

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thursday, July 16, 2020 at 5:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Dial: 1-408-418-9388

Enter Access Code: 129 108 8505

-OR-

Streaming live on the Town of Stonington's Facebook page

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Henri Gourd & Vice Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy
Commissioners Bill Turner, Bob Elmer & Bob Tabor
Chief Darren Stewart & Captain Todd Olson

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

No one in attendance.

3. Planning & Zoning Permit Application

a. Rise Nutrition, 37 South Broad Street, Unit 9, Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that there is sufficient parking and adequate egress due to the shopping center having a traffic light at the entrance. Commissioner Tabor concurs, he has visited the site and he noted that it appears there is more than enough parking. Commissioner Turner also concurs with Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy and Commissioner Tabor.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning and Zoning; that the Police Commission sees no issues with traffic, parking or safety with this application. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. (Commissioner Elmer not yet present). No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Angela Bujnevicie, Rise Nutrition, joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Chairman Gourd informed Ms. Bujnevicie that the Police Commission passed on comments to Planning and Zoning that, it is the Police Commission's opinion, this application does not affect traffic, parking or safety.

4. Traffic

a. Request for "No Parking" Sign – Mason's Island *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chairman Gourd, this is the little pull over area before the gate house. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that, due to the increased number of Air B&B's on Mason's Islands, there have been more issues with parking. Commissioner Tabor agrees that there would be no harm in installing a "No Parking" sign. Commissioner Turner drove by the are and also has

no problem with installing the "No Parking" sign.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to put in a "No Parking" sign on Mason's Island just outside the gate in the described area. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. (Commissioner Elmer not yet present). No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Ethan Tower, MIFD President, joined the meeting at 5:10 p.m. Chairman Gourd informed Mr. Tower that the sign was approved to be installed in the area just outside the gate house.

b. E-Mail Re: Burdick Lane Parking Issue *POSSIBLE ACTION*

According to Chairman Gourd this item has been tabled.

c. E-Mail Re: Route 201 @ Olivia Lane Passing Zone

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that the State of Connecticut cannot do anything with this request since Olivia Lane is not a road that has been accepted by the Town. Chief Stewart noted that this is on standby as there are discussions with the Town on possibly assuming the road.

Chairman Gourd recommends removing this from future agendas until there is action by the Town to assume Olivia Lane.

d. E-Mail Re: Traffic Concern – Commercial Vehicles/Trucks on Residential Road

According to Chief Stewart, the police have had presence in the area of Hewitt Rd. There are speed signs out there as well. He will have data from the speed sign for next month's meeting.

e. E-Mail Re: Mechanic Street

Chief Stewart will have data from the speed sign at next month's meeting.

At 5:08 p.m. Commissioner Elmer joined the meeting.

f. E-Mail Re: Truck Sign on William Street

According to Chairman Gourd, this item has previously been before the Police Commission. Input is still needed from the neighbors.

Chairman Gourd recommends removing this item from future agendas until Ms. King comes back before the Police Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, June 11, 2020 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman Gourd noted one correction to the June 11, 2020 minutes as follows: change "I know" to "I note" under agenda item 1 on the first page in Chairman Gourd's opening comments.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the minutes, with the one correction that Chairman Gourd identified, for the Thursday, June 11, 2020 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

6. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

According to Chief Stewart, the budget report in the Police Commissioner's packet is for the year end. He noted that a healthy amount will be turned back into the Town.

b. Monthly Statistics

Chief Stewart noted that some activity is still slow. Fingerprinting has resumed and there were thirty pistol permit applications processed. This is the largest number of pistol permits processed in one month. Previously, the largest numbers were eleven to fourteen permits processed each month. Commissioner Tabor asked how long were pistol permits delayed due to Covid-19 to which Chief Stewart responded they were delayed for three months. Chief Stewart noted that next month will more accurately show if the number of permits per month are increasing. Chief Stewart believes there is a bit of an uptick in pistol permit applications.

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

Most events have been cancelled.

e. Letter/Memo Re: Officer Thomas Paige Retirement

Chief Stewart noted that Youth Officer Paige is retiring after twenty-five years of service. Chief Stewart recommends the Police Commission accepts his retirement.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the retirement letter from Officer Thomas Paige, and also, to send a letter from the Board of Police Commissioners thanking him for his 25 years of dedicated service to the Town of Stonington. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Letter Re: Reserve Officer Craig Burge Retirement

Chief Stewart recommends the Police Commission accepts the letter of retirement from Reserve Officer Craig Burge.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to accept the retirement letter from Reserve Officer Craig Burge. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy with the addition of send a letter from the Board of Police Commissioners thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to the Town of Stonington. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

g. Body Armor Bid *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, every five years the Department reviews the body armor and then goes out to bid. The memo in the Police Commissioner's packet from Jim Sullivan, Director of Finance, recommended that the bid be awarded to Galls, LLC for \$31,216. This will need to go to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Chief Stewart noted that the amount is pretty close to what was budgeted for this item. The Department could get up to 50% reimbursement from the federal government.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the body armor bid award to Galls, LLC. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart noted that the conditional offer to Christopher High is progressing and his information will be sent to the Police Academy to find out what training he will need.

Chief Stewart stated that they will be starting the promotional process for sergeant. The written exam and oral board will be conducted at the end of September. Sergeant candidate interviews will be held at the October Police Commission meeting.

Chief Stewart noted that there were four Narcan saves last month, three in one week.

Officer Browning has been assigned as Officer Paige's replacement. She is the Department's first female Youth Officer. Chief Stewart commented that Youth Officer Browning will be very busy even if the school schedule is altered due to Covid-19. Captain Olson noted that the school will be setting Youth Officer Browning up to be able to teach DARE remotely.

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

7. Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: Planning & Zoning Application – Coastal Masonic Temple
- b. Crimes Analysis Unit Survey Re: Compliance with State of Connecticut Family Violence Model Policy
- c. E-Mail Re: Cancellation of Summer Fun Runs & Battle of Stonington 5K
- d. Thank You Letter: Zummo Family
- e. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Hersh
- f. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Emery & Sergeant Diamanti
- g. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Hersh
- h. State of CT Notice Re: Military Comparative Certification
- i. State of CT Notice Re: Revisions to Use of Force Policy

8. Adjourn

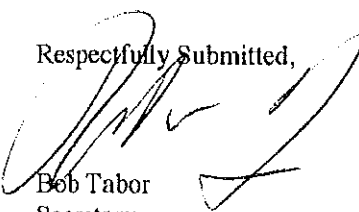
Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Tabor informed the Police Commission that he has driven down Cottrell Street on numerous occasions and, in his opinion, traffic has been moving pretty well and he has even seen some spaces vacant. The new traffic pattern seems to be working well. Commissioner Tabor asked if everyone else has had the same experience to which everyone concurred. Chief Stewart noted so far so good.

8. Adjourn

At p.m., 5:26 Commissioner Tabor made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Tabor
Secretary