

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 11, 2018
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent: Chairman Raymond Trebisacci

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

None.

3. Radio Update

Richard LaSaracina, Wireless Design Group, Radio Systems Consultant

Mr. LaSaracina updated the Police Commission on the progress with the radio system. He is currently in contact with the State of Connecticut regarding the infrastructure and design. Mr. LaSaracina spoke about his concern with points of failure and would like to see a system that can run as an island without the help from the State and maintain connectivity within the dispatch center.

Mr. LaSaracina noted that he has reviewed the quote from Motorola and he is still not satisfied with the pricing. He is working with the State on this quote. He noted that there are more savings to be had, however, he is confident with the design and how the system will work. He believes that the line item for the software is currently too high. There is a meeting with the State on Tuesday to come up with a response strategy. It is vital to have the same equipment that the State uses for the consoles, however, there is a choice on which mobile units to purchase. The State contract pricing on the mobile units is not attractive according to Mr. LaSaracina. There are better choices out there that are also P25 compliant. It is also necessary to budget yearly for the maintenance costs. Mr. LaSaracina is also looking to reduce the life cycle program costs.

The Police Department's existing voter systems currently have issues. The main problem is with the Prentice William voter which is down and the replacement parts are 6-8 weeks out. The Police Department is currently using old, antiquated technology. Right now, the Police Department is the owner and maintainer of an old system. With the new system the Police Department will be a subscriber. There was some discussion in regard to the length of time to get these replacement parts, the third-party vendor and the manufacturer.

Mr. LaSaracina discussed the end goals with Motorola. We will become a subscriber to a well-run network that is monitored 24/7, 365 days a year. If there is a failure, the State will be informed immediately. The State is

responsible for all parts. Since we will be part of the network we will never have to do without as a result of a failure.

Mr. LaSaracina further updated the Police Commission in regard to the tower sites. He noted that Deans Mill and West Vine schools, which are currently under construction, will have reliable communication systems installed within the buildings for first responders. He also informed the Police Commission about FirstNet which is a nationwide broadband network that the Police Department can elect to subscribe to as it sees fit. He will further research to see what is best for the Police Department.

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the State will want to sign a Memo of Understanding soon, possibly this February. It will need approval by the Board of Police Commission, the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. Once everything is signed off on, the Police Department should be up and running on the new system at the end of summer. He also noted that joining the State's network will be 66.7% cheaper than they originally anticipated.

Vice Chairman Gourd thanked Mr. LaSaracina.

4. New Business

a. Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race *VOTE NEEDED*

Ann-Marie Houle, Committee Member, Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race

Ms. Houle noted that this is the fourth year for this event. It will be run the same as last year and it is the same route. There are approximately 175 runners which is average for this event. Most of the race takes place in the Stonington Borough, however, a small portion runs through Stonington.

Chief Stewart stated that there are no issues with this event.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the application for the Blessing of the Fleet 5K Race held on Thursday, July 26th, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon *VOTE NEEDED*

Ann-Marie Houle, Bearathon Representative

Ms. Houle informed the Police Commission that this is the tenth year for this event. It is held on Masons Island.

Chief Stewart stated that there are no issues with this event.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon 5K event held on Monday, May 28th, 2018 as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Letter Re: Mystic Irish Parade *VOTE NEEDED*

Jeff Bresnahan, Volunteer Coordinator

According to Mr. Bresnahan, this is the fifteenth year for the Mystic Irish Parade. It will be held on Sunday, March 25th, 2018. They do not expect the event to be larger than last year.

Chief Stewart asked Mr. Bresnahan to inform him prior to the event if any well-known guests are to be expected that will draw in a large crowd. Mr. Bresnahan agreed to Chief Stewart's request.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Mystic Irish Parade event held on Sunday, March 25th, 2018 as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Easter Seals Annual Walk With Me *VOTE NEEDED*

Dawn Veillette Diana, Director of Donor Relations

Ms. Veillette Diana informed the Police Commission that this will be the sixteenth year for the walk. It will be the same route as last year. The event will cross Coogan Blvd but mainly be held on the Olde Mistick Village and Mystic Aquarium properties.

Chief Stewart stated that there are no issues with this event.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the Easter Seals Annual Walk With Me event held on Saturday, May 5th, 2018 at the Olde Mistick Village and Mystic Aquarium as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

e. Five Guys Alarm Fines *POSSIBLE ACTION*

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that numerous letters have been sent to Five Guys. The Police Department has responded to 24 false alarms in 2017. This is on the agenda as an FYI to the Commissioners. Chief Stewart noted that he will go out and speak to management in regard to these fines. If they do not comply, it may result in the Police Department not responding to alarms. The decision will be at the discretion of the Police Commission. There was some discussion about how the business will be notified if the response to alarms is terminated.

No action. Tabled to next meeting.

5. Old Business

None.

6. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Pedestrian Signing Project on Locally-Owned Roads

According to Chief Stewart this is a notice from the State of Connecticut for a public hearing in regard to pedestrian signing. This is an FYI to the Police Commission. There will be improvements to the signage on Pequotsepos Rd. at the Nature Center.

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, December 14, 2017 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, December 14, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that we are 48.4% through the fiscal year and have used 48.6% of the budget. It is evening out and this is where he expected it to be.

b. Monthly Report

There were 2097 Ill/Injured calls in 2017, 163 of which were in December. This is the most medical assists in the history of the Police Department. There have already been 24 medicals since the beginning of January. It will be necessary to allow for more medical equipment in the budget.

DUI's were 177 for the year, the number of speeding arrests doubled and the number of motor vehicle stops increased.

c. Yearly Statistics

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the number of accidents remained steady. There have been a lot more assist other agencies with 1663 in 2017 compared to 997 in 2008. The Department has been very busy. Since there are more officers on the force the Department will be more proactive. Chief Stewart also explained to the Police Commission about the Chaplin group and its benefit to the Department.

d. Alarm Report

e. Special Event Schedule

f. E-Mail Re: Raffle & Bingo Permits

Natalie Mitchell is handling these forms.

g. Board of Finance Budget Presentation Schedule

Chief Stewart is asking the Police Commissioners for support and for them attend the February 28th meeting and the March 7th meeting. Chief Stewart will send out reminders to the Commission.

Chief Stewart also informed the Police Commission that the last snow storm went well. There were some power outages on Route 2 but those were restored by Ever Source. He noted that there has been one overdose with a death resulting and two other overdoses.

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

9. Consent Agenda

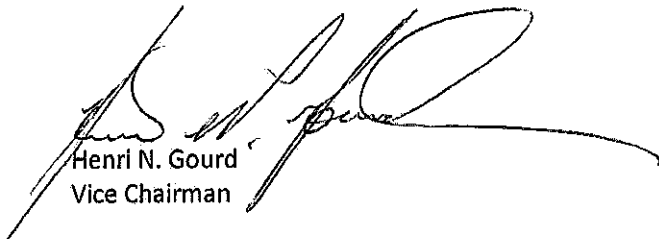
- a. 2017 Animal Control Officer Continuing Education Credits
- b. Letter Re: 2018 Mystic Half Marathon
- c. Letter Re: Handicap Parking Request – Haley Street, Mystic
- d. Encroachment Permits – Crosswalk Signs
- e. Letter Re: Coogan Farm
- f. Memo Re: Officer Hage & Officer Sousa – End of Probation
- g. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Cullen
- h. Memos & Letter Re: Thank You – Tip A Cop 2017
- i. Letters Re: Duck Race
- j. E-Mail Re: Thank You – Deans Mill School

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

10. Adjourn

At 6:22 p.m., Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tabor, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri N. Gour
Vice Chairman