

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2016**  
**5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

**Present:** Chairman Patrick Moukawsher  
Commissioners Henri Gourd and Robert O'Shaughnessy  
Chief Darren Stewart  
Lieutenants Bryan Schneider and Mike Peckham

**Absent:** Vice Chairman Harry Holt  
Commissioner Raymond Trebisacci  
Captain Todd Olson

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

Chairman Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Chairman Moukawsher opened the meeting by referencing the recent tragedy in Dallas and stating that we have been fortunate here in Stonington, noting the positive response from the community. The Department has been receiving a lot of support from the community to include phone calls and emails, meals for the officers and baked goods delivered to the Department. Others have stopped to speak with the officers to state their appreciation and support. Chairman Moukawsher believes his life was saved in the past due to a responding officer. Citizens are able to pick up the phone and get an immediate response. The level of professionalism and what the officers do every day amazes him. Chairman Moukawsher thanked the Chief for the outstanding job the Department does for the community.

**2. Remarks of Visitors**

None

**3. New Business**

**a. Letter Re: St. Michael's School Road Race \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Linda Cunningham, Parent & 5K Coordinator

Ms. Cunningham attended this meeting on behalf of the St. Michael's School Road Race. There have been no changes to the race. Last year they added volunteers providing water to the course which did

not create any problems. Last year there were 125 participants. Ms. Cunningham greatly appreciates the support that is given by the Department. Chief Stewart said this is a good program with no issues.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the St. Michael's School Road Race event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

**b. Letter Re: Maria Assunta Candle Light Procession \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chairman Moukawsher noted that the Maria Assunta Candle Light Procession is a consistent event. Chief Stewart noted there have been no problems in the past.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the Maria Assunta Candle Light Procession event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

**4. Old Business**

**a. Mystic Eats \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Todd Brady, Downtown Mystic Merchants

Ana Konakowitz, Representative of Mystic Eats

Mr. Brady addressed the Commission on the few changes they would like to make to the Mystic Eats event. First, those under the age of 21 would also like to enjoy the musical entertainment but in the past, the band has been located in the beer and wine shed which is not accessible to underage attendees. Mr. Brady proposed to put up a gable ended tent which opens to Washington St. along with a fence to clearly identify the over 21 area (people's licenses will be checked and then provided with wrist bands upon entry to this area). This will enable everyone to enjoy the music and keep alcohol within the allotted area. The second request is to stop serving alcohol at 9:30p.m. and shut down at 9:45p.m. The band ends at 9:45p.m. In the past, they stopped serving alcohol at 9:15 and shut down at 9:30.

Chairman Moukawsher clarified that there is one entrance to the beer and wine shed where ID's will be checked and wrist bands given. There will also be a no alcohol area under the tent but outside of the fenced off alcohol area. Chief Stewart stated that a double security fence needs to be in place and a "no man's" area needs to exist between the fencing so alcoholic beverages cannot be passed through the fence. The "no man's" area should at least be arms length and be monitored.

It is unknown how much more money will be generated by extending the serving of alcohol by 15 minutes.

Chief Stewart also mentioned that Mr. Brady should be conscious of the band's volume now that this configuration will allow the music to project more than in previous years.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve Mystic Eats' request after making the required modification to the security fence on the western side of the entertainment tent and extending the hours of serving alcohol until 9:30p.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

**b. Waterfront Commission Request for Truck Lane \*POSSIBLE VOTE\***

Attorney Mark Kepple

Attorney Kepple informed the Commission that his clients own a business which abuts the dog park area and he would like to make the Commission aware that there is a necessity for a truck lane now more than ever because the dog park will be bringing in more pedestrians and cars to the area. The area is already congested with traffic, pedestrians and free for all parking.

Chief Stewart noted that there is a need for a travel lane for all vehicles. The Chief made two suggestions, a) make a travel lane in and out to the dock area or b) make a tear drop travel lane with no parking areas. Possibly 15 minute posted parking. Some of the area in question might be on Borough property. Try to solve the flow issue while keeping in mind the concern for traffic and pedestrian safety. Suggestions of a crosswalk were abandoned because a crosswalk cannot lead into a wide open parking lot.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to authorize Chief Stewart to use his discretion to construct a travel lane and post parking signs on town property on High St. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. There was some discussion on determining the location of the Town/Borough line. All in favor, motion approved.

**5. Traffic**

**a. Letter Re: Intersection of Mistuxet Avenue, Pellegrino Road, and Deans Mill Road \*POSSIBLE VOTE\***

A letter was received from Keith and Ann Tomlinson about putting an "oncoming traffic does not stop" sign on the Deans Mill Rd stop sign at Mistuxet Ave. The Chief believes that it is a good idea to add the sign. There are not too many accidents there.

For future consideration Commissioner Gourd noted to the Chief that the placement of the white line (traveling from Mistuxet toward Pellegrino) causes a line of sight issue. Chief Stewart will look into it.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion for Chief Stewart to put "oncoming traffic does not stop" signs at Deans Mill Rd and Pellegrino Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

**b. Letter Re: D.O.T. Paving Program 2017 Construction Season**

Chairman Moukawsher asked the Chief if paving Route 1 has been a problem in the past. Chief Stewart stated it has not. They are usually in and out relatively quickly and they hire officers.

c. E-Mail Re: Clark Street/Mechanic Street Intersection **\*POSSIBLE VOTE\***

Clint Brown, DiCesare Bentley Engineers

Scott Deledda, Town Engineer

Mr. Brown attended this meeting on behalf of the Thread Mill. He presented the approved plans of making the intersection at River Rd, Clark Street and Mechanic St more of a T shape. There are some issues with a Clark St. residence driveway apron in the first plan as a result of the complexities of extending the curb (Sketch 5C). The second plan would involve installing new traffic controls (Sketch 5D). This plan also includes an island. Chief Stewart has concerns with an island creating a launch pad so to speak. In both plans there will be a metal guardrail installed across from Clark St. which Chief Stewart feels should have reflective markings on it. Both approved plans should help with the site line issues.

The Commission asked Mr. Brown, as an engineer, which sketch does he prefer and Mr. Brown stated Sketch 5C.

Motion made by Commissioner Gourd to authorize the developer to expand the radius of the north western side of the Clark St./Mechanic St. intersection and eliminate the island as proposed in Sketch 5C. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Davis Standard Extrusion Drive @ Route 1 **\*VOTE NEEDED\***

Clint Brown, DiCesare Bentley Engineers

Kermit Hua, Traffic Engineer, KWH Enterprise, Meriden, CT

Scott Deledda, Town Engineer

Mr. Brown attended this meeting on behalf of Davis Standard. He presented that Davis Standard has acquired a Massachusetts based company and is looking to expand by adding a 15,000sqft building in front of the existing building. There is plenty of parking on site currently, 405 existing parking spaces and only 320 are needed total. There will be no change in driveways or with the existing traffic pattern. Upgrades will be made to the existing restricted turning signs. Mr. Hua completed a traffic study and found at both Extrusion Dr. and Spellman Dr intersections with Route 1. The traffic study was done while the High School was still in session. Mr. Hua found that the intersection at Spellman Dr is a level E and the intersection at Extrusion Dr is level C even at peak hours. Both levels would stay the same after the Davis Standard expansion. During peak commuting hours only 1.1 trips per peak hour would be added (shift changes are staggered).

Mr. Deledda noted that there will also be a self store business on Extrusion Dr. which has recently been approved however this will create little added traffic.

Motion made by Commissioner Gourd recommending this item be passed along to Planning and Zoning with the Police Commission's endorsement paying particular attention to parking, traffic and safety. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart looks forward to the expansion and welcomes the new addition as does Chairman Moukawsher.

**e. Letter Re: Handicapped Parking Spot – Mystic Post Office \*POSSIBLE VOTE\***

This item has been tabled pending further investigation.

**6. Approval of Minutes for Thursday, June 9, 2016 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 9, 2016 regular 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**

Chief Stewart was happy to announce that the budget for fiscal year ending July 2016 was in the black even after taking into account the extra pay period.

**b. Monthly Report**

The number of accidents is up by 21 from the previous year. There were 18 DWI arrests and 60 total arrests. It's been a busy summer so far

**c. Pawcatuck Statistics**

**d. Alarm Report**

**e. Special Event Schedule**

**f. Lt. Schneider -- CIP Budget -- Vehicle Bids/Purchases 2016-2017 \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Lt. Schneider addressed the Commission on the CIP Budget and vehicle bids and purchases for the new fiscal year. There is \$144,000 available with the lease program. The Department will be over this amount by \$34. This however does not include the trade in value for approximately 4 vehicles. The department will receive roughly \$5,000 per trade. The going rate for a marked car is \$50,000 and an unmarked is \$60,000. Lt. Schneider suggests that the new marked cars have ballistic panels installed. These panels cost about \$3,000 per car. Any car with ballistic panels will not be traded in before the panels are removed. Lt. Schneider believes retrofit kits will be available in order to move the panels to new vehicles. All the vehicles that are being traded in are old Crown Victoria's.

Motion made by Commissioner Gourd to get a bid waiver for the purchase of vehicles from MHQ and up-fitting the vehicles from Strobes & More. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart stated that the new hires, Cody and Souza, are still in FTO training. Detective Sergeant Knowles is retiring July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Department will be promoting a new sergeant and there will also be a detective spot to fill so the Department is back in hiring mode. A new part-time dispatcher will also be hired.

The CT Law Enforcement Memorial Service will be held in town the week of July 18<sup>th</sup>. This event is for the families of CT officers killed in the line of duty.

The Mystic Aquarium has reached out regarding a law enforcement night to be held after Labor Day in order to thank the law enforcement community.

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

#### **8. Consent Agenda**

- a. Update on Mystic Outdoor Art Festival
- b. Letter Re: River Glow Approval
- c. Letter Re: "Second Chance Society"
- d. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Hersh
- e. Letter Re: Holy Ghost Festival
- f. Letter Re: POST Increase in Tuition
- g. Letter Re: Thank You – Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
- h. Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control
- i. Memo Re: Good Job – Detective Howard
- j. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Rathgaber
- k. Letters Re: Thank you – 2016 Hiring Process
- l. Letter Re: Thank you – Rotary Club
- m. Memo Re: Youth Officer Paige – Commencement Speaker SHS Class of 2016
- n. E-Mail Re: Thank you – Pawcatuck Lions Club
- o. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Hersh
- p. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer K Murray & Officer Wholean
- q. Letter Re: Thank You – Dodson Boat Yard
- r. Letters Re: Maria Assunta Procession
- s. Letter Re: Thank You – Groton Town Police Department

Chairman Moukawsher commented on the number of Thank you's sent to the Department, possibly the most he has ever seen. Again he thanked the Department and the Chief for their service.

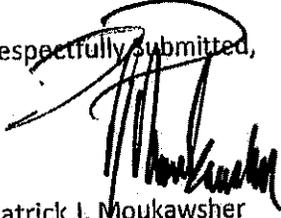
Lt. Peckham brought the actions of Officer Kristy Murray to the Commissions attention. Officer Murray brought cake and balloons to a child whose birthday party was interrupted due to an emergency call. Officer Murray was also interviewed by News Channel 3 for her exceptional service.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**9. Adjourn**

At 7:01 p.m., Commissioner Gourd made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Patrick J. Moukawsher  
Chairman