

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, March 9, 2017
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Harry Holt & Vice Chairman Raymond Trebisacci
Commissioners Henri Gour, Robert O'Shaughnessy & Bob Tabor
Chief Darren Stewart & Captain Todd Olson

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Swearing in of Reserve Officer James Gillman

Chief Stewart gave a brief background on Officer Gillman. He was a Trooper Master Sergeant with the Connecticut State Police for 21 years. He was also second in command at the Montville barracks. Chief Stewart also noted his educational achievements. The Stonington Police Department is lucky to have him on board and he will be a great addition to the force.

Officer Gilman thanked the Chief, Captain and Board of Police Commissioners and also stated that he is excited to be a member of such a professional department.

3. Remarks of Public

None

4. New Business

a. Richard LaSarcina: 2-Way Radio Consultation Services Proposal *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart spoke briefly about the current system and the need for an upgrade. Last year the Board of Finance gave some funding needed to update the technology. The Department is fortunate to have Mr. LaSarcina, who is well respected in his field and already knows the system. He has the Town's best interest in mind and knows what is needed and not needed.

Mr. LaSarcina plans to first evaluate the existing infrastructure. It is very important to know what your options are and see what is already existing that can be reused. Then, you need to move on and figure out what is needed. Mr. LaSarcina wants to provide long term value since technology is constantly changing and improving. It is important to be able to communicate with neighboring towns as well.

The assessment should not take a long time but Mr. LaSarcina does expect a few hurdles. He will be focusing on how to fit in the plans technically and financially.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to accept the proposal provided by Mr. LaSarcina on behalf of himself and the Wireless Design Group and to approve his retention as consultant for the 2-Way Radio system per the proposal presented making clear that his retention is not as an employee but as a consultant in accordance with

the March 1, 2017 proposal. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart stated that there will be a meeting next Monday regarding inventory with Mr. LaSaracina. He also noted that there is money in the CIP Funding Account to cover the consultation service cost.

b. Donahue Race *VOTE NEEDED*

Chris Donahue, Son of Steven Donahue

The Donahue Race is held in memory of Steven Donahue, former Pawcatuck Fire Chief, and proceeds are for a scholarship for the Stonington High School. The race will be held Saturday April 2nd and will begin and end at the Cherenzia Building on Mechanic Street. This is the tenth year for this race.

Chief Stewart commented that this is a good event and the fire department also helps out.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Donahue Race event held on April 22, 2017 as presented 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.

c. Good Friday Hunger Walk *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart stated that the participants stay on the sidewalks and this event has been running for about two decades.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the annual Good Friday Hunger Walk event held on April 14, 2017 as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Easter Seals Walk with Me Mystic 2017 *VOTE NEEDED*

Dawn Veillette Diana, director of Donor Relations

Ms. Diana noted that this is the 15th annual walk and it will be held Saturday May 6th. She is requesting approval for the route used prior to last year. It is a 3.5 kilometer walk and will be starting at 8:30 a.m. and takes about 5 minutes to an hour to complete. There will be tents and activities at the Olde Mistick Village. The only road crossings are on Coogan Blvd and Clara Dr.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the 15th annual Easter Seals Walk with Me Mystic 2017 event as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

e. BAM "Walk the Walls" *VOTE NEEDED*

Mia Burns, Owner of Mia's Cafe, Member of the Bricks and Murals Committee
Jean Gagnier, Westerly, RI Town Council Member

Ms. Burns addressed the Commission and gave a background about BAM. This is a grassroots project between Pawcatuck and Westerly in which a total of 15 murals (4 in Pawcatuck) will be painted to commemorate the community. They are proposing a fundraiser walk that will start at Donahue Park and "walk the walls" that will

have murals painted on them in September as part of the project. There may be color stations that will be like an interactive art project. The murals will be permanent and painted on privately owned buildings, example C.C. O'Brien's. Mr. Gagnier explained that the project goes along with the slogan "Westerly/Pawcatuck. Two States, two towns, one community!" He also stated that Westerly had pulled an event license and permission for exemption of the sign ordinance.

First Selectman Rob Simmons informed the Commission that the Board of Selectmen approved the painting of the murals last year. This will be a very significant community event. This will attract people from all over to come and view the murals. It highlights the incredible history of the Westerly/Pawcatuck area.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy had some concerns about keeping all participants on the sidewalks. Volunteers or marshals will be helping keep people on the sidewalks.

They are looking at an event date of Saturday June 10th with a rain date of Sunday June 11th beginning at 10 a.m., however, there is some flexibility with that date. The check in point will be at Donahue Park unless participants preregister. There are plenty of places to park mainly on the Westerly side and parking options could be included with the advertisement of the event. The music at Donahue Park will only be for an hour and a half and there will be no food stations but possibly water stations.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci stated his concern with visualizing the impact to traffic and he would prefer to have a visual with regard to crossing. He would like to see minimizing crossing outside of crosswalks. Mr. Gagnier stated that they could have marshals help with crossing. Chief Stewart also noted that CSO's could also help with crossing issues. This seems to be more of a stroll than a walk event.

Chairman Holt noted that the Pawcatuck area is in need of an economic boost. Mr. Gagnier stated that the mural project has been done in other communities and it has not only beautified those communities but also has a good economic impact. Chairman Holt's concern is with the growing number of events held in Town and that other events have been turned down because there is too much strain on the Police Department. Chief Stewart mentioned that if this is considered a stroll then it should be OK. Participants would have to stay on the sidewalks and not interfere with traffic.

This would not become an annual event. They are only possibly considering a food stroll to help raise money for maintenance in the future. Painting of the murals will begin September 13, 2017 and will be on private property. Vice Chairman Trebisacci noted that they may need to come back to the Commission to have the September 13, 2017 festival approved. Commissioner Tabor would also feel more comfortable if he could see a detailed plan of the "Walk the Walls" event in regard to the route and the marshals that would be needed for crossing. Mr. Gagnier noted that could be done and given to both Chief Stewart and Chief Silva before the event.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the requested BAM "Walk the Walls" event with the understanding that this is a one-time event and also with the understanding that it does not include approval of any festival foreseen in September, at which time that may need review. The approval is also based 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.

Commissioner Tabor asked to abstain from the following two agenda items concerning the Mystic Aquarium.

f. Food Truck Rally *VOTE NEEDED*

Tom Thompson, Associate Director of Safety and Security, Mystic Aquarium
Kathy Lloyd, Director of Ocean Blue Catering

Mr. Thompson informed the Commission that this is the 3rd annual food truck rally. It will have the same footprint as last year. The entire food truck area will be fenced in and Ocean Blue Catering will be providing TIPS certified bartenders. They are anticipating having two officers each day for the duration of the event including one hour beyond the scheduled end of the event. The event will be held Friday May 19, 2017 from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday May 20, 2017 from 12-6 p.m. There will be music the entire length of the event and Chief Stewart does not foresee any problems with volume. The event is very well received and is a fundraiser for the Aquarium. There is a cover charge for the event and it is completely contained within the fenced area. Alcohol is sold under a 10x10 tent within the fenced area with certified TIPS bartenders. There have not been any problems with underage drinking at previous events. Only one drink per customer. This is more of a family event.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Food Truck Rally event held Friday May 19, 2017 and Saturday May 20, 2017 as presented upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion abstained by Commissioner Tabor. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, Chairman Holt and Vice Chairman Trebisacci in favor, motion approved.

g. Mystic Aquarium Improvement Project *VOTE/COMMENTS NEEDED*

Paul Biscuti, Loureiro, Senior Project Manager
Keith Sorensen, Mystic Aquarium Vice President of Facilities & Capital Projects
Kermit Hua, KWH Enterprises, Traffic Study

Mr. Biscuti presented the Commission with an overall map of the property and explained the expansion project. They will be constructing a new building that will attach to the existing animal hospital building which will have access off of Maritime Drive. Mr. Sorensen noted that the building has three components. The first is an animal holding area with a mezzanine. This is not a public space but there will be guided tours. The second will be a lobby and the third component is an education center which holds 220 people. This building will also connect to the Penguin Exhibit.

Some site improvements are necessary in order to accommodate the new building. They are not adding parking; however, they will still be in conformance with zoning regulations with regard to parking. There are 726 existing spaces on the main campus and only 553 are required. The project will reduce parking by 29 spaces. Now 638 spaces will be required but there are still 697 spaces available, therefore, there should not be any parking issues.

Mr. Hua informed the Commission that this project will not create major impact on the highway system even during busy hours on Friday and Saturday. There will be a total of 16 trips on weekday afternoons and about 5 on Saturday's. There are no issues with all four intersections in that area. The Perkins Farm Project was taken into consideration at the time of this traffic study but the Maritime Monsanto building project was not projected in this study.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to forward the following comments to Planning and Zoning, that the Police Commission has reviewed the Mystic Aquarium Improvement Project and has received indication from the Town Engineer that the project does not impact state or local traffic to an excessive extent. Motion abstained by Commissioner Tabor. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, Chairman Holt and Commissioner O'Shaughnessy in favor, motion approved.

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Request for Stop Signs – Stony Brook Road *FYI-FOR APRIL MEETING*

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that the writers of this letter could not attend this month's meeting so it will be placed on April's agenda. This will also give the Commissioners a chance to go and look at the area.

b. Letter Re: Speeding – Greenhaven Road *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Rose Terranova, Resident, 348 Greenhaven Rd. Pawcatuck

Ms. Terranova informed the Commission that she witnessed a car hit a deer. The car was traveling over the posted speed limit and the driver looked to be on the phone and had the music blaring. She is concerned with the number of speeders in the area and that there are a lot of pedestrians on the road and she is fearful that someone may get hit. Ms. Terranova thanked the Commission for their time.

The Commission thanked Ms. Terranova for her comments. Chief Stewart noted that there is a radar sign on Greenhaven Rd on the straight part on and off through the year. Police presence and speed signs are the best ways to slow people down.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, February 16, 2017 SPECIAL Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 16, 2017 SPECIAL meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart projects that the budget will be in the black at the end of the year. There are some concerns but it should be good overall. 58.5% of the budget has been used but the department is 63.8% of the way through the year. The paid holidays line will be used by the end. It is just a matter of watching spending.

b. Monthly Report

The monthly report seems good. There was an increase of 200 motor vehicle stops compared to last year. This year there have been 15 DUI's compared to 9 last year.

c. Alarm Report

Chief Stewart is instituting a follow up letter to be sent once an unregistered alarm goes off and is responded to. A registration form is left at the scene and if they do not submit the registration form with payment a follow up letter will be sent.

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Past Due Alarm Invoice *POSSIBLE VOTE*

Broad Street Bistro has a past due alarm invoice in the amount of \$225.00. Vice Chairman Trebisacci is going to look into whether or not, by law, a lien can be put on the property for this outstanding invoice.

Tabled until Vice Chairman Trebisacci is able to review the lien laws.

f. 2016 Annual Records Division Report

Lieutenant Peckham prepares a comprehensive report which was included in the packet for the Commissioners information.

g. Uniform Policy – Review for Vote at April Meeting

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that he is still working on the policy.

h. Mutual Aid Agreements

1. Reginal L.E.C. *VOTE NEEDED*

The Mashantucket and Mohegan Police Departments were not in existence when the original L.E.C. was signed in the 1990's. Once the legislature has concluded with those two departments, then we will have a signed contract.

Chief Stewart recommends this mutual aid be approved.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion accept the Reginal L.E.C. Mutual Aid Agreement and to forward the motion to the Office of the First Selectman with the Police Commission's recommendation to have it approved. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

2. Quality of Life Task Force *VOTE NEEDED*

This is a combined effort of multiple departments in the area. Commissioner Tabor questioned the chain of command to which Chief Stewart clarified for him.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to accept the Quality of Life Task Force Mutual Aid Agreement and to forward the motion to the Office of the First Selectman with the Police Commission's recommendation to have it approved. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

3. Accident Reconstruction/Traffic Squad *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to accept the Accident Reconstruction/Traffic Squad Mutual Aid Agreement and to forward the motion to the Office of the First Selectman with the Police Commission's recommendation to have it approved. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Letters Re: Thank You – Stuff-A-Cruiser Event
- b. Thank You – Frishman Family
- c. Thank You – Chief Stewart
- d. K-9 Unit Controlled Substance Certificate
- e. Letter Re: Mystic Memorial Day Bearathon
- f. Article "Qualified Police Applicants Scarce"
- g. Letter Re: Congratulations Chief Stewart – Mystic Irish Parade
- h. Memo Re: Sergeant Ritacco – Job Well Done
- i. E-Mail Re: Lighting – Mystic Greenmanville Avenue
- j. E-Mail Re: Mystic River Nun Bouys
- k. POST Training Performance Report

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

9. Executive Session

Approximately 6:37 p.m. the Commission went into executive session. A motion was made by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy to begin the Executive Session. Commissioner Tabor seconded, all in favor, motion approved.

At approximately 6:38 PM Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to exit out of executive session in order to approve the Report of the Chief of Police, motion was seconded by Commissioner Gourd, all in favor, motion approved.

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

Approximately 6:38 p.m. the Commission went back into executive session. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Trebisacci to go back into the Executive Session. Commissioner Tabor seconded, all in favor, motion approved.

At approximately 9:02 p.m. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to come out of executive session, motion was seconded by Commissioner Gourd, all in favor, motion approved.

a. Interviews of Police Officer Candidates

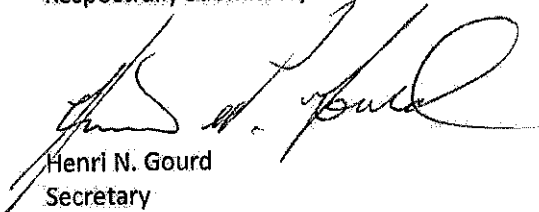
Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to extend a conditional offer of probationary employment to Nick Long contingent on successful completion of the rest of the hiring process to include polygraph, psychological, physical testing and further background checks. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to place 1. Evan Scott and 2. Robin Miller on short term hiring list in case of any more openings. Motion Seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

10. Adjourn

At 9:04 p.m., Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri N. Gourd
Secretary