

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, May 10, 2018  
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

**1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**2. Remarks of Public**

None.

**3. New Business**

**a. Sergio Franchi Concert \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that this is expected to be the final year that the Sergio Franchi Concert will be held on the property on Pequot Trail. The event will be held on August 25th and there are no proposed changes. Chief Stewart recommends this event be approved.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the Sergio Franchi Music Foundation Concert as requested on August 25, 2018 from 11am to 6pm, assuming proof of proper insurance has been submitted and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy recused himself. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**b. E-Mail Re: Whaler's Inn Request – Rocking Chairs on Sidewalk – Cottrell Street \*Action Item\***

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy voiced his concerns with placing rocking chairs on the sidewalk in front of Whaler's Inn on Cottrell Street. He feels that there is not enough room and it will add to the congestion in that area.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to deny the request based on the application due to the fact that it will contribute to the congestion in that area. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, request rejected.

**4. Traffic**

**a. Letter Re: Safety Concerns on Local Roads**

No one in attendance in regard to this item.

**b. Letter Re: Request for "Sharp Curve Ahead" Signs – Elm Street \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Anne Cole Wozniak, 287 Elm Street

Ms. Wozniak expressed her concerns in regard to the curve on Elm Street in front of her home. She feels this is a dangerous section of road and there have been several accidents in this area. Ms. Wozniak is

concerned for the safety of her great-grandchildren and also for her safety while retrieving mail from her mailbox. Chief Stewart noted the only issue is that this is a State road and he recommends the State DOT be contacted. Chairman Trebisacci thanked Ms. Wozniak for her time and appreciates her comments.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to pass Mrs. Wozniak's request on to the State DOT requesting "Sharp Curve Ahead" signs on Elm Street through the administration. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**c. Town Engineer – Intersection of Mistuxet @ Cove Road Review**  
Scot Deledda, Town Engineer, Stonington

Mr. Deledda presented a concept plan to the Police Commission outlining one approach to widen the road at the intersection of Mistuxet and Cove Rd. He discussed the steepness of the embankments on each side of the road which would require grading the area and then the installation of a wall. He provided the Police Commission with a diagram, a photo showing what the wall could look like and the construction estimate, roughly \$100,000. Chairman Trebisacci believes that this project may be beyond the scope of this Commission. There was some discussion regarding school bus traffic at this intersection.

Mr. Deledda explained that this is only one option. Another option is making this a three way stop and putting in advanced warning signage. Some trees could also be cleared in order to help with sightlines. Chief Stewart feels this is a good option and if there are additional complaints, further improvements can be looked into at that time.

There was also some discussion initiated by Commissioner Tabor in regard to possibly diverting any leftover bond money from the school project to improving this intersection. Chief Stewart thinks it could be argued that the school is not directly responsible for causing any issues at this intersection and since this is not an on-site project, it may not be an appropriate use of funds.

Tabled to next month's meeting to vote on putting in a three way stop at this intersection.

Chief Stewart thanked Mr. Deledda and noted that he has been a great help.

**d. E-Mail Re: Potential Crosswalk – Mystic Color Labs – YMCA (Mystic) \*ACTION ITEM\***  
Gregg Fedus, Fedus Engineering, LLC

Mr. Fedus informed the Police Commission that the best spot for the crosswalk at the old Mystic Color Lab site is at the crest of the hill on Harry Austin Drive. It would line up with the existing ramp on the YMCA side of the road. They will fix the existing ramp and put in another ramp on the other side. They will also be installing advanced warning signs for the crosswalk. The crosswalk will be adjacent to the YMCA's curb cut and will lead to sidewalks on either side of the road.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the crosswalk as presented with the noted changes. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy amended this motion to also include the advanced warning signage for the crosswalk as suggested by the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

\* At this time, there was a request to add the Taste of Mystic to the agenda since the event will take place before the Police Commission's next scheduled meeting.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to add the presentation for the Taste of Mystic to the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, request granted.

#### **Taste of Mystic**

Chris Regan, Property Manager, Olde Mistick Village

Mr. Regan informed the Police Commission that the event will be the same as last year and is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. There was some discussion about the fencing that will separate the area where alcohol will be served. Mr. Regan stated people will be posted along the fence to prevent the passing of alcoholic beverages over the fence. Chief Stewart would like to see a double fence. Chief Stewart and the Police Commission would like to see a plan for the event before it is held and requested that Mr. Regan forward a copy.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to approve the Taste of Mystic event to be held June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> with the stipulation that on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> the last ticket sale for alcohol will be at 9:30 p.m., the last beverage served will be at 9:45 p.m., and the music will stop at 10 p.m., and also, that the fencing be approved by the administration. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

#### **e. Pedestrian Signing & Pavement Marking Project on Local Roads \*FYI\***

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the State is getting ready to start this project.

#### **f. 2018 Resurfacing Program/Installation of Centerline Rumble Strips \*FYI\***

This will be done after paving is complete.

#### **g. Milling & Resurfacing Project – Route 1, Stonington \*FYI\***

Milling is due to begin Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. They are planning to complete the section between the train station and the VFW by Memorial Day weekend. They are also planning to raise the road in front of Mystic Cycle in order to help with the flooding issues in that area.

#### **h. Mason's Island Road Intersection**

According to Chief Stewart, as part of the milling and resurfacing project, the State has widened the road by three feet east of the light at the Mason's Island Road intersection. He is also having the State look into the possibility of changing the light to have the priority arrow for both east and west bound traffic. Currently, the priority arrow is only on the east bound side.

### **5. Old Business**

#### **a. Five Guys Alarm Fines \*ACTION ITEM\***

Five Guys is no longer in Mystic. Chief Stewart recommends that the Police Commission suspends the bill for the time being in order to clear it off the books and if they reopen the business in town then the bill can be issued at that time.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to suspend the bill in order to clear it off the books for now. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. Comments: Commissioner Tabor suggests that it may be worthwhile

to contact the actual owner of the franchise and send a letter about the past due fines. No further discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**b. Downtown Pawcatuck Parking Plan**

According to Chief Stewart, it has been one year since the Police Commission has voted on parking in Downtown Pawcatuck. The CT DOT is still working on changing out the signs to make them three-hour parking for all the spaces on West Broad Street except the 15-minute parking space and the police parking space. Chief Stewart recommends keeping things as they are for now.

**c. Perkins Farm Comments**

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that this is an FYI. The Police Commission will have to approve signage in the future for this project.

**6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, April 12, 2018 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, April 12, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**7. Report of the Chief of Police**

**a. Budget Report**

Chief Stewart stated that we are 80% through the fiscal year and have used 75.3% of the budget. Things are looking good and he does not see any concerns.

**b. Monthly Report**

According to Chief Stewart, there were 184 Ill/Injured Persons compared to 163 this time last year. There have been 1359 motor vehicle stops this year.

**c. Alarm Report**

**d. Special Event Schedule**

**e. Officer Brett Cody – End of Probation \*VOTED NEEDED\***

Chief Stewart noted that Officer Cody does an outstanding job.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to end the probation of Officer Brett Cody as recommended by Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**f. Department Property Destruction \*VOTE NEEDED\***

According to Chief Stewart, an itemized list of old or broken equipment was included in the Police Commissioner's packet. Captain Olson has also inspected each item on the list and has approved their destruction. This includes the destruction of the speed trailer which is useless, has outdated technology and has no value.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to forward the itemized list that has been presented to the Board of Selectmen for destruction. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

At this time, Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that included in their packet was the Dog License Fund. He wanted to make the Police Commissioner's aware of the money available in this account which may be used in the future to replace the Animal Control vehicle.

**g. CyberComm Service Agreements**

This was an FYI for the Police Commission showing that the Department is still keeping existing agreements in place.

**h. Line Item Transfer Requests**

According to Chief Stewart, the Line Item Transfer Requests were completed at the request of the Director of Finance to even out the line items.

**i. Radio Project Update**

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the wires and antennas are in, however, they are waiting for the connectors. He further updated the Police Commission on the progress of the radio project. The project is moving forward.

He also updated the Police Commission on the removal of the bird nest from the tower and an update on the relocation of the birds.

**1. New Heating / AC Unit for Radio Room**

Both Captain Olson and Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that they will be replacing the current unit with a split unit. Trane will be installing a three-ton unit. This is an air condition unit that also has a heat pump. Commissioner Tabor questioned the heating efficiency of this type of unit. Captain Olson informed the Police Commission that these types of units are used at other State sites and were accepted by the State.

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that he was invited by the Vice President of the CT Police Chief's Association to help with the potential East Lyme and Old Lyme merger.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a comment about the great job Officer Edward Cullen did with his presentation to Commissioner O'Shaughnessy's club which was hosted at the Stonington Police Department.

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.

**8. Consent Agenda**

- a. Highway Use Permit: Brain Injury Alliance Bike Event**
- b. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Kristy Murray**
- c. Letter Re: Angel Ride Approval**
- d. Letters Re: YMCA Triathlon**
- e. Letter Re: YMCA Turkey Trot**
- f. Letter Re: Alice R. Ziobro Trust – Animal Control**
- g. Application for Permit to Display Fireworks or Special Effects – Mason's Island Yacht Club**
- h. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Kristy Murray**
- i. Letter Re: Blessing of the Fleet Procession**
- j. Certificates of Recognition: Chief Stewart**

- k. Highway Use Permit: Memorial Day Parade - Mystic
- i. Job Well Done – Officer Edward Cullen
- m. E-Mail Re: NESS Fishing Tournament
- n. Article Re: Stonington Police National Drug Take Back

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

## **9. Executive Session**

### **a. Interviews of Police Officer Candidates**

6:10 p.m. Motion to go into Executive Session made by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor.

10:12 p.m. Motion to come out of Executive Session made by Vice Chairman Gourd. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor.

10:13 p.m. Commissioner Tabor made a motion to extend a conditional offer of probationary employment to Lyndsey Michaels for the position of police officer contingent on the successful completion of the rest of the hiring process to include polygraph, psychological and physical, and academy and FTO requirements. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor.

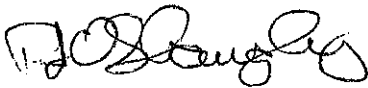
10:14 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Tabor to place candidate R.S. on a short-term list for any openings within 6 months. Seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor.

10:15 p.m. Motion by Commissioner Tabor to place candidates R.R. and S.P. on short term standby list for possible reconsideration. Seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor.

## **10. Adjourn**

At 10:16 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O'Shaughnessy  
Secretary