STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, August 11, 2022 at 5:00p.m.
STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
173 SOUTH BROAD STREET
PAWCATUCK, CT 06379

Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Robert O’Shaughnessy & Vice Chairman Robert Elmer
Commissioners Bill Turner, Lisa Tepper Bates, & Patricia Coan
Chief Jay DelGrosso & Captain Todd Olson

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
Chairman O’Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Chairman O’Shaughnessy relayed receival of General Assembly Official Citation to Stonington Police Department in recognition of the work done combating the Opioid Epidemic for over Twenty Years. Chairman also highlighted the works done by Community Speaks Out a local fully volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the community by providing education, prevention, and resources to individuals and their families affected by drug/alcohol addiction.

2. Remarks of the Public
None.

3. Correspondence
Chairman O’Shaughnessy received correspondence regarding the intersection and crosswalks located by Latitude 41. Carol Belli contacted the Department of Transportation but is asking for assistance as the DOT has yet to respond. Chairman stated changes will be made to improve the safety of the area.

4. New Business
   a. Event Request: Child & Family Agency of SE CT Fun Run/Walk/Stroll/3k *VOTE NEEDED*
Sue Fage from Child and Family Agency provided background of the agency requesting the event. Event purpose is to meet community and celebrate 50th anniversary. Applications have been submitted to the Borough Warden and the insurance requirements have been met.

Vice Chairman Elmer made a motion to approve event Child & Family Agency of SE CT Fun Run as discussed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. All in favor, motion approved.

   b. Mystic Chamber October 15, 2022 Event Proposed Plan *POSSIBLE VOTE*
Bruce Flax from the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce discussed the proposed plan for October 15th, 2022 event on Cottrell Street celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Mystic River Bascule Bridge. The Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce is seeking to close Cottrell Street from noon to 8:00pm on October 15th and determine if beer can be served and if so, what location the beer could be served in. Bruce Flax requested approval for two tentative locations of a beer tent for the event. The locations being in Seaport Marine or the parking lot on the water side corner. Bruce Flax requested approval to come back later with a complete map of event location. Ben Tamsky acting Chairman of the Mystic River Park Commission spoke to the board to propose keeping Cottrell Street open from the North side of Stanton Place to maintain one way traffic flow, and requested that the Police Commissioners inform the
Mystic River Park Commission of any request that involves a closure of Cottrell Street, Washington Street, or Stanton Place going forward.

Vice Chairman Elmer motioned to approve use of Cottrell Street for event with location of beer tent to be finalized at a later date by Bruce Flax, seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

c. E-Mail Re: Bike Request *POSSIBLE VOTE*
First Selectman Danielle Chesebrough brought forward a proposal to improve bike safety and requested support contacting the Department of Transportation. The proposal included requesting Bike Route signage be added from the Mystic Train Station to Greenhaven Road intersection, utilizing chalk spray paint on the shoulder as a reminder, and installing buffer planters to create temporary bike paths. Chairman O'Shaughnessy expressed favor in the signage but stated the other two aspects of the proposal fall into DOT jurisdiction and is not something the board can make decisions on. Commissioner Bates questioned if endorsement was necessary to move forward and would like to endorse the chalk paint as well as signage. Commissioner Turner commented on a joint partnership for safety concerns on smaller roads to make things safer for bikers in the community but also educating bikers on the rules of the road. Commissioner Turner in favor of signage and would like to know more about where markings would be. Vice Chairman Elmer seconded and Commissioner Coan agreed.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to endorse proposal for additional signage from the Mystic Train Station to Greenhaven Road intersection, seconded by Vice Chairman Elmer, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Bid Waiver Request: MHQ – 4 New Vehicles *VOTE NEEDED*
Chief Jay DelGrosso requested approval to buy cars directly from MHQ, Inc without bidding for them to avoid paying more and waiting longer to receive the vehicles.

Vice Chairman Elmer motioned to approve bid waiver request. Chairman O'Shaughnessy seconded, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Old Business
None.

6. Traffic
a. Letter Re: Union Street Change to a One-Way Street, Stonington Borough
Warden Jeffrey Callahan requesting to make Union Street- between Water and Main Streets only- a one way street. The change would take place September 16th, 2022. The change is due to the difficulty of entering Water Street from Union Street. No issues or questions were raised.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, July 14th, 2022 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*
Commissioner Turner motioned to approve the minutes from Thursday, July 14th, 2022 Regular Meeting seconded by Chairman O'Shaughnessy, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief
a. Budget Report
Chief DelGrosso reported the budget is on track. Gas cost is higher but all spending is being monitored in real time through an excel spreadsheet that every bill is entered in. Adjustments were made after conversations with the finance commission.

b. Monthly Report
The chief is meeting with patrol officers individually about issues in the community that they have noticed. There will be a meeting next month to discuss left turns out of the Mobile gas station onto Coogan boulevard and light timing.

c. Special Events Schedule
Chief DelGrosso reported River Glow went well. There was only one issue with traffic that occurred on the Westerly side. Chairman O’Shaughnessy asked about parking concerns with Donohue Park. Chief DelGrosso relayed that the local businesses have been spoken to about using the spaces.

d. RMS System- Nexgen
Chief DelGrosso commented on the current system used by the department IMC having been purchased by Central Square and the department is looking into costs of paying Central Square to continue use or switching to Nexgen. Nexgen is currently used by a majority of the state and conversations with IT have shown it would integrate well. Chief Delgrosso is working with all departments to see what the benefits of Nexgen would be and stated that the cost comparison has Nexgen looking like the cost-efficient option.

e. Reserve Salary *VOTE NEEDED*
The reserve program is set up to have up to six reserve officers, but currently only has one. The one officer has not received a pay adjustment and currently receives just over minimum wage. A possible vote needed next meeting. Chairman O’Saughnessy requested looking into attracting additional reserve officers.

f. Policy Discussion
Current accreditation timeline is behind. The department needs to move forward quickly in order to meet standards. An accreditation manager is needed but currently the Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, and a light duty officer are working on the accreditation.

9. Administrative Positions Discussion

Chief Delgrosso opened up discussion about Administrative Positions. A new role is needed to handle accreditation and emergency management. The department is currently set up for a deputy chief and restructuring would lower costs for the department. Hiring an entry level patrol officer would bump everyone up to fill the deputy chief position. Chief DelGrosso worked with the first selectwoman, finance commission, and Patti Burmah to figure out the restructure. Commissioner Coan questioned if the money town hall received for the emergency management position would move over to the department which was confirmed the money would be moved possibly in July. Commissioner Bates thanked Chief DelGrosso for his strategic thinking.

Vice chairman Elmer moved to approve the administrative position seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

10. Consent Agenda
a. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Art Festival
A highway use permit was granted for the Mystic Art Festival to use Route 1 by the Department of Transportation.

Vice Chairman Elmer motioned to accept consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Turner, all in favor, motion approved.

11. Adjourn
Commissioner Turner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Elmer, all in favor, motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
9/15/2022

Bill Turner
Secretary