

# DRAFT MINUTES

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**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, January 14, 2016  
5:00 p.m. at Stonington Police Headquarters**

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CYNTHIA LADWIG  
TOWN CLERK

## MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman Patrick Moukawsher and Vice-Chairman Harry Holt  
Commissioners Peter Rotella and Raymond Trebisacci  
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Todd Olson

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

Chairman Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. and Commissioner Rotella led the Pledge of Allegiance

### **2. Remarks of Visitors**

Stonington First Selectman Robert Simmons

First Selectman Simmons told the Commission he made a pledge that, if elected, he would visit each Commission in the first 90 days of his term. He spoke of starting his political career 30 years ago as a Police Commissioner for the Town. He was made Chairman of the Commission after a couple of weeks, and helped build the foundation of one of the finest Police Departments and buildings. He stated public safety is fundamental, and he is impressed with the quality of the over 100 volunteers who serve on the various Board and Commissions in the Town. He noted that he is creating a Dog Park Committee, which Chief Stewart will serve as a member of, and will resolve issues with the dog park within two months. He thanked the Commissioners, the Chief and the Captain for their service and said he would come to future meetings if needed. Chairman Moukawsher thanked First Selectman Simmons.

Chairman Moukawsher noted two items for the Commission:

1. Over the next several meetings the Commission by-laws will be reviewed and revised.
2. Chief Stewart's evaluation is overdue.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit & Coastal Areas Management Application – Ocean Community YMCA \*ACTION/COMMENTS NEEDED\***

Tim Babcock, Ocean Community YMCA

Attorney Theodore Ladwig

Derek Hug, Traffic Engineer – Fuss & O'Neill

Attorney Ladwig spoke first. He explained that when this project was first presented at an earlier meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners there was concern about the impact of traffic at the intersection of Mason's Island Road and Route 1. He introduced Traffic Engineer Derek Hug to speak to the Commission on this.

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Derek Hug described the two levels of service noted in the attachment. The Commissioner inquired as to whether or not the traffic study reflected projected traffic from other approved projects at this location. Hug said yes, it did.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to forward comments to Planning & Zoning that the Commission found no public safety, parking or traffic issues with the plan as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

### **4. Correspondance**

#### **a. Letters Re: Roaming Dogs – Riverbend Drive, Mystic**

Chief Stewart mentioned recent developments in this matter. The owner of the dog was arrested yesterday as a result of the dog roaming and has stated he will be getting rid of the dog. The dog will not be put down as it is not aggressive, and if needed will be taken in by the Stonington Animal Control for placement. The owner is scheduled to be in court next week. Chief Stewart will make sure the residents petition is forwarded to the court.

Residents of Riverbend Drive then spoke of incidents involving the dog.

Carol Barnes Craig

18 Riverbend Drive

Carol Barnes Craig stated the owner has other dogs besides the one in question. She said that while walking her dog two other dogs charged at her, but the owner called out and they stopped. She stated he has other female dogs.

Scott Ferguson

33 Riverbend Drive

Scott Ferguson had one incident where he was walking his dog on a leash and the two dogs, although not aggressive, surrounded his dog and he had to reach in and pick up his dog. The other dogs followed him to his house. The owner of the dogs called out and they retreated. Another incident involved the dogs charging at his dog again. The white dog had Ferguson's dog in its mouth and was biting it. Ferguson stated that these are full grown pit bulls. The owner called and the dogs withdrew. The owner said he would get rid of the dog. The dog disappeared, but returned a few weeks later. Chief Stewart stated that no matter what goes on the police must be called. When the dogs are seen roaming, take a picture or video as proof. There is not much that can be done when if the dog stays on property.

Chairman Moukawsher asked if there are other dogs on the property. There are four – two adults and two puppies.

Scott Bagley

16 Riverbend Drive

Scott Bagley has a video from New Year's Day showing three dogs on the porch. He stated they were very menacing. There was the problem dog "Red", a white female, and a puppy.

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Hamilton Moore  
10 Riverbend Drive

Hamilton Moore stated that one evening he had to separate the brown dog from his dog on the porch of his home. The dog was trying to get in his house by banging into the door. The officer that responded had to remove the dog from the hood of a car. Moore stated that he used to walk his baby through the neighborhood, but can't anymore due to the dogs. Also can't use the right of way to the water as it is next to the owner's house.

Jane Scott  
38 Riverbend Drive

Jane Scott stated she was walking down to the water approximately six months ago and the dog started jumping. The owner called the dog. She stated no one used the water this summer and no one walks any longer.

Commissioner Holt feels this is a radically serious matter as it is ruining the enjoyment of others in the neighborhood.

Chief Stewart said he would find out when the owners court date is and call the court. The contact information for the prosecutor's office in New London was also provided to the residents present and they were encouraged to call as well.

### **5. Old Business**

None

### **6. Traffic**

**a. E-Mail Re: Willow Street, Mystic FYI**

**b. Letter Re: Parking – Corner of Avery Street, Mystic FYI**

**c. Letter Re: Route 27 @ I-95/Coogan Boulevard Traffic Lights**

Per the State's request, Chief Stewart sent a letter to the Department of Transportation to raise the level of service from a Level 2 – meaning being put on a wait list to fix any problems, to a Level 1 – which means that no matter what time of day, holiday, etc., the State will come out and repair the malfunctioning light.

**d. E-Mail Re: Traffic Concerns – Route 27 FYI**

**e. Letter Re: Crosswalk – Route 1 @ Spellman Drive**

There are concerns with the traffic light at the intersection of Route 1 and Spellman Drive. When a pedestrian hits the button to cross, only the Route 1 lights turn red. Spellman Drive still gets the green light. This causes confusion. Chief Stewart said the State will take a look at it if requested and the button can be made a four way stop. Safety issue as Stonington High School students park in shopping center parking lot and have to cross. Businesses do not object to this. Commissioner Trebisacci feels this safety issue should be a priority for the State.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion that Chief Stewart forward a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting that they investigate making the pedestrian crossing sign at the intersection of Route 1 and Spellman Drive a four way stop so when pedestrians have the "go" light, all other lights are on red. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion. Discussion – Commissioner Holt added that the State should

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identify any other deficiencies. Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to amend the original motion in accordance with Commissioner Holt's suggestion.

Motion: Chief Stewart forward a letter to the Department of Transportation requesting that they investigate making the pedestrian crossing sign at the intersection of Route 1 and Spellman Drive a four way stop so when pedestrians have the "go" light, all other lights are on red. In addition the State is asked to identify any other deficiencies at this intersection. Motion now seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No further discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

### **7. Approval of Minutes for December 11, 2015 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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

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

Chief Stewart has concerns with Overtime Account and Uniform Account. May go over in the Uniform Account due to new hires.

Chief Stewart noted that all positions are filled. New officers began at the Academy on December 31, 2015. Officer Hewes is on the road, doing well. Officer Cozzolino is on his own and also doing well.

The CIP Budget meeting is on January 22, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. The radio system is in there, and Chief Stewart will reach out to Harris Radio and Waterford Police Department to get the true pricing before beginning the budget process.

\*At approximately 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Rotella and Captain Olson left meeting.

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

#### **c. Yearly Statistics**

Chief Stewart noted an increase in motor vehicle complaints, pistol permits, and DWI arrests.

#### **d. Pawcatuck Statistics**

Chief Stewart said there is a new camera on top of the Pawcatuck Fire Department. Can see down to Evans Mobil and up as far as St. Michael's. Charter Oak will be opening a new branch on Route 27 @ I-95. A camera will be put there with thanks to former Commission Chairman Mel Olsson. There will also be a camera at the Town Dock.

#### **e. Alarm Report**

#### **f. Special Event Schedule**

Mystic VFW would like to have a road race on Memorial Day. They will be coming before the Commission for approval at a future date.

#### **g. Weapons Inventory**

#### **h. Electronic Defense Weapon Annual Report**

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### **i. 2015 Holiday Season Statistics**

### **j. Security Camera Policy \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Tabled to the February 11, 2016 meeting.

### **k. Social Media Policy (Department Use) \*VOTE NEEDED\***

This is for the Stonington Police Department Facebook page. Chief Stewart recommends approval. This will be used for public relations and public safety. Traffic issues and community events can be posted there. Three to four people will be able to add information to page with Captain Olson overseeing it.

Commissioner Holt made a motion to approve Stonington Police Department policy Chapter 46A with regards to Social Media. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

### **l. E-Mail Re: Fuel Price Lock In**

Gas prices locked in through the School Department. \$0.74/gallon savings. Fuel line originally \$81,500 lowered by \$20,000.

All budget groups, except personnel, are lower than last year.

Chief Stewart mentioned the #dstrong Praying for Dorian movement.

As mentioned by First Selectman Simmons, Chief Stewart will be serving on the Dog Park Commission.

New cars should be in next week.

Commissioner Holt made a motion to approve the Report of the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

## **9. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Message Center Management Fully Executed Agreement**

### **b. Letter Re: Click It or Ticket Reimbursement**

### **c. Letter & Memo Re: Tip A Cop Event**

### **d. CIRMA Report: Police Recruitment and Selection: What Does the Evidence Say?**

### **e. Letter Re: Thank You – Mystic Seaport Antique Vehicle Show**

### **f. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Palmer**

### **g. Pedestrian Crosswalk Sign Permits**

### **h. Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control**

### **i. Letter Re: Lion's Club Race**

### **j. Memos Re: Perfect Attendance 2015**

### **k. LInX Audit**

### **l. E-Mail Re: Good Job – Officer Emery & Dispatcher Palmer**

### **m. E-Mail Re: Good Job – Officer Hersh**

### **n. New London County Multidisciplinary Team Agreement**

### **o. Letter Re: Frontier Agreement**

Commissioner Holt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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### **10. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Holt. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Patrick J. Moukawsher  
Chairman