

# **DRAFT**

## **STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**Thursday, April 14, 2016**

**5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

#### MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Patrick Moukawsher and Vice Chairman Harry Holt  
Commissioners Raymond Trebisacci and Henri Gourd  
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Todd Olson

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
STONINGTON, CT  
16 APR 18 AM 10:36  
CYNTHIA LADWIG  
TOWN CLERK

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

Chairman Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Chairman Moukawsher opened the meeting by noting that on February 1, 2016 an alliance of local law enforcement resulted in the seizure of one firearm, \$26,700 cash, three vehicles, 123 bags of heroin, 492.5 grams of heroin, 6.5 grams of crack, 103.9 grams of powder cocaine, 1.8 pounds of marijuana and forty arrests. Chairman Moukawsher, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated the efforts of those involved in the Regional Community Enhancement Task Force.

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

None

#### **3. New Business**

##### **a. Brain Injury Alliance Tour of Lights Bike Ride \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chief Stewart noted there have been no significant issues with this event in previous years; however, an optional detour from the route takes participants to the Stonington Borough.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the event as presented with the recommendation that the Stonington Borough is made aware of the optional detour into the Borough and upon proof of proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

##### **b. Young Angel Ride Event \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chief Stewart was asked to reach out to the Adult Angel Ride coordinators since both events in the past have been submitted together.

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

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## **4. Correspondence**

None

## **5. Traffic**

### **a. Replacement of Highway Signing on Interstate 95**

### **b. Taugwonk Road Bridge Construction Notification**

### **c. Preliminary Report of Meeting for Route 234, Stonington**

The milling and paving is already underway.

### **d. E-Mail Re: Cat's Eyes (Old Business)**

Chief Stewart received information back from CT DOT regarding "cat eyes". The DOT has not used these devices in over 15 years. The road needs to be excavated in order to install them. They are damaged by plows and sand. They cause problems with line painting and are costly to install and maintain. Chief Stewart's personal experience confirms that where "cat eyes" have been installed many are missing or damaged. These are possibly better for warmer climate areas. (The Commission made a motion regarding this agenda item combined with agenda item e –see below).

### **e. Letter & E-Mail Re: Request to Apply White Line Striping – North Main Street**

Chief Stewart stated that white line stripping is not usually used on narrow roads possibly due to the false sense of security it gives to drivers and also the issues with cyclists having a buffer between the white line and the side of the road in some areas and not in others. Certain parts of North Main St are not wide enough south of Route 1. He also advised that white line striping is only acceptable on very heavily traveled, rural roads where traffic exceeds 6000 vehicles per day. The Police Department has purchased a traffic counter to see if this is the case. There was a consensus to put the counter for one week south of Barnes Rd and then one week north of Barnes Rd.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to table the installation of "cat eyes" and white line striping on North Main St. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. Further discussion, Commissioner Gourd agreed to vote on both agenda items together when results are back from the traffic counter, all in favor, motion approved.

### **f. E-Mail Re: Meadow Avenue Traffic\*POSSIBLE VOTE\***

Robert & Janet Sundman, 9 Meadow Ave

Steve Grover, 7 Meadow Ave

Andy Williams, 10 Island Rd

Jim & Debbie Ceil, 15 Meadow Ave

Tim Olmstead, 1 Meadow Ave

Sylvia Christiansen, 15 Island Rd

Jeff Ball, 6 Meadow Ave

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Robert Sundman, a Meadow Ave resident, addressed the Commission about safety concerns and traffic issues on Meadow Ave due to the increased volume at the Velvet Mill. Residents are concerned with the current speed limit and the narrow street. Many mailboxes have been damaged along with lawns from cars driving up on them. Tim Olmstead is one resident who has lost a mailbox and has also had tire marks on his lawn. Residents have seen driver's passing over the double yellow lines, speeding and also using their cell phones. No one has been hurt but there have been a number of close calls. Steve Grover has issues with drivers whipping around the corner.

Chairman Moukawsher noted that the cause of these issues is the Velvet Mill which is in the Borough, however, Mr. Sundman has attended Borough meetings and issues on Meadow Ave are not their concern. Chief Stewart suggested reaching out to the Velvet Mill and request that they send an email to their employees within the mill and their vendors advising that they take note of their speed and to be courteous to the surrounding neighbors. Commissioner Trebisacci commented that these issues are part of a larger problem and that the Police Department cannot solve the entire problem. The neighbors have brought forward very valid concerns and Jason Vincent or someone from the Borough ought to be part of the discussion. There is a need to resolve these issues in a way that is thoughtful and planned.

Chairman Moukawsher believes that the solar panel speed sign would gather much needed data for this area. Jim Ceil said there is a spot near his home at 15 Meadow Ave that would be perfect for the speed sign. He also said that years ago the mobile sign was placed there and it worked well. Mr. Ceil also noted that there are more tucks making deliveries and this is causing problems due to the narrow road.

There was discussion about reduction of the speed limit. In order to do so, the state would come out and make a recommendation on the posted speed, however, the state does not like to post limits under 25 because it can compound the problem. It may be possible to post orange speed limit advisory signs however those limits are not enforceable by the police. Chief Stewart said the solar panel speed sign data's average is usually pretty close to the posted speed. Chief Stewart will call the state for posted speed analysis and in the meantime prepare to install the solar panel speed sign in order to collect data.

Andy Williams asked if there could be more active patrols in the area particularly on Saturday mornings and Chief Stewart said the department could do so. Chief Stewart and Chairman Moukawsher also informed the neighbors that all valid complaints, for example damaged mailboxes, should be reported to the police department. More people bring in more problems and causes more police activity.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve installing the solar panel speed sign and also posting Drive Like You Kids Live Here signs on Meadow Ave. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

## **g. Route 27 – Crosswalks – Updated by Chief Stewart**

This item was tabled.

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## **h. Parking – Mystic River Bridge (Old Business)**

Keep on agenda.

## **i. E-Mail Re: 3 Way Stop, Old Mystic (Old Business)**

A letter was sent to the DOT. Waiting to hear back. Keep on agenda.

## **6. Approval of Minutes for March 14, 2016 Special Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Vice Chair Holt made a motion approve the minutes for the March 14, 2016 special meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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

### **a. Budget Report**

Only line to note is regular overtime, which is over budget, but the overall grouping is not.

### **b. Monthly Report**

Chief Stewart noted that there have been 205 medicals. There were 7 Pistol Permits issued in March 2015 and 21 issued March 2016. A cell phone wave is underway. There have been 67 arrests and 7 narcotics violations.

### **c. Pawcatuck Statistics**

### **d. Alarm Report**

### **e. Special Event Schedule**

### **f. Reserve Officer Thomas Main Resignation**

Chief Stewart noted that Officer Thomas Main was a regular member of the Department for 32 years and then a reserve for 4 years.

### **g. Regional Community Enhancement Task Force**

### **h. NARCAN Policy \*VOTE NEEDED\***

NARCAN has been given to the Department free of charge from L&M. All officers have been through training and it will be on the road with the officers as soon as the Department receives it. According to Captain Olson, it will not cost a lot to replace; Westerly Ambulance will bill whoever uses it and will give the officer a replacement on scene. NARCAN does expire but Westerly Ambulance will change out the expired and replace it with new.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve Chapter 47 regarding the policy on NARCAN (Administration of Naloxone) as presented. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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## **i. Vehicle Donation \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the vehicle donation and to forward this to the Board of Selectmen to vote on accepting this gift. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

## **j. Resignation of Part-Time Dispatcher Cameron Lynch**

Vice Chairman 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.

## **8. Consent Agenda**

- a. Thank You – Family of Michael Dolan**
- b. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Palmer**
- c. Letter Re: 3-Way Stop, Old Mystic**
- d. Memo Re: Dispatcher Napolitano – Extension of Probation**
- e. Memo Re: Officer Emery – Completion of Probation**
- f. Letter Re: Roadway Reflectors**
- g. Letter Re: Food Truck Rally**
- h. Letter Re: Sergio Franchi Concert**
- i. Letter Re: Donahue Race**
- j. Letter Re: Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race**
- k. Memo Re: Thank you – Rotella Funeral**
- l. Temporary Liquor Permit Application – Fusion**
- m. POST Certification – Officer Hewes**
- n. Thank You – Family of Lewis Marley, Sr.**
- o. Letter Re: Our Lady of Fatima Processions**

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

## **9. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Chairman Moukawsher. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick J. Moukawsher  
Chairman