response personnel are aware of the tournament. Chief DelGrosso will provide the event date to the Police Commission. It is on the weekend. Commissioner Coan commented on the availability of a defibrillator to which Deputy Chief Olson stated that emergency personnel and the department will be aware that the tournament is being held.

**5. Old Business**

**a. Letters Re: Olde Mistick Village Parking**

Chief DelGrosso stated that there have been issues with cars parking along the I-95 on-ramp at exit 90 during large events. The fencing along the on-ramp at the Olde Mistick Village has three open areas. Over-flow parking in this area is dangerous. State DOT was notified of the request for no parking signs and have sped up the process to install the signs. Chief DelGrosso noted that he has been in contact with Mr. Regan of Olde Mistick Village and he has corrected the open areas to help with the parking issues.



## **6. Traffic**

### **a. Request for "Reduced Speed Ahead" Sign on Town Side of Viaduct \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Amy Nicholas, Stonington Borough Burgess

The Warden and Burgesses requested a "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign on the town side of the viaduct. Chief DelGrosso has no problem with the requested signage.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the "Reduced Speed Ahead" sign on the town side of the viaduct. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

### **b. E-Mail Re: Parking on Coggsell Street, Pawcatuck \*POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM\***

Grace Penney, Coggsell Street Resident

Ms. Penney requested a copy of the agreement between Riverwalk Condominiums and the town about the use of the parking lot. Ms. Penney stated that public parking in the lot is becoming an issue. She began parking on Coggsell Street. There are also other safety concerns in the area and she wanted to see what can be done.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy provided Ms. Penney with the requested MOU. He stated that lighting and other safety issues in the lot need to be addressed with the condo association. He further informed Ms. Penney that the police respond to every call. He encouraged her to call the police when she is concerned for her safety. Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that the street parking time limits have been in place for years and he does not see 24-hour parking being an option. Commissioner Bates asked if the lot could have designated spaces for residents? Ms. Penney commented that some people want designated spaces and others do not. She further explained that she has not been afforded the opportunity to attend any condo association meetings. Chairman O'Shaughnessy reiterated that it is best to address her concerns with the condo association. Ms. Penney asked who she should speak to in the town to which Chairman O'Shaughnessy suggested the First Selectman's Office.

Chief DelGrosso explained the parking dilemma in town. He stated that the issues with parking is to be addressed with the condo association. In regard to safety, he agreed that she should call the police department. He further noted that the police department has been meeting with human services to help provide services to the homeless. If there is not enough lighting on the road, this issue can be looked at with the town.

Deputy Chief Olson explained the reasoning for the MOU between the condo association and the town. There was some further discussion regarding the MOU. Commissioner Bates suggested to Ms. Penney that she reach out to the association's board.

No action.

### **c. Mason's Island Road Traffic Light**

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that this intersection has been an issue for a long time, however, there is an issue with the crosswalk signal. If the light is green for Mason's Island Rd., the light also turns green for the crosswalk. There are problems with the light's timing and sightlines, therefore, the Police Commission would like to ask for the State to take a look at this intersection. Chairman O'Shaughnessy asked Chief DelGrosso to write a letter to State DOT to have them look at this traffic/crosswalk signal.



**d. Tipping Rock Road/North Main Street Site Line Issue**

*Stuart & Tiffany Thompson, Tipping Rock Rd. Residents*

Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that the Police Commission received an email about a tree stump that is causing a sightline issue on North Main Street for traffic, pedestrians and cyclists exiting Tipping Rock Rd. Mr. Thompson informed the Police Commission that the removal of the tree stump was discussed with the tree warden, who stated that it could be removed. It has not been removed. Mr. Thompson believes this is a sightline issue and there is no longer a benefit to leave this stump as it is a hazard. He was informed by Deputy Chief Olson that it has not been deemed to be a sightline issue.

Chief DelGrosso informed Mr. Thompson that he went to the location and does not feel that the stump causes a sightline issue when you stop at the stop line. It becomes a bit of an issue once you edge out. Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated he also went out to the area and he did not see an issue with the sightline, however, the vegetation is more of an issue. Chief DelGrosso noted that the tree warden told him keeping the stump is beneficial to the environment. Mr. Thompson stated that the tree warden told him otherwise. There was some brief discussion on who owns the property the tree is on.

It was determined by the Board, the Chief and the Deputy Chief that the stump is not a sightline issue. It was suggested that the Thompson's revisit this issue with the tree warden and the town.

*Rob Simmons, North Main Street Resident*

Mr. Simmons noted that the tree was removed since it was damaged in a storm and he asked that the trunk be left since it has saved him twice from being struck by a vehicle while he was retrieving his mail. He commented that there is an issue with speeding on North Main Street. He feels that the trunk has public safety value. He provided photos to the Police Commission. He noted that he maintains the areas vegetation to help with the sightlines.

Chief DelGrosso commented that, in regard to the speeding aspect, speed signs can be put out to collect data and the findings can be shared with the neighbors. Once data is received, patrols can be put out in the area if necessary.

Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that this Commission addresses sightline issues and none are seen here.

No action.

**e. E-Mail: Information Re: October 14<sup>th</sup> Cottrell Street Closure \*POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM\***

*Bruce Flax, President, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce*

According to Chairman O'Shaughnessy, in regard to the Mystic Art Festival, it has been requested that golf carts be used by staff along Bay Street, Cottrell Street and Holmes Street.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the request to drive golf carts on Bay Street, Cottrell Street and Holmes Street. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Flax informed the Police Commission that he will need to come back to the September meeting for approval since they are having trouble securing a barge for the fireworks. If a barge can not be secured,

they will scrap the fireworks portion and just do the event on Cottrell Street. Captain Schneider noted that he provided the Chief a list of questions which was sent to Mr. Flax. Captain Schneider further stated that he will assist Mr. Flax through this process. Chief DelGrosso noted that he appreciates all of Mr. Flax's pre-planning.

**7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, July 13, 2023 Regular Meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**8. Report of the Chief of Police**

**a. Budget Reports – FY23 & FY24**

According to Chief Stewart, the budget looks good and he is happy with the new budget. Commissioner Bates asked what is longevity? Chief DelGrosso noted it is part of the officer's contract and it is a bonus and goes by number of years worked. He commented that if this line goes over, he will adjust it for the next budget year.

**b. Monthly Report**

**c. Special Events Schedule**

This has been sent out to all event organizers.

Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to approve the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

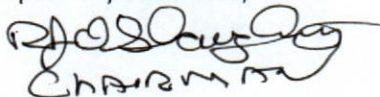
**9. Consent Agenda**

**a. Highway Use Permit: Columbus Day Parade**

**10. Adjourn**

At 6:02 p.m., Vice Chairman Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Bates, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Tepper Bates  
Secretary