

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2014
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chair Mel Olsson and Vice-Chair Frank Pucci
Commissioners Harry Holt, Patrick Moukawsher and Peter Rotella
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Olsson called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

2) Remarks of Visitors

Steve Johnson, Downer Street, Pawcatuck

Re: Agenda Item 8f: Article: "Stonington Police Efforts to Make Drug Arrests Criticized"

Mr. Johnson in attendance to address an article that appeared in the New London Day that detailed an email he sent to First Selectman Edward Haberek, Jr. in March. Mr. Johnson stated that unfortunately the email he wrote in March just recently made the newspaper, and he believes there was an attempt to sensationalize the issue in order to sell papers. Mr. Johnson stated that he would like to clarify the intent of his email, as what was portrayed in the paper was not at all the message he intended to express. Mr. Johnson stated that his intent was to spark a conversation in an attempt to obtain the resources needed, if necessary, for the police department to address certain issues. Mr. Johnson stated that he does not know who released the email to the paper, or gave the paper the heads up that the email was out there, but assured the Commission it was not him. Mr. Johnson stated that he wrote this email to the First Selectman in March, partially misunderstanding how issues are addressed in the Town of Stonington, and that the Chief approached him at a meeting in June and explained that issues need to be brought forward to the Police Commission. Mr. Johnson said that the bottom line is that the articles that appeared in both newspapers did not even attempt to address the concern at hand. In addition, he also wants to clarify that none of the information contained in his email was a result of his employment as a Police Officer with the Town of Westerly; he wrote this email as a taxpaying resident of Stonington observing things going on in his neighborhood. Mr. Johnson stated that he was not contacted by anyone from the administration until yesterday. Mr. Johnson stated that he has looked at & requested numbers from Groton, Stonington & Westerly Police Departments, and recommends the Commission do the same, as he believes there is definitely a reason for concern. If the men & women of the Stonington Police Department, who he has the utmost respect for, do not have the resources they need, and if the Chief needs more manpower, then everyone needs to take a look at that and back him up on that. Mr. Johnson respectfully requested that the Commission put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting, to discuss the issues & solutions, and what is needed to support them.

Chair Olsson suggested that Mr. Johnson meet with the Chief & the Captain sometime before the next meeting, and thanked him for his comments.

3) Correspondence

- a. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Indian-Fusion Restaurant
100 West Broad Street, Pawcatuck. Chief will notify Planning & Zoning that the
Commission has no comment.

4) Traffic

- a. Letter Re: Speed Limit Signs & School Bus Sign Request – Pequot Trail,
Stonington - Chief will contact the State
- b. Memo Re: Sidewalk – Brookside Lane to Human Services, Route 1
Letter went to Board of Selectmen, Chief will check status
- c. E-Mail Re: Columbus Day Parade
Chief meeting with the parade committee next week
- d. Letter Re: Tentative Vendor-in-Place Paving Program
- e. Drive Like Your Kids Live Here” Signage Request – Hatch & Hinckley Streets, Mystic
 - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve installation of “Drive Like
Your Kids Live Here” signage on Hatch Street and Hinckley Street in Mystic,
CT. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion
approved.

5) Approval of Minutes for the August 14, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2014
special meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

6) New Business

- a. 2015 Regular Meeting Schedule
 - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the 2015 meeting schedule
as noted; the second Thursday of the month, 5:00pm, Stonington Police
Headquarters. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor,
motion approved.

7) Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Budget Report
- b. Monthly Report
- c. Pawcatuck Statistics
- d. Alarm Report
- e. Special Event Schedule
- f. E-Mail Re: Provision of Technical Rescue by Westerly Ambulance - FYI
- g. Letter Re: K-9 Training
- h. Memo Re: Bid Waiver for Vehicles
- i. First Responder Certificate Renewal
- j. Fair & Impartial Policing Policy - tabled until next month
- k. Update to Taser Policy – For Next Month
- l. Letter From Police Academy re training file audit; Recruits graduating on the 17th

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the Report of the Chief. Motion
seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

8) Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: Thank You – Captain Desmond
- b. Memo Re: Animal Cruelty & Reporting Requirements
- c. E-Mail Re: "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" Sign Requests
- d. E-Mail Re: Yellow Curb Painting
- e. Letter Re: Mystic Aquarium Run or Walk for Penguins Event
- f. Article: "Stonington Police Efforts to Make Drug Arrests Criticized"
- g. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Marley
- h. Letters Re: YMCA Halloween Parade
- i. E-Mail Re: Thank You – Pine Point School

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

9) Adjourn

At 5:19PM Commissioner Holt made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harry Holt, Secretary