

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, May 11, 2017
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Harry Holt & Vice Chairman Raymond Trebisacci
Commissioners Henri Gourd, 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.

Chairman Holt took a moment to recognize the Stonington High School Students in attendance and thanked them for their time.

2. Remarks of the Public

a. Update from Radio Consultant Richard LaSaracina.

Richard LaSaracina, Wireless Design Group, Radio Systems Consultant

Mr. LaSaracina has completed the site analysis of the radio transmitter sites. He also evaluated systems in surrounding areas as well options for the Town including building a system specifically for Stonington. The State of Connecticut loved the idea that Stonington has come forward with something to offer. If Stonington joined up with the State of Connecticut's network, it would provide 98% of the mobile coverage, the remaining would be the obligation of the Town. It would be more beneficial to join the State system. In regard to console replacement, it would be beneficial to go along with the State of Connecticut's consoles which would reduce maintenance costs.

Chief Stewart noted that Stonington could jump onto the State's radio system network and supplement with our own. This would eliminate the need to buy as many antenna sites. Mr. LaSaracina noted that the State is looking to share their services, it reduces their burden. Commissioner Gourd questioned the condition of the State's equipment. Mr. LaSaracina responded that it is maintained above any local municipality's capabilities. According to Mr. LaSaracina, a Project 25 radio can be used to communicate anywhere within the State of Connecticut. They can talk on the Connecticut system and also Rhode Island. It would not be possible to do this on a stand-alone system.

Mr. LaSaracina is also working on mobile radios and the different products available. For example, each Motorola radio is \$8400 and 55 radios will be needed which all adds up quickly. Mr. LaSaracina also got measurements at the 47 locations of interest. Most provide adequate service, however, 15% of the locations need work. Most of these are in areas where the trouble is due to the topography. If Stonington joins the State system this would become a non-issue.

Chief Stewart has asked Mr. LaSaracina to come to the Police Commission meetings every other month to give the Commission updates. There is \$700,000 in the budget for radios. He also noted there will be a meeting on Friday about the dispatch consoles which met their life expectancy ten year ago.

Mr. LaSaracina informed the Commission that the existing infrastructure; sites, antennas, equipment, etc., should not just be fixed for today but also be beneficial in the future. For instance, the mobile radio in Pawcatuck Middle is insufficient. All sites that he reviewed have numerous points of failure. There is a site in Mystic where all the ground cables are compromised. Something needs to be done sooner than later. Without adequate core infrastructure, regardless of which radio system is chosen, it will not work.

Mr. LaSaracina concluded that the State was very favorable to having Stonington join their network. Chief Stewart noted that this needs to be looked at now and a time frame needs to be put into place. He thanked Mr. LaSaracina for his work, effort and professionalism. Chairman Holt noted that Mr. LaSaracina's work does not go unnoticed and that the Commission has gone round and round on this topic for some time. He is glad to have Mr. LaSaracina and his expertise make sense of this information and give the Commission solid advice on the radio systems.

3. New Business

a. Mystic Outdoor Art Festival *VOTE NEEDED*

Peggy Roberts, President of the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce

Lauren Giliberto, Manager of Events, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Roberts addressed the Commission in regard to the upcoming 60th Annual Mystic Outdoor Arts Festival being held on Saturday, August 12th 10-6 and Sunday, August 13th 10-5. There was a slight change on East Main Street on the advice of Chief Stewart, some of the booths have been moved to Holmes Street. They would like exclusive use of the roads in regards to peddlers and also to be able to use a golf cart and have access to the roads in the immediate vicinity. This year the headquarters will be at the Mystic River Yacht Club. They will have 65 volunteers all wearing reflective vests. All businesses and residences will be alerted to the plan prior to the event. There will also be an information booth at the corner of Cottrell and East Main. According to Chief Stewart this is a great event. Some security issues and the hiring of officers will be worked out with Chief Stewart before the event. Route 1 will be open to traffic during the event and there will be enough room to accommodate emergency vehicles on all roads during the event.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the 60th Annual Mystic Outdoor Art Festival event held on August 12th & 13th as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration, the Chief, and the Fire Department may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: McQuade's Mystic *VOTE/COMMENTS NEEDED*

Attorney Rob Avena on behalf of Mr. & Mrs. McQuade

Michael & Diane McQuade, Owners of McQuade's Mystic, 14 Clara Drive, Mystic

Attorney Avena addressed the Commission in regard to the referral from Planning and Zoning to amend the existing special use permit. The McQuade's are contemplating aisle sales within the store so customers can purchase beer. They are also asking for beer and wine sales within the cafeteria which will be controlled and distributed at the checkout. It will not be self-serve. It will be controlled per the State Liquor Commission. They are not anticipating any increase in customers but are responding to the requests of the existing customer base. They are not adding any seats or making changes to the operating times nor do they plan on adding entertainment. No issues are foreseen.

Chief Stewart clarified that the existing restaurant/cafeteria is just adding beer and wine sales and he also does not foresee any issues. The liquor permit dictates the hours and regulations. McQuade's will not be adjusting their current hours of operation.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to forward the McQuade's Mystic Special Use Permit Application to Planning and Zoning with the Police Commission's approval. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Taste of Mystic – Olde Mistick Village *VOTE NEEDED*

Chris Regan, Regan Enterprises

Mr. Regan informed the Commission that this is the third year that the Taste of Mystic will be held in the Olde Mistick Village. The site plan is the same as in previous years. They are anticipating 27 restaurants to participate. The event will be held on June 9th, 10th and 11th. The hours on Friday are 5-10pm, on Saturday 11-10pm and on Sunday 11-5pm. On Friday and Saturday ticket sales will end at 9:30pm and they will stop serving alcohol at 9:45pm. The event and musical entertainment will end at 10pm. Chief Stewart was very firm with alcohol being served no later than 9:45pm, no exceptions. He also noted that since the music does not end until 10pm it may take longer to clear out the crowd so this need to be considered when figuring out the hours for hiring officers.

In keeping with the set up from last year, alcohol will only be served in the fenced off areas with specified boundaries. Old Mystic Fire Department dictates the set up for emergency access.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Taste of Mystic event held on Friday June 9th 5-10pm, Saturday June 10th 11-10pm, & Sunday June 11th 11-5pm at the Olde Mistick Village as presented, with the stipulation that alcohol sales will end promptly at 9:45pm on Friday and Saturday, upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. Commissioner Tabor abstained. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Annie Hettick, Regan Enterprises

Joyce Resnikoff, Owner Olde Mistick Village

Mr. Regan and Ms. Hettick proposed expanding the existing Garlic Festival event on September 16th and 17th by adding a beer tasting. All profit goes to charity. The Garlic Festival supports the local farming community. This year the profits will go to the Martin Luther King Foundation. The proposed beer tasting would be held under a tent in front of the Jealous Monk. Wrist bands must be purchased for \$40 which will include a 3oz tasting cup and allow access to the beer tasting tent for a two-hour period. There will be three designated tasting periods one from 1-3 then from 5-7 on Saturday and 1 period on Sunday. Each tasting period will have a different colored wrist band. They are figuring about 200 wrist bands would be sold per tasting period. This addition to the event will bring more people in to try something local. The goal is to find a way to give back to the community and keep people coming to the area. This is still a family friendly event.

Chief Stewart informed Ms. Hettick that this is the first preview the Commission has had for this proposed addition to the Garlic Festival. He further stated that right now officers are not hired for the Garlic Festival so this addition would cause a need to hire officers. Chairman Holt noted that there are already 50 events in town that require police presence causing the Commission to put a moratorium on new events. This is an existing event that did not previously require police presence. The proposed beer tasting is a substantial modification

and will generate other requests for similar events. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy is also concerned with the over utilization of the officers. His main concern is public safety. Chief Stewart would have to look more closely at the event and the numbers projected to figure out how many officers would need to be hired. Chief Stewart and the Commission need more information about this addition and more time to consider the request.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to table this item to next month's meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Ms. Resnikoff questioned Chairman Holt about this item not being on the agenda. Chairman Holt clarified that the Taste of Mystic event was on the agenda but it was only mentioned in a letter sent to the Commission dated on May 4th that Mr. Regan would like to have a discussion about expanding an existing event. No other documentation was presented to the Commission before this meeting. Information on which event was to be altered or what alterations were being proposed were only just presented to the Commission and the Commission has tabled this to next month's meeting giving the Commissioners and the Chief time to review the proposed addition.

Chris DiPaola briefly addressed the Commission and stated that the Olde Mistick Village is very important to WBLQ and the community and any event held there is in good hands. It would be a disappointment if this addition to the Garlic Festival is not approved. Chairman Holt thanked Mr. DiPaola for his comments.

4. Old Business

a. Haley Street, Mystic *VOTE NEEDED*

William LaValley, Resident 2 Haley Street

Mr. LaValley informed the Commission that residents and business owners he spoke with would be in favor of Haley Street being designated as a one-way street. Chief Stewart stated that letters were sent out about the one-way request to residents and business owners in the immediate vicinity and he heard back from only one resident who happened to not be in favor of the one-way. Upon further review, Chief Stewart stated that making the road a one-way would actually increase the speed of the traffic using the street. This is a very difficult area and he advised Mr. LaValley that when he has issues with any of the trucks using the street or parking on the street he needs to call the Department to report the problems. Chief Stewart often finds that only a few drivers are causing problems and once the problems are reported and addressed it usually resolves most of the issues.

Mr. LaValley is still worried about the safety of the children and pedestrians on the street. Chief Stewart reiterated calling the Department when Mr. LaValley spots any issues and also to get the license plates. This will help alleviate some of the issues. The State will not have a loading zone on East Main Street nor post a speed limit sign on Haley Street because the road is not long enough. It is implied that the speed limit is 25mph.

No Action.

b. Downtown Pawcatuck Parking *VOTE NEEDED*

Dave Hammond, Chairman, Economic Development Commission

Jason Vincent, Town of Stonington, Director of Planning

Tom Nall, Father of Amanda Nall, Owner Bouges Alley, 11 West Broad Street

Mr. Hammond briefly went over the letter he sent to the Commission about the need to draw in business to the Downtown Pawcatuck area. The area is missing eight-hour parking spaces for employees of daytime commercial businesses. He proposes allocating 16-20 spaces in remote portions of existing municipal lots and create 9am-

5pm spaces. This would help bring in businesses that want to be in Downtown Pawcatuck. He further stated that employees at these businesses would spend money at the local businesses. This would be a change in the use of Downtown and parking would need to be adjusted to accommodate the changes. There was some discussion about the parking in Downtown Westerly and about parking meters to regulate parking times.

The municipal spaces are located behind the former Citizens Bank near the gazebo. There are also spaces near the dumpsters off Coggswell Street, however, Chief Stewart does not believe this area is owned by the Town so there may need to be some discussion with Riverwalk Condos about that area.

Mr. Nall is concerned with the proposal during last month's meeting about converting spaces on the street to eight-hour parking. He is in favor of changing spaces to three-hour parking but thinks that eight-hour on-street parking would be a business killer. Vice Chairman Trebisacci informed Mr. Nall that eight-hour on-street parking is off the table. Mr. Nall does not have any issues with creating eight-hour spaces in the off-street municipal lots.

Chief Stewart clarified that the on-street parking would change to three-hour and the fifteen minute parking and police zones will stay the same. The long-term parking will be designated from the gazebo to the boat launch in the lot behind the former bank and CC O'Brien's. Approximately ten spaces would be marked for eight-hour parking 9am-5pm no commuter or overnight parking and possibly include spaces at the end of Coggswell Street. This will have minor impact on CC's. This will be an interim solution. If the Chief, business owners or the Commission see any problems, the issues can be revisited by the Commission. Commissioner Tabor inquired if there can be parking in the bank lot, however, Mr. Vincent stated that the property is still being leased and the lessees have no interest in leasing out parking spaces.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made the following motion: After extensive public comments the Commission has proposed creating three-hour, on-street parking spaces with the exception to the current 15 minute zones and the police only parking spaces and also to create ten spaces in the municipal lot behind CC O'Brien's designated as eight-hour parking, 9am-5pm, no commuter or overnight parking. All other times in that lot will follow the existing four-hour parking limit. Signage will be designated at the discretion of the Chief and the Administration. This Commission will revisit this issue in May 2018 to ensure this parking strategy is working and if changes are necessary they will be made at that time. Vice Chairman Trebisacci further moves to authorize the Chief to work with the State DOT for adequate signs consistent with this motion. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Letter Re: Mystic Aquarium Proposed Work *FYI*

According to Chief Stewart, this is a follow up. The Mystic Aquarium received their permits from the State.

No Action.

d. E-Mail Re: Pit Bull Issue – Riverbend Drive

Carol Barnes-Craig, Resident 18 Riverbend Drive

Steve Small, Resident 24 Riverbend Drive

John Couto, Resident 34 Riverbend Drive

Wendy Cekala, Addressed the Commission on Behalf of Mr. Couto

Ms. Barnes-Craig addressed the Commission regarding concerns the Riverbend Drive neighborhood has had with Mr. Couto's dogs. There are 41 homes on Riverbend Drive which enjoy a right-of-way to the Mystic River. This right-of-way abuts Mr. Couto's property. There has been an ongoing issue with Mr. Couto's dogs roaming the neighborhood. The dogs leave Mr. Couto's property and wander around the neighbors yards and follow

pedestrians. Many neighbors have brought the dogs back to Mr. Couto's property on different occasions. Ms. Barnes-Craig is asking the Commission for help in resolving the roaming dog issue. Keeping the dogs on leash or fencing the property would be good solutions.

Mr. Small also voiced his concerns with Mr. Couto's roaming dogs. This has not just happened once or twice it is an ongoing problem. Just recently one of Mr. Couto's dogs nipped a new neighbor on the right-of-way. The dogs are intimidating and other neighbors have similar concerns.

Ms. Cekala wanted to clarify that the dogs are not Pitbull's but are American Bulldogs. She feels it is unfair that people make presumptions about the dogs. There was an issue three years ago with one individual dog, "Red" and Mr. Couto went through the Courts and ultimately sent the dog away. Ms. Cekala and Mr. Couto are not discounting the fact that "Kayla" got out of the yard. She was followed by her two puppies. Mr. Couto is not trying to be a bad neighbor and he also wants to live in a safe neighborhood. They are looking to install a fence to keep the dogs far away from the easement. She asks the Commission to consider law and statute and not neighborhood gossip. Ms. Cekala feels that whenever a roaming dog call is reported in the neighborhood the ACO automatically responds to 34 Riverbend Dr.

Chief Stewart noted that there is a pending Court case and the Commission cannot do anything with it, it would have to be addressed with the Court. He further stated that the Department has received eleven complaints involving Mr. Couto's dogs through the years.

Mr. Couto feels that he is being harassed by the neighbors and Animal Control. Chairman Holt informed him that if a complaint comes in the ACO will respond. Chief Stewart stated that people want to live in a safe neighborhood and no one wants anyone to get hurt. Some people are fearful of dogs.

Commissioner Gourd noted that the breed of the dog is irrelevant. There are leash laws and dog owners are responsible for their dogs. If the dog is in violation, the owner is responsible. Commissioner Tabor further stated that dog owners have to understand that not everyone likes dogs. The incidental escape happens but the constant repeat is irresponsible.

Mr. Couto informed the Commission that the time line for installing the fence is 4-6 weeks for a permanent, six-foot fence. All parties agreed this is a good solution. Chairman Holt is also pleased with the fence installation.

5. Traffic

a. Request for Two Way Stop Signs – Stony Brook Road *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that stop signs cannot be installed on this road. He suggests that Planning and Zoning outline the signage due to the fact that it is a scenic road. He further suggests installing School Bus Stop signs and speed signs to gather data and possibly revisit this issue.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to place Bus Stop signs and any other signs the administration or the Chief may deem appropriate on Stony Brook Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. HEARTSafe Signs *VOTED NEEDED*

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that a list of locations is needed and there is no representative in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Item Tabled.

c. Request for Sign Relocation – McGrath Court *VOTE NEEDED*

Town Highway Department has already moved the signs according to Chief Stewart.

No Action.

d. Farmers Market Sign Request *VOTE NEEDED*

Jason Vincent, Town of Stonington, Director of Planning

Jess Brown, Trustee, Denison Society, Inc., Farmers Market Coordinator

There are currently four locations with signs for the Denison Homestead Museum and the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and they are requesting to add a sign for the Denison Farmers Market. If this is approved all the signage will be updated. Chief Stewart commented that some of the intersections where those signs are located will be changing in the area of the new Perkins Farm. Commissioner Tabor is concerned with the amount of signage. He feels it is superfluous to add the Farmers Market sign and that the location can be clarified through other advertising for the Farmers Market. Organizers of the Denison Farmers Market feel that people are unaware that the Farmers Market even exists and they are looking to make it more visible with the signage. This farmers market is not on the same scale of operation as say the Velvet Mill's farmers market. There was some discussion on who runs or sponsors the Farmers Market. Mr. Vincent would like to see a Wayfinding sign installed in the future.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the recommendation for signage as described with the caveat that it is brought to the staff for review before installation and to ensure it is properly located. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

e. Memo Re: North Main Street & Stonybrook Road Signs – Scenic Road Designation

FYI per Chief Stewart. Sent to Planning and Zoning.

f. E-Mail Re: Intersection of Mistuxet and Deans Mill Road

According to Chief Stewart this is on the agenda due to an email received regarding this intersection. A traffic light has been proposed in the past. There have been changes made to the intersection including moving the stop line.

No Action.

g. Liberty Crossing Update – Traffic Permit

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that Liberty Crossing is the area across from Stop and Shop in Pawcatuck and runs along Route 95. This will possibly be a huge project in the future and the developers are asking to extend the expiration dates on the permits. Chief Stewart feels there are no issues.

h. Letter Re: Mystic Transportation

This item will be placed on next month's agenda per Chief Stewart. Mystic Transportation is requesting a traffic light at the intersection of Route 184 and Taugwonk Road. The State of Connecticut has done a traffic study at that location previously and Chief Stewart is going to bring this request to the State's attention.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, April 13, 2017 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 13, 2017 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. Commissioner Tabor abstained since he was absent from last month's meeting. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

According to Chief Stewart the bottom line is sound. We are 79.2% of the way through the fiscal year and have used 73.3% of the budget. He feels that the Department will be in the black come the end of the fiscal year even though there were some issues with Headquarters infrastructure, for example the sump pump and the sally port door. Commissioner Gourd commended the Chief for staying in the budget.

b. Monthly Report

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Letter Re: Resignation of Reserve Officer Michael Finkelstein *VOTE NEEDED*

Reserve Officer Finkelstein was a Lieutenant for Ledyard Police and also the Mayor of Ledyard. He was recently appointed as Chief of Police of East Lyme. Chief Stewart recommends that the Commission accepts his resignation and wish him luck.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to accept the resignation of Reserve Officer Michael Finkelstein. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Memo Re: 2016/2017 Budget Line Items

FYI regarding three line item overages.

g. Uniform Policy *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart there was only one major change to the uniform policy and that is for the Lieutenants to be able to wear blue shirts instead of white shirts while on second shift and road jobs. This was due to a safety concern. Commissioner Tabor noted that this is a terrific policy. There was some discussion on how the uniforms are regulated by the Captain and the Chief to ensure all uniforms match.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the proposed Uniform Policy. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

h. Legends Smoke Shop Alarm Fine *FYI*

Alarm deadline is set for May 31st. This is just an FYI for the Commission per Chief Stewart.

i. Vehicle Replacement Plan – Vehicle Holdback

Chief Stewart reminded the Commission that they have added three more officers and the number of road jobs and events have increased. A few times the Department has run out of available cars. He is looking to hold on to at least two of the cars since they get almost nothing for a trade-in. The Department loses money if they do not have enough cars for road jobs and events since they cannot charge for them. There is an increased need for a larger fleet.

Chief Stewart is asking the Commission to hold cars and possibly classify the older cars as "Class B" to be used at road jobs and events. These cars still need to be adequate police cars and outfitted appropriately.

No Action.

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.

8. Consent Agenda

a. Letter Re: Mystic Memorial Day Parade

b. Letters & Highway Use Permit Re: YMCA Triathlon

c. Letters & Highway Use Permit Re: Time Trials

d. Letter Re: St. Michael School 5K Road Race & 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

e. Letter Re: Brain Injury Alliance Tour of Lights Bike for Thought

f. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Kristy Murray

g. Memo Re: Great Job – Officer Theresa Hersh

h. E-Mail Re: Thank You – Mystic Aquarium Spirit Week

i. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Hersh & Officer Rodgers

j. Letter Re: Blessing of the Fleet Procession

k. E-Mail Re: Fuels Memo 2017/18 Pricing

l. Letter Re: ACLU Traffic Stop Data Inquiry

m. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Half Marathon

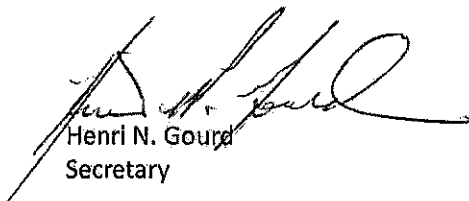
n. POST Trainee Performance Report

Commissioner 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 7:42 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. Gourd
Secretary