

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2020

5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Henri Gourd & Vice Chairman Robert O'Shaughnessy
Commissioners Bob Tabor, Bob Elmer & Bill Turner
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

None.

3. New Business

a. Planning & Zoning Application: 1189 Pequot Trail, LLC *COMMENTS NEEDED*

No one in attendance for this item.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy stated that it appears they are building another building; however, Chairman Gourd recalls the building as being part of the master plan. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy noted that they have made additional improvements to the site. Commissioner Tabor commented that there is more than enough parking available and the site lines on Pequot Trail are satisfactory.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning and Zoning; that the Police Commission sees no impact on traffic, parking or public safety. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon *VOTE NEEDED*

No one in attendance for this item.

Chief Stewart stated that this event has been running for twelve years and he recommends the Police Commission approves this event.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon, to be held Monday, May 25th, as presented, subject to the requirements the Administration may deem necessary, and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Spellman Drive Road Races *VOTE NEEDED*

Rich Ward, Recreation Administrator, Town of Stonington

Mr. Ward informed the Police Commission that there are three dates that he is looking for approval to utilize Spellman Drive for events. The Girls on the Run 5K Race on Saturday, May 2nd, the Deans Mill School PTO Color Race on Saturday, May 30th, and the Stonington Cross Country 5K on Wednesday, August 19th. The Girls on the Run 5K will be held in conjunction with Spring Fest. Mr. Ward would like to shut down Spellman Dr. by the multipurpose field. He noted that this will be the first year for the Deans Mill Color Race and he is looking to shut down Spellman Dr. in the area where the road splits to go to each pavilion. Mr. Ward would like to shut down Spellman Dr. by the multipurpose field for the

Stonington Cross Country 5K.

Chairman Gourd asked if these events require police presence to which Captain Olson responded that they do not, however, there was some discussion on how they will be blocking the road and that the road blocks are to be manned in the event that emergency vehicles need access. Chief Stewart recommended warning signs such as "Road Race Ahead". Mr. Ward stated that he will be using sawhorses provided by Public Works along with signage.

Commissioner Turner asked how many runners are expected at the events to which Mr. Ward responded that the Girls on the Run is the largest event with approximately 150 participants. He is unsure how many participants will attend the Deans Mill Color Race since this is the first year for the event. The Stonington Cross Country 5K has approximately 100 participants.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the Spellman Drive Road Races (Girls on the Run 5K Race on Saturday, May 2nd/ Deans Mill School PTO Color Race on Saturday, May 30th/ Stonington Cross Country 5K on Wednesday, August 19th) as presented, subject to the requirements the Administration may deem necessary, and upon proof of proper insurance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

4. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Request for Lighting & Signage on Greenmanville Avenue. Mystic *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart read a letter to the Police Commission from Christine Conley.

According to chief Stewart, he has entered into a discussion with the State DOT in regard to reflector/flashing lights. He noted that the State has allowed for these types of warning signs in other areas. From what Chief Stewart has discovered, the State will allow the use of these lights as long as the Towns pay for the installation and maintenance of the devices. The installation of the devices only takes a few days; however, the permitting can take several months.

Chief Stewart noted that there is no money in the budget for these devices right now. The devices are Rapid Reflectivity Beacon (RRB) which allows the pedestrian to hit a button which will turn on the flashing lights so they may safely cross. Commissioner Turner questioned whether the Mystic Seaport would be willing to help with the costs? Chief Stewart stated that this is a public safety issue. The expense is great. Chief Stewart is hoping that the State will pay for the devices and for the installation with the understanding that the Town will maintain them. He recommends that the Police Commission waits to hear from the State about funding for these devices. Chief Stewart further recommends that the Police Commission approves the installation of this device.

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at a crosswalk to be determined on Greenmanville Ave. (Route 27) in the vicinity of Hinckley St. subject to funding by the State. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. E-Mail Re: Truck Sign on William Street *VOTE NEEDED*

Gina King, 60 Williams St., Pawcatuck

Ms. King informed the Police Commission that a tractor trailer ripped the wires off her house and caused a lot of electrical and siding damage. There were no witnesses and the truck driver denied hitting the wires. Ms. King had no recourse available to her for the damage other than her homeowner's insurance. Due to the way her home is constructed and how the wires go from the pole to the house, they hang lower than her neighbors. She is requesting "No Truck Signs" to ban larger trucks from that portion of Williams St. to prevent this from happening again.

Both Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy and Commissioner Elmer agree that the wires are really low. Chief Stewart commented that installing a mast on the house to raise the wires higher may not work with the existing structure. Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy questioned whether the Police Commission can restrict

trucks on this street. Chief Stewart stated that generally CT DOT does not like to restrict truck traffic. There was some discussion about the best spots for the signs. It was decided that Ms. King should check with neighbors to get their input about the no truck signs and Chief Stewart suggested that the Police Commissioners check out the sign restricting trucks on Cutler St. before the Police Commission makes a decision on this item.

c. E-Mail Re: Mystic Bridge Planters *VOTE NEEDED*

Dan Oliverio, Vice Chairman Stonington Beautification Committee

Mr. Oliverio informed the Police Commission that the Stonington Beautification Committee is looking to install six mounted planters, three on each side, on the bridge that is over Pequotsepos Cove on Route 1 in Mystic. These planters are the same design as what is on the bridge in Downtown Pawcatuck and the Stillman Ave. bridge. According to Mr. Oliverio, the planters will not impede on the walkway, they sit on top of the rail. Mr. Oliverio has also reached out to the State.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve adding planters on the bridge over Pequotsepos Cove on Route 1 in Mystic as proposed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Turner. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Update from Boundaries, LLC Concerning Parking Plan *VOTE NEEDED*

Demian Sorrentino, Boundaries, LLC

Mr. Sorrentino provided the Police Commission with updated plans. He then gave a presentation on the proposed parking plans for Cottrell Street. According to Mr. Sorrentino, there were some necessary modifications made and some additional input from the engineer. These plans were based on the preferred plan 1A that was previously presented to the Police Commission. He discussed the sizes of the parking spaces which will now all be consistent as well as the best directions for the proposed spaces. The plans are to mill the road and then paint the lines. There will be 50 spaces on Cottrell St. and 6 spaces on Washington St. Commissioner Tabor stated that it looks tight where Washington St. meets Cottrell St. Mr. Sorrentino noted that there is a fifteen-foot radius. There are no curbs, just paint. He also noted that they could eliminate the last parking space, if necessary, to increase the radius. Mr. Sorrentino suggested running the auto turn program to make sure the radius is sufficient for an emergency vehicle like a ladder truck. Chief Stewart will send him the specifications of the larger emergency vehicles. Mr. Sorrentino further stated that Boundaries, LLC will be able to recreate any line work on the ground for Public Works.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to accept the proposal as presented with the understanding that a ladder truck will be able to navigate the turn at Washington St. and Cottrell St. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, February 13, 2020 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, February 13, 2020 Regular Meeting as modified. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that it is prudent to limit the use of the community room for Police or EOC use only to help reduce cleaning efforts on behalf of the maintenance staff for at least the next three weeks. Chairman Gourd suggested that Chief Stewart reach out to those who usually book the room so they may make the necessary arrangements. The Police Commission agreed that it is a necessary measure to close the community room.

The FBI will be presenting Stonington with a plaque for their assistance with the arrest of the individual

in the Stonington Borough.

The Mystic St. Patrick's Day parade has been postponed until October 25th, 2020.

There was some discussion about the Coronavirus.

Hartford Health needs to install their work around system for radio communications.

The CPCA Expo has been cancelled, they will reschedule.

a. Budget Report

According to Chief Stewart, we are 63.5% through the fiscal year and have used 62.8% of the budget. Overall, the Department is under budget.

b. Monthly Statistics

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

The Mystic St. Patrick's Day parade has been postponed until October. They will be coming back to the Police Commission.

e. 2020 Distracted Driving Grant
FYI.

f. E-Mail Re: Final JAG Grant Report
FYI---

g. Letters Re: First Responder Status
FYI.

h. Local Emergency Medical Services Plan Addendum
FYI.

i. Port Authority Grant Opportunity Needs Matching Funding

This is an FYI from Lt. Schneider. He will be applying for a sustainment grant for the police boat's electronics. It is a \$50,000 grant that the Town will have to match 25% (\$12,500). Chief Stewart will reach out to the Board of Finance.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to accept the Report of the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control

b. 39th Annual Good Friday Walk

c. Memo Re: Planning & Zoning Application – Mystic Seaport Museum

d. Memo Re: Sergeant James McCaffery 30 Year Anniversary

e. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Irish Parade

f. Thank You Letter: All Law Enforcement Agencies Across the USA

g. Temporary Liquor Permit Application: Holy Smoke

Vice Chairman O'Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

9. Adjourn

At 6:19 p.m., Commissioner Tabor made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Elmer, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved Robert W. Tabor, Secretary 5/16/20

Bob Tabor
Secretary