

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 9, 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.

Chair Olsson began the meeting by announcing Captain Desmond's retirement, and congratulated him on an outstanding 34 year career with the Department, which culminated with him obtaining a federal grant that provided the Department with a \$375K police boat. On behalf of the Commission, Chair Olsson wished Captain Desmond well with his new position at the DEP.

Chair Olsson & the Commission also thanked outgoing Vice-Chair Frank Pucci for his 5 years of dedicated service to the Commission, the Town of Stonington & the Department.

Selectman Rob Simmons thanked Captain Desmond for his years of dedicated service, and presented Captain Desmond with his military coin, which is bestowed upon Officers for honorable service and a job well done.

**2) Remarks of Visitors**

Anthony Lombardo Pawcatuck, CT  
Crosswalk – Stillman Avenue Area, Pawcatuck

In attendance to address letter received regarding crosswalks.

Chief recommending tabling discussion until he can visit the site with Mr. Lombardo.

Frances Bonardi, Pawcatuck, CT

Concerned about safety when exiting driveway onto Elmridge Road, requesting "Hidden Driveway" signage.

Chief agrees with Ms. Bonardi, recommends approving signage.

The Commission addressed agenda item 6b at this time:

**6) Traffic**

b. E-Mail Re: Hidden Driveway Sign Request – Elmridge Road, Pawcatuck

- A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to install "Hidden Drive" signage at the requested location on either side of Elmridge Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

## 2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

Stephen Johnson, Pawcatuck, CT  
Drug Statistics Follow-up

Mr. Johnson stated that he requested item 9e be placed on the agenda for this meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that he mentioned statistics at the last meeting, and asked the Commission if they had the opportunity to review those statistics.

Commission members confirmed that the statistics were reviewed.

Mr. Johnson stated that he did have a meeting with the Chief and Captain, and he was appreciative of the meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that based on the information obtained in the meeting, there is an issue with the Department being understaffed, but he is also concerned that the Department staff are not being scheduled properly. Mr. Johnson also asked if after the last meeting there was an offer from the Narcotics Task Force to do something in Pawcatuck.

Chair Olsson requested the Commission address agenda item 9e at this time; Commission concurred.

Chair Olsson requested that Commissioner Rotella respond to Mr. Johnson on behalf of the Commission; Vice-Chair Pucci, Commissioners Holt and Moukawsher concurred.

## 9) Report of the Chief of Police

### e. Drug Statistics: Follow-up Mr. Johnson

Commissioner Rotella stated that he has listened intently to the statements of Mr. Johnson, and has been privy to the emails as well, and will continue to investigate the statements to determine if they are valid, however it is not the function of the Commission to disclose the inner workings of the Police Department; that is for the Administration of the Department, in conjunction with the Commission; the inner workings of the Police Department are not fair public domain. The statements that Mr. Johnson has made are to be discussed between the Chief and the Captain, and this should be the end of this discussion.

## 3) Correspondence

None

## 4) Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Mystic Seaport Museum, Inc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to inform the Planning & Zoning Commission that the Police Commission does not perceive a traffic or public safety issue, and recommend that their approval require compliance with all applicable DOT regulations. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rotella, all in favor, motion approved.

## 5) Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: Mall, Inc. – Old Mistick Village

A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to inform the Planning & Zoning Commission that the Police Commission does not perceive a traffic or public safety issue, and recommend that their approval require compliance with all applicable DOT regulations. Motion seconded by Commissioner Rotella, all in favor, motion approved.

**6) Traffic**

- a. E-Mail Re: Sidewalk – Brookside Lane to Spellman Drive, Pawcatuck  
Letter went to Board of Selectmen, Chief will check status
- b. E-Mail Re: Hidden Driveway Sign Request – Elmridge Road, Pawcatuck  
See Remarks of Visitors
- c. Letter Re: Crosswalk – Stillman Avenue Area, Pawcatuck  
See Remarks of Visitors
- d. School Bus Stop Sign Request – Al Harvey Rd  
Tabled to next month per resident request

**7) Approval of Minutes for the September 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2014 regular meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

**8) Approval of Minutes for the September 30, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Pucci to approve the minutes from the September 30, 2014 special meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

**9) Report of the Chief of Police**

- a. Retirement of Captain Desmond; discussion of resulting Captain/Lieutenant/Sergeant openings & testing schedules
- b. Budget Report
- c. Monthly Report
- d. Pawcatuck Statistics
- e. Drug Statistics: Follow-up Mr. Johnson  
Chief will continue to keep line of communication open; See Remarks of Visitors
- f. Alarm Report
- g. Special Event Schedule
- h. Letter Re: Dispatcher Purcell Resignation
- i. Promotional Process - Captain
- j. Radio Issues –major capital expense to discuss in the next year or two
- k. Taser Policy Update
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to accept the updated Taser Policy as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.
- l. Fair Policing Policy
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to accept the updated Fair Policing Policy as presented for Chapter 37. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

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

## **10) Consent Agenda**

- a. Letter Re: Training Records Audit Report
- b. E-Mail Re: Request for Speed Limit Signs & School Bus Stop Signs – Pequot Trail
- c. E-Mail Re: "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here" Sign Request – Hatch Street, Mystic
- d. E-Mail Re: Good Job – Officer Stamatiou
- e. Memo to Board of Finance Re: Battery Back-Up Purchase
- f. Letter Re: Highway Use Permit – Columbus Day Parade
- g. Highway Use Permit: Columbus Day Parade
- h. Memo Re: Talk Technologies
- i. E-Mail Re: Dive Equipment
- j. Highway Use Permit: Halloween Parade
- k. Letter Re: New President, Mitchell College
- l. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Manley
- m. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Barrell
- n. Memo Re: Good Job – Reserve Officer Cassata
- o. Letter to Board of Finance Re: School Safety Measures
- p. 2015 Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Schedule
- q. Highway Use Permit: Tarzan Brown Race

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

## **11) New Business**

- a. Election of Police Commission Officers
  - Commissioner Rotella made a motion to table election of Police Commission Officers until there are 5 seated Commissioners that are guided by the Chair. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

## 12) Adjourn

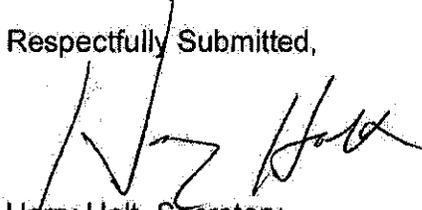
Captain Desmond thanked the Commission, Lieutenants and administrative team, as well as Selectman Simmons for his kind gesture, and Nancy, Joe and the local media. Captain Desmond also congratulated Vice-Chair Pucci on his years of service, and thanked Chief Stewart for all of his support, as a mentor and friend.

Chief Stewart calculated Captain Desmond has sat in front of the Commission for approximately 500 hours, or approximately 2½ months of 8 hour days, but always did so completely in the corner of the police officers, doing what is right for the Town, and Chief Stewart could not be happier for him.

Vice-Chair Pucci thanked the Captain for his kind words, as well as the Chief and the Commission; he stated he has had an extraordinary experience working with the Commission.

At 6:08PM Commissioner Holt made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harry Holt, Secretary