STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, February 11, 2016
5:00 p.m. at Stonington Police Headquarters

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Patrick Moukawsher and Vice-Chairman Harry Holt
Commissioners Raymond Trebisacci & Henri Gourd
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Todd Olson
Absent: Commissioner Peter Rotella

1. Call To Order/Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Moukawsher recognized former Police Commission Chair Suzette Tibus, who was present at the meeting.

2. Remarks of Visitors
None

3. New Business
a. Letter Re: Mystic YMCA Events *VOTE NEEDED*
John Sutcliffe, Maintenance Director – Mystic YMCA
John Sutcliffe was in attendance on behalf of the Mystic YMCA to get approval for the three races to take place this year. The first is the Triathlon on Sunday June 5th with 200-225 participants. Second is the Tarzan Brown Race on Sunday, November 6th with approximately 1,000 participants. This is primarily on the Groton side, but there is an after race event at Cottrell Park. Chief Stewart noted that the Tarzan Brown Race makes a small loop into Mystic by the General Store. The third event is the Turkey Trot on Thursday, November 24th with 800 participants. There are no changes in any of these events from previous years. Chief Stewart said the Turkey Trot has gotten bigger and the YMCA will need to hire officers, but he has no other issues.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve each of the events as presented upon proof of the proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
STONINGTON, CT.
16 FEB 17 PM 12:07
CYNTHIA LADWIG
TOWN CLERK

b. Letter Re: Mystic Irish Parade *VOTE NEEDED*
Matt Forde, Mystic Irish Parade Foundation Parade Director
152 Daniel Brown Drive
Mystic, CT

Matt Forde in attendance to get approval for the Mystic Irish Parade. This is the 13th annual parade scheduled for Sunday, March 20th. Father Thomas Hoar will be the Grand Marshall for the parade this year. Forde stated there will be no biker gangs and that steps have been taken to ensure that groups who are not part of the parade cannot join. Chief Stewart noted that Matt and his crew are wonderful to work with and the parade is a very nice event. He recommends approval of this event.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Mystic Irish Parade as presented upon proof of the proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Letter Re: Mystic Outdoor Art Festival *VOTE NEEDED*
Suzette Tibus, Chair – Mystic Outdoor Art Festival
Hannah Stewart, Director of Events & Marketing – Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce

Suzette Tibus spoke as Chair for many years of the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival. The festival is in its 59th year, and is the largest fundraiser for the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce. Safety measures have been put in place this year by eliminating some booths from Route 1 and moving them to Holmes Street. Chief Stewart, Captain Olson, and members of the fire departments have been instrumental in taking steps to ensure safety at this event. Chief Stewart recused himself from commenting on this. Captain Olson noted that things have run smoothly with the Chamber regarding safety issues.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival as presented upon proof of the proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Letter Re: Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon 5K *VOTE NEEDED*
Present: Ann Marie Houle & Jennifer Norcross, Stonington High School
Students: Morgan Floyd, Daisy Williams, Hannah Lamb

Ann Marie Houle and Jennifer Norcross, class advisors from Stonington High School, in attendance to get approval for the Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon. This is the 8th year for the event, scheduled to take place on May 30th. The event starts at the Mystic YMCA, makes a quick loop through Mason's Island and then returns to the YMCA. There are 150-200 runners. Chief Stewart noted that there have been no issues with

this event. Commissioner Gourd inquired how much police presence was at this event. Chief Stewart answered a couple of Reserve Officers.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon as presented upon proof of the proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

4. Correspondence
None

5. Old Business
None

6. Traffic
a. E-Mail Re: Parking Signs – Stonington Road *VOTE NEEDED*
Paul Goetz
906 Stonington Road

Charles Constantine
916 Stonington Road

Paul Goetz and Charles Constantine were present to discuss a request for the removal of "No Parking" signs located in front of properties between 906 and 916 Stonington Road. Goetz presented a petition with a map showing petitioners locations. Chairman Moukawsher asked if there were any neighboring property owners against the removal of the signs. Goetz stated that there is only one new neighbor who just moved in that he hasn't spoken to. There are 24 neighbors who signed the petition. Goetz has owned his home since 2004. The history behind the signs is as follows: the parking behavior of patrons from King Cove Marina caused problems and the "No Parking" signs were then put up. Goetz now owns the Marina, and has cleared up the issues; however, he is appearing before the Commission not as the owner of the Marina, but as a homeowner. Chairman Moukawsher noted that Goetz owns multiple properties on Stonington Road. Does he have anything pending with Planning and Zoning for those properties? Goetz stated he has nothing pending with Planning and Zoning. He is making repairs to his properties and will use them as vacation rentals. Chief Stewart noted that the signs went in because parking was a nightmare with trailer and boats, and the neighbors rose up against it and to keep it all towards the Marina.

Tom Valyo
87 Stonington Road

Valyo spoke in support of the signs being removed. He stated Goetz has made major efforts to clean the place up. Parking is organized. He stated the signs are an eyesore.

When parking was an issue there was only one neighbor who complained, and that person has left the area.

Chairman Moukawsher asked Chief Stewart if he had any objections to removing the signs. Chief Stewart said all can go except the two on either end to keep the sight line unobstructed. Chief will meet with Goetz and Constantine to look at area and then will let the Highway Department know to remove the signs. The State signs and signs on Route 1 and island will remain.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the removal of "No Parking" signs on Stonington Road based on the recommendations of Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Letter Re: Intersection Route 1 @ Spellman Drive
No response from State yet.

c. E-Mail Re: Crosswalk Flags & Signs
Chief Stewart received an e-mail from the Director of the Westerly Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce regarding flags used by pedestrians crossing streets. Chief Stewart forwarded it to the State Department of Transportation for their input. The State said this system is not used in Connecticut and there are no plans to allow it.

d. E-Mail Re: Horizontal Curve Safety
Earlier in the year, the State reached out regarding rural roads with curves that should be looked at for proposed signage. Chief Stewart recommended Lantern Hill Road, Wolf Neck Road, Farmholme Road, Pequotsepos Road, and Hewitt Road be examined. The State did not feel that Farmholme, Pequotsepos, and Hewitt road fit the criteria to be considered "rural". Lantern Hill Road and Wolf Neck Road are considered rural and the State has proposed improved warning signs and markings for the curves identified. Stonington will probably be one of the first Towns in the State to do this, and Chief Stewart feels they would like to get this underway in the Spring.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve any improved signage approved for rural roads in accordance with the State Horizontal Curve Safety Program.

There was a discussion on who would be responsible for the signage. Chief Stewart noted that the State will install the signs at no cost; however, the Town must maintain. Chief Stewart will contact the Highway Department in regard to this.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No additional discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

7. Approval of Minutes for January 14, 2016 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman Moukawsher requested the minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting be amended as follows:

For agenda item 3a., the paragraph that read "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." be replaced with "Mr. Hug is from Fuss & O'Neill, the firm that did the traffic study. Commissioners had expressed some concern regarding the resultant Level of Service at the intersection of Mason's Island Rd. and Route 1. Mr. Hug stated that in his opinion that intersection would not be overtaxed by increased traffic. He explained that the HCM 2000 Level of Service is the standard measurement in CT and that the ICU Level of Service is not equivalent to the HCM 2000. Mr. Hug stated that by their calculations the HCM 2000 Level of Service for that intersection should be a Level of Service C and that there should not be any problems with traffic flow through that intersection."

Commissioner Holt made a motion to amend the minutes of the January 14, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd, no discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Gourd then made a motion to approve the amended minutes of the January 14, 2016 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, no discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Overtime budget is 5% over. Uniform grouping may go over due to new hires. Overall, the budget looks good.

b. Monthly Report

Busy. 25 pistol permits issued this January compared to only 6 last January. 147 summons issued, 12 DWI arrests – only 6 last January. Motor vehicle stops have been busy.

c. Pawcatuck Statistics

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. Marine Policy *VOTE NEEDED*

The Marine Policy has been updated at the request of Lt. Schneider. This is a reasonable update to the last update, which was in 1995. There was discussion about whether the requirement for officers operating the boat to wear their body armor should be put in the policy or not. It was decided that the body armor issue needs more investigation.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the Marine Unit Policy as submitted. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion. No comments or discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

The Commission feels the need to revisit this policy in the future with regards to body armor. This will be placed on the March meeting agenda under Old Business.

g. Heroin Task Force

Two weekends ago, Chief Mahoney of Waterford got together with local agencies due to many heroin overdoses. A task force was set up which meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday to discuss issues. State Police and the Statewide Narcotics task force are also involved. Quite a few arrests have been made, and a pro-active approach has been taken in going after dealers. Chief Stewart will meet Monday, February 15th with Senator Blumenthal, and Tuesday, February 16th with Congressman Courtney.

h. Budget Update

i. Use of Force Policies – For Next Meeting

Chief Stewart stated that he met that day with various departments regarding the Radio system. He is trying to get a handle on the cost. He received an e-mail from Congressman Courtney with grant opportunities. There will be more costs involved other than putting up antenna sites, changing consoles and changing portables. He is looking to get a rough estimate to bring to budget meeting.

New cars will be coming in on February 16th.

The new officers are doing extremely well. The storage room at Headquarters has been cleaned and organized.

Run, Hide, Fight program – citizen's approach to active shooter situations. Presentation on Friday, February 19th at meeting of Men's Club by Officer Cullen. Officer Howard will discuss Heroin issue and cameras.

Bike Issue Follow-Up: PSA video close to completion by Officer Manley, Mystic Cycle Center, and Stonington High School.

Chief Stewart met with the new Town Planner, Jason Vincent.

Parking lot lights at the Police Department will be on the agenda for the next Finance Board meeting for approval. The Finance Board will then have to appropriate funding for this project.

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

9. Consent Agenda
a. E-Mail Re: Lions Road Race – Time Changed
b. E-Mail Re: Job Well Done – Officer Cullen
c. Letter Re: Pawcatuck River Duck Race
d. E-Mail Re: Thank You
e. Memo Re: Thank You – Stuff A Cruiser Event
f. Memo Re: Thank You – Chief Rich Swearing In
g. Thank You Note – Rotary Club
h. Letter Re: Thank You – Armed Forces
i. Insurance Certificate – Mystic Half Marathon
j. Letters Re: Good Friday Hunger Walk
k. Memo Re: Thank You – Lt. Peckham and Detective Howard
l. 2015 Annual Records Division Report
m. Domestic Violence Connecticut Lethality Assessment Program
n. 2016 Super Bowl Weekend Statistics

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

10. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Holt, seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick J. Moukawsher
Chairman