

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, February 9th, 2023 at 5:00p.m.
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy

Commissioner Lisa Tepper Bates, Commissioner Patricia Coan, Commissioner Richard Balestracci

Chief Jay DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Todd Olson, Captain Bryan Schneider

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm. Vice Chairman Turner away on business.

2. Remarks of the Public

None

3. New Business

a. Ragnar Relay ***VOTE NEEDED*** NOTE: OUT OF STATE, WILL NEED TO CONTACT BY PHONE

Amber Sadlier spoke to the commission about the Ragnar Relay that will occur May 19th. Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared the commissions familiarity with the event and asked if there would be any changes to the event. Sadlier shared the event will stay the same but they had received communication from the DOT saying they were missing permits for North Stonington, and asked if this was something Stonington was involved with or could help with. Chief DelGrosso shared that the North Stonington portion would be permitted through the state police. Deputy Chief Olson clarified wit Sadlier that they will contact the state police to get the appropriate permitting and other than that there are no changes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to accept the Ragnar Relay as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Pawcatuck River Duck Race ***VOTE NEEDED***

A representative on behalf of the Pawcatuck River Duck Race came to discuss the event. They explained the ducks would be dumped further onto the Connecticut side of the river than the Rhode Island side, and there are groups such as the Boy scouts that will be on hand to ensure the ducks are all contained and removed from the waterway following the race. No ducks will be escaping the race parameters.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to accept the Pawcatuck River Duck Race as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Spellman Drive Road Races & Events ***VOTE NEEDED***

Richard Ward spoke on the use of Spellman Drive Road for three upcoming events. Girls on the Run 5k Saturday, May 6th, 2023. Deans Mill School PTO Color Race Saturday, May 20th, 2023. Stonington Cross-

Country 5k August 16th, 2023. He shared that the events have been running for years, and there are no proposed changes to the events.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to accept the Spellman Drive Road Races & Events as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

d. Good Friday Walk *VOTE NEEDED*

Beth Manning discussed the Good Friday Walk that will take place Friday, April 7th, 2023. No roads would need to be shut down for the race. Deputy Chief Olson shared that an officer would be posted on Holmes.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to accept the Good Friday Walk as submitted following the requirements of the town's insurance and the Stonington Police Department safety requirements. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

4. Correspondence

a. Letter Re: Statewide Organized Crime Investigative Task Force

Captain Schneider wrote a letter to the CT State Police thanking them for their assistance with a significant cryptocurrency investigation. Almost \$48,000 were recovered for the victim thanks to the help and guidance provided to the department by the State Police.

b. Letter Re: Marine Unit

Captain Schneider also wrote a letter regarding channel restrictions due to ongoing shoaling in the area of the western tip of Sandy Point. The department is highlighting its concern for this as a safety issue. In the summer months this area becomes extremely congested and can very easily become a larger issue.

5. Old business

a. Planning & Zoning Site Plan & Groundwater Protection Permit Application: Amera-UZ, LLC

COMMENTS NEEDED

Chairman O'Shaughnessy shared that he did not find any concerns and opened up discussion to the rest of the board. None had any questions, comments, or concerns.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to pass along to Planning and Zoning with no concerns for traffic, parking, or safety. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: Requests for Signage: I95 NB On-Ramp Exit 90 & Pequod Trail at Whitehall Avenue, Old Mystic

Chief DelGrosso shared that the DOT wanted exact locations of where the signage would be placed. Sergeant Rodgers took the lead and sent it to DOT for approval.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, January 12th, 2023 *VOTE NEEDED*

Motion made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to approve the minutes from the January 12th, 2023 meeting as submitted. Seconded by Commissioner Coan. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief DelGrosso reported a small overage in the building maintenance line item. He also discussed the overtime budget has been about 80% used but compared to this time last year is lower.

b. Monthly Report

c. Special Events Schedule

Chief DelGrosso is looking to create a separate email just for events. O'Shaughnessy shared that local businesses and the public have asked to be notified of upcoming events so they would be able to come before the commission and share their opinion on the events.

At this time Chief DelGrosso also mentioned the department will be sending two sergeants to school as well as some members of the accident reconstruction team. These schools are not always offering training and will be a benefit to the department.

9. Consent Agenda

a. Thank You: Stuff-A-Cruiser Event

Susan Sedensky thanked the department for the food donation that was a part of the Stuff-A-Cruiser event. The department ending up donating 437 pounds of food.

b. Chocolate Stroll Event *FYI*

The Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce sent a letter containing their Application for Use of Town Property for the Chocolate Stroll Event.

c. Letter Re: Officer Browning- Recognition of Work

Chief DelGrosso thanked Officer Browning for going above and beyond every day for the Stonington Police Department, the Stonington Public schools, and the community.

d. Letter Re: Officer Armstrong- Job Well Done

Sergeant Rodgers wrote a letter to commend Officer Armstrong on his use of training to quickly gain control of a suspect and effect the arrest with the least amount of force necessary.

Motion made by Commissioner Tepper Bates to accept the Report of the Chief and the Consent Agenda and move into the executive session. Seconded by Commissioner Coan.

At this point a board member began taking notes for the executive session meeting.

At 5:26-PM Commissioner Bates made a Motion to go Executive Session pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6) (A-regarding interviews to fill open Police Officer positions in the Stonington Police Department. Also, to adjust the current salary of Police Chief Jay DelGrosso and to amend his contract to include holiday payment as current received by other Stonington Police Department members.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan.
No further discussion. All in favor,
motion approved.

At 7:10 PM exited Executive Session. No motions were made, and no votes were during the executive session.

10. Executive Session

a. Personnel Matter

At 7:12 PM Commissioner Coan made a motion that the Stonington Board of Police Commissioners appoint Austin BeeBe to fill an open Police Officer position for the town of Stonington. Appointment is contingent upon him successful completion of a physical & psychological examination certifying his ability to perform the essential job functions of the position, a polygraph examination, successful completion of an ongoing background check.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Balestracci. No further discussion. All in Favor, motion approved.

b. Interviews: Police Officer Candidates

At 7:15 PM Commissioner Coan made a motion to increase Chief DelGrosso current salary by \$4,000. This increase would be in addition to the already approved COLA for all department members. In addition to amend his contract to include holiday payment as current received by other Stonington Police Department members.

This is to be in effect upon approval of the 2023-2024 Stonington Town budget.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Balestracci No further discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

11. Adjourn

At 7:20 PM Commissioner Coan made a motion to adjourn. Motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Tepper Bates', followed by a stylized monogram or set of initials.

Lisa Tepper Bates
Secretary