DRAFT MINUTES

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STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 9, 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, and Robert O'Shaughnessy
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Todd Olson

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

2. Remarks of Visitors
Gail Watrous
11 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck
Gail Watrous addressed the Commission with concerns she had about speeding on Route 1 following a fatal motor vehicle accident that occurred there in the past few weeks. Watrous noted that traveling from Mystic on Route 1, the speed limit is 50mph. Route 1 then narrows in Pawcatuck, but there are no sidewalks. She noted that there is a plan to put sidewalks in as far as Stonington High School, but does not feel this will solve the problem. It is hard to cross the road. There is a crosswalk at the Rite Aid shopping center. Motorists do slow for the light there, but then speed up. Watrous feels the crosswalk at the intersection of Route 1 and Route 234 should be more in the middle of the intersection right at Seafood ETC. Also, motorists traveling from Route 1 onto Route 234 often do not stop at the light and speed over the hill.

Chairman Moukawsher commented that prior to the fatal accident there were conversations between Departments and Commissions in Town recognizing that there are issues in this area. First Selectman Simmons is taking this up as a project, with crosswalks and sidewalks being the most important part. Watrous was encouraged to discuss issues she has with the First Selectman and other Departments in Town.

Chief Stewart commented that the preliminary findings show speed was not a factor in the fatal accident. Route 1 is a State roadway and the State is pushing to eliminate crosswalks due to the number of signs required to be posted. The First Selectman's project will make a difference once completed, but there are challenges such as engineering matters and it will take time. Chief Stewart also noted that issues on Route 1 are being recognized more due to the building projects and development occurring as there will be more pedestrians on the road. He encouraged Watrous to report what she sees, and to wear bright clothes when out walking on the road.

3. New Business

a. Board of Police Commisisoner Elections (For Secretary)

Chairman Moukawsher asked for any nominations for the position of Police Commission Secretary. Vice Chairman Holt made a motion to nominate Commissioner Trebisacci for the position of Secretary. Commissioner Gourd seconded the nomination. All were in favor, motion carried. Chairman Moukawsher offered his congratulations to Commissioner Trebisacci.

b. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – Mystified LLC & McQuade's Marketplace *VOTE NEEDED*

Shelley Wilson, representing Mystified LLC
49 Shore Road, Waterford, CT

Application from the Town Planning & Zoning Department for Mystified LLC to open what is categorized as a "Family Amusement Center" where participants would enter a themed room to search in teams for items. at the McQuade's Marketplace location in Mystic. Mystified LLC is working with Michael McQuade to subdivide the old West Marine space. The business will be open afternoons and evenings, running approximately 43 games per week with up to 10 participants for each 60 minute game. Wilson stated they have met with the Fire Marshall and the maximum capacity of the facility would be under 50. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked if there were any other businesses in the area of the same nature. Wilson replied no, not in this area. Commissioner Gourd inquired about the room and whether participants would be locked in. Wilson stated that no, the doors never lock. There is an option for up to 10 participants to book the same game. A game attendant is constantly observing and assisting participants. Commissioner Trebisacci feels the only issue is the amount of parking available. Chairman Moukawsher inquired if Michael McQuade has offered overflow parking. Wilson replied that the only other businesses are the Cross Fit center and the liquor store and there is a full set of stairs that go down from the upper parking lot of McQuade's. Commissioner Trebisacci asked if Planning and Zoning is looking for a parking plan. Wilson doesn't think so since there were businesses previously there. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy noted that there seems to be ample parking at the location with the upper lots and the lower lot. Commissioner Holt inquired about food and alcohol being served. Wilson said there will be no alcohol, and for corporate team building events she suggests participants bring a box lunch.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to advise P&Z that Commissioners did not see a public safety, parking or traffic issue. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor. Motion approved.

c. Letter Re: Mystic Eats Event *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Chief Stewart has been in discussions with the event planners regarding music, serving of alcohol and the number of officers that will be needed. Chairman Moukawsher suggested that the Commission take no action on the request to extend the hours of alcohol service as the applicant will be appearing before the Commission shortly with a complete plan for the event. Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to table this matter pending the complete application. There was no discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

d. Letter Re: River Glow *VOTE NEEDED*

There are no known changes from previous years. If there are changes they will be required to come back before the Commission. This is a popular event that is staffed well. Chief Stewart recommends approval.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the River Glow event as presented subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

4. Correspondence

a. Letter from Waterfront Commission

William Bomster, Waterfront Commission
Sandy Grimes, Chairman – Waterfront Commission

Letter only received from Waterfront Commission. Mr. Bomster and Mr. Grimes in attendance from the Waterfront Commission. They are requesting a truck lane be designated for drop off and pick up at the fish house as with parking for the Farmer's Market and the Dog Park, there is no room for the trucks to get down there. As many as three semi's go there each day to pick up fish and the trucks have some days had to wait for up to a half hour for people to move their cars so they can get out. They would also like "No Parking" signs in the grassy area near the sewer plant entrance.

The Commission had two issues: they did not receive the diagram of the area and Commissioners are not familiar with the area. Chief Stewart stated he needs to know where the Borough street ends and the Town property begins. If the request is on the Borough side, the Board of Warden and Burgesses will have to be contacted. The Board of Police Commissioners can only rule on "No Parking" on Town roads. Chief Stewart requested Mr. Grimes draw up a map and then contact him. He will meet them in the area and take a look. Chairman Moukawsher said the Commission will look at request at July meeting.

5. Traffic

a. Meadow Avenue Traffic Statistics

Chief Stewart stated that the speed sign has been out for a while and the average speed is 22-23mph in a 25mph zone. He has not heard anything back from the State;

however, 25mph appears to be a reasonable speed for this area. He said the residents appear to be happy with the speed sign. Chairman Moukawsher and Commissioner Holt complimented Chief Stewart on how well the situation was handled.

6. Approval of Minutes for Thursday, May 12, 2016 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman Moukawsher noted that the Commissioners have received an amended version of the minutes and asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Trebisacci noted two changes that are needed. The first change is on page 4, item 4a, third paragraph. The sentence that read "Mr. Regan was then invited to address the Commission regarding a new event he called "October Fest" that he would like to run at the Olde Mysitc Village on Sept 30th, Pct 1st, and Oct 2nd. " should read "Mr. Regan then addressed the Commission regarding a new event he called "October Fest" that he would like to run at the Olde Mysitc Village on Sept 30th, Pct 1st, and Oct 2nd. " The second change is on page 2, item 4a, first paragraph. The last sentences beginning with "The Chairman stated..." should be removed. The following is the proper wording: "It appeared the request would not receive a favorable vote, so rather than be formally rejected Mr. Regan withdrew his request without prejudice to file again at a later date if he so chose."

A comment only from Commissioner Holt: he would like to note that Mr. Regan's request for alcohol sales at Olde Mistick Village is until 9:30 which supports the request of the Downtown Merchants.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion that the minutes of the May 12, 2016 meeting be approved as amended. Commissioner Holt seconded the motion. No discussion, all in favor. Motion approved.

7. Approval of Minutes for Tuesday, May 31, 2016 Special Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2016 special meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

Captain Olson introduced the three new Community Service Officers hired for this season – Samuel Santiago, Jason Curioso, and Cristian Alvis. Lindsey Michaels is also returning. She has been with the Department for five years and has helped with training. Captain Olson stated they are all doing a great job. Chairman Moukawsher wished them a safe and successful season.

a. Budget Report

b. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart noted that criminal arrests have increased from 39 in 2015 to 67 this year. DWI arrests have also increased. He stated that things are heating up, lots of activity. Commissioner Gourd inquired about what the Chief would attribute the change in numbers to. Chief Stewart replied changes in personnel, and also motor vehicle accidents in bar parking lots leading to DWI arrests. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy had a question about the statistics on the UCR Annual Report. He questioned the year to date statistics versus what is on the monthly reports. Chief Stewart said, as an example, a call may come in to the Department as a stolen motor vehicle. In the end it may be either a motor vehicle used without the owner's permission, or that someone forgot where they parked. The UCR or NIBRS filters what is actually reportable. Commissioner Gourd asked about 7 seat belt infractions in May, 2016 compared to 83 in May, 2015. Chief Stewart answered that the higher number last year was more than likely due to a Wave where an officer was specifically assigned to seat belt enforcement.

c. Pawcatuck Statistics

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. E-Mail Re: OCME Toxicology Testing

E-mail received with a memo from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner stating expenses for toxicology testing – which will only be done if requested - and unclaimed remains will revert back to the Towns. Chief Stewart said that in the event of an unclaimed body, the body would have to go to a funeral home that has the technology to store it. He has forwarded the e-mail with the memo to the First Selectman and the Human Services Director.

g. 2015 NIBRS Trend *OLD BUSINESS*

h. Route 1 Sidewalks

There has been a lot of discussion on this topic with more to come. A study is being done on the intersection of Route 1 at Spellman Drive. Chief Stewart has a meeting on Monday regarding a possible expansion at Davis Standard. The State will be involved for a while.

Chief Stewart wanted to note the following:

Hiring Process – lost two candidates in the polygraph and background phase. Two candidates are still in the process. One is good to go for July 1st. A conditional offer has been sent out in the mail to a third candidate. This will be on the September agenda. Officers Cody and Souza will graduate from the Academy on June 20th. Captain Olson has tickets for Commissioners who would like to attend.

Youth Officer Thomas Paige will be the commencement speaker at the Stonington High School graduation.

The Police Boat is in the water and will be moving to the Town Dock. It has a camera on it and there will also be a gate with a lock.

Speed signs are in. Excellent data from these.

Chief Stewart was asked to be on the Route 27 Boat House Committee.
At this time, Chief Stewart discussed issues with the budget. Because of leap year in this fiscal year, there are 27 pay periods instead of 26.

i. Frank Durant – Request for Use of Police Equipment *POSSIBLE VOTE*
Frank Durant is a movie producer. There is a pilot he is trying to run. Durant is asking to hire an officer for a couple of scenes at a private home. He is also requesting use of police uniforms and a cruiser. Chief Stewart has told him if he is doing scenes in public in Mystic he will need a real police officer there. The question before the Commission is if the Commission is okay with a cruiser being shown and with one scene filmed either in the Police Department Community Room or another room in the building. Chairman Moukawsher has concerns regarding uniforms and leaving equipment unattended. Also that an officer be hired. Chief Stewart stated that no uniforms will be given and calls it very cautiously helping. He feels it will benefit the Town by bringing in people, much like Mystic Pizza did. Chairman Moukawsher recommends latitude be given to Chief Stewart on behalf of Commission.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion that Mr. Durant's request be handled by Chief Stewart at his discretion and that equipment and personnel be utilized properly. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. Chairman Moukawsher commented that this motion is an accurate depiction of what he would like to see. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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

9. Consent Agenda
a. Letter Re: Taste of Mystic Approval
b. Letter Re: October Fest Not Approved
c. Letters Re: Time Trials
d. Highway Use Permit – Time Trials
e. Letter Re: Angel Ride
f. Letter Re: L&M Purchase of Narcan for Police
g. E-Mail Re: Blessing of the Fleet & Blessing of the Fleet 5K
h. E-Mail Re: Special Olympics Regatta
i. Thank You Note – Gabby Taylor
j. Thank You Note – SHS Filming Project

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

10. Adjourn

At approximately 6:35 p.m., Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted:

Raymond Trebisacci
Secretary