

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 10, 2015
5:00 p.m. at the STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Olsson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Remarks of Visitors

Edward Hazlin, Jr.

483 Stonington Road, Stonington

Re: Parking problem – 4 Church Street in Mystic. This is a warehouse property that Hazlin owns and is trying to sell. People are parking right in front of the building, blocking the driveway and parking area, leaving Hazlin with no parking for individuals interested in looking at the building. There is no curbing in front of the building, it is a total driveway. Chief Stewart said he will meet with Hazlin, look at and evaluate the area, and hopefully find a solution. This is tabled for now pending Chief Stewart's investigation.

3. Remarks of Chairman Olsson

Chairman Olsson mentioned the following:

The Commission should take a closer look at safety procedures for the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival due to a car vs. pedestrian accident this year.

Crosswalk at Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center – the "Crosswalk Ahead" sign is too close to the crosswalk at this location and should be moved as it blocks motorist's view of people trying to cross.

4. Old Business

None

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Bike Safety Signage Installation Request *VOTE NEEDED*

Grace & Bruce Vandal
41 Burggeman Place, Mystic
Kevin Burke
230 Lantern Hill Road, Mystic

At the August 13, 2015 meeting, Grace Vandal presented the Commission with a request to consider the installation of signage alerting motorists of the clearance requirements for bicyclists on roadways. At this meeting, she is requesting that the Commission not agree on a sign design or locations, but to the concept of installing signs in Town and to map out a plan for Bike Stonington to work with the Town on signs & locations. The local Bike Stonington organization could raise funds for the signs and installation. There was a lengthy discussion on the merits of the signage. Commissioner Holt presented a memo from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) which recommended not to post signs, but to use public awareness campaigns. Grace Vandal voiced her opinion that she feels there is a level of unawareness of clearance to give cyclists. There was a discussion between Grace Vandal, Commissioner Rotella and Commissioner Trebisacci concerning the roll of the Commission and signage/safety. In addition, she also feels Route 27 is one of the most highly ridden roads with the hotels and aquarium. Bruce Vandal spoke of the sign that the Town of Ledyard installed and noted the increase in bicycle traffic in the area. Kevin Burke noted that there is no standardized sign for placement on State Roads, but a decision can be made for Town roads by the Commission and the Town.

Commissioner Rotella made a motion to table this issue to a future meeting. In favor were Chairman Olsson, Commissioner Trebisacci, and Commissioner Holt. Commissioner Moukawsher was not in favor.

b. Letter Re: Request for Handicapped Parking Spot – Lester Avenue, Pawcatuck *VOTE NEEDED*

Motion made by Commissioner Holt to approve a request for a handicapped parking spot in front of 21 Lester Avenue in Pawcatuck. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. All in favor, motion approved.

At this time, a motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to return to Remarks of Visitors. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

Remarks of Visitors

Louis Allyn

14 East Forest Road, Mystic

Allyn is a member of the Mystic Cooperative Task Force and presented the Commission with a letter regarding concerns he had with the traffic conditions at the Mystic Outdoor

Art Festival. Chief Stewart noted that there have already been a number of meetings and additional steps have been taken to ensure safety in the future.

Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to return to the regular agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

6. New Business

a. E-Mail Re: Special Event – Brotherhood Ride *VOTE NEEDED*

This is not a race, it is just a ride for fallen officers and firefighters. They will have escorts. Chief Stewart recommends approval.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to approve the request for permission for the Brotherhood Ride to pass through Stonington on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 provided the insurance and other requirements are met. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

7. Approval of Minutes for August 13, 2014 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 13, 2015 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

One note for the FY14/15 budget – there was a charge back for gasoline that was contracted for, but not used. This came out of the FY14/15 budget. Steps have been taken to rectify this for the future.

b. Monthly Report

Busy summer. Increase in DWI's.

c. Pawcatuck Statistics

Downtown Westerly-Pawcatuck is booming.

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. First Responder Certificate Renewal – FYI

g. Revised Rules & Regulations *VOTE NEEDED*

- 1) Chapter 20: Motor Vehicle Inventory
- 2) Chapter 28: Property Control Policy
- 3) Chapter 30: Executing a Search Warrant

Updates to Rules and Regulations to meet changing Connecticut laws. Chief recommends approval with minor adjustments.

Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to approve revisions to the Rules & Regulations Chapters 20, 28, and 30 subject to modifications suggested by Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

Notes from Chief Stewart:

On Monday, he is going to Gloucester, MA regarding issues with Heroin. There will be a Town forum Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Tuesday is the Police Academy graduation for Troy Powell and Britton Friend at Central Connecticut State University.

Chief Stewart won a body camera at the CPCA Golf Tournament.

The Borough camera is up and running. There is an issue with the camera at Donahue Park. Businesses do not want their WIFI used.

Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to add to the agenda a vote on the probationary status of Officer Ryan Armstrong and Officer Sarah Emery. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

The one (1) year probation period for Officer Ryan Armstrong and Officer Sarah Emery ends on September 17, 2015. Officer Armstrong is solid. Officer Emery does a good job, but there are issues. Chief Stewart recommends extending probation period a short time for Officer Emery.

Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion, based on Chief Stewart's recommendation, that Officer Ryan Armstrong be made a regular member of the Department. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. All in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion, based on Chief Stewart's recommendation, to extend Officer Sarah Emery's probation period six (6) months. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Holt made a motion to accept the Report of the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Letter Re: Thank You – Groton Long Point Police Department**
- b. Letter Re: Thank You – Law Enforcement Memorial**
- c. Letter Re: Past Due Alarm Fine**
- d. Letter Re: Run or Walk for Penguins Event**

- e. Letter & Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Palmer
- f. Letter Re: Behind Stonington's Doors Event
- g. Letter Re: Mystic Eats Event
- h. Letter Re: Thank You – Westerly Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce
- i. Child Safety Seat Checkpoint Flyer
- j. Labor Day Weekend Statistics
- k. Letter Re: Thank You – Wounded Warrior Project

Commissioner Holt made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Trebisacci. All in favor, motion approved.

At 6:16 p.m., Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to enter Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

10. Executive Session

a. Interview of Patrol Officer Candidate

At approximately 7:13 p.m., Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

At approximately 7:17 p.m., Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to offer conditional offer of probationary employment to Jeffrey Hewes, pending successful completion of remainder of testing process. Furthermore, he will be offered Step 4 salary and one (1) week of vacation upon start date because of his already being certified as a Police Officer. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. All in favor, motion approved.

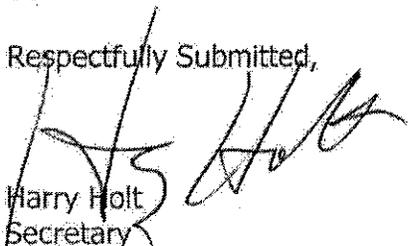
NOTE: Commissioner Trebisacci was absent from interview and remainder of meeting due to prior commitment.

11. Radio Presentation – Motorola

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made at 8:05 p.m. by Commissioner Holt. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Holt
Secretary