

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, June 8, 2017
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

Absent: Chairman Harry Holt
Commissioner Henri Gourd

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Introduction of New Part-Time Dispatcher & Community Service Officers

Dispatcher Glen Riffe

CSO Ben Volk, Alicia Edwards & Daniel VanKirk

Captain Olson introduced part-time dispatcher Glen Riffe. Dispatcher Riffe will fill in dispatch openings throughout the year. He was a former full-time Stonington Police Dispatcher and the Department is very lucky to have him back. He is fully certified, he knows the area and the emergency services and also knows our SOP's. He also has great availability. Dispatcher Riffe looks forward to being back.

Captain Olson introduced this year's CSO's. Ben Volk from Stonington, attends Three Rivers Community College, studies Criminal Justice and has future plans of joining the State or town police force. Alicia Edwards from Groton, attends Three Rivers Community College, graduates in December with her Associates Degree and has plans to move on to John Jay College of Criminal Justice to pursue her Bachelor's Degree. Daniel VanKirk from New London, attends Mitchell College, studies Criminal Justice and has future plans of joining the State Police. All three CSO's went through the hiring process, background checks and training and have even been on a few shifts. The Department is in the process of hiring a fourth CSO. Chief Stewart noted that about 80% of our CSO's go on to pursue Criminal Justice careers.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci welcomed Dispatcher Riffe. He also wished the CSO's luck and thanked them in advance for their service.

3. Remarks of Public

None

4. New Business

a. Garlic Festival – Olde Mistick Village *VOTE NEEDED*

Tabled to next meeting.

b. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application: KAC, LLC 17-19-East Main Street, Mystic

VOTE/COMMENTS NEEDED

Angela Kanabis, Property Manager, KAC, LLC

Ms. Kanabis was in attendance and answered the Commissioner's questions regarding the 17-19 East Main Street Mystic project. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked how many seats will be in the restaurant to which Ms. Kanabis replied 80. He also questioned the plans for parking. There are 23 spaces on the latest plans, 4 spaces are reserved for tenants of the two-upper level residential units.

Ms. Kanabis further informed the Commission that approximately five years ago permits were pulled for a similar project on this site and a foundation was poured, however, the project was put on hold due to another opportunity that arose. Now, Ms. Kanabis is in the process of renewing the permits with Planning and Zoning. The previous foundation was recently removed. Ms. Kanabis will also ask Planning and Zoning for shared parking. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked how they will ensure that spaces are used for 17-19 East Main Street. She replied that there will be appropriate signage and they will also hire someone to monitor the parking during peak summer hours. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy also asked about the traffic survey that was completed five years ago. Ms. Kanabis believes the survey is with Planning and Zoning. The Commissioners and the Chief would like to review the traffic survey.

Ms. Kanabis recapped that permits were previously pulled and site plans were already approved for the project. It was noted that when Bravo Bravo expanded they utilized parking spaces on this site. That restaurant is under new ownership and she is unsure of their future plans. Commissioner Tabor asked if in the event that the first floor ends up being retail and not a restaurant could it be used for professional use for example for offices. Ms. Kanabis believes it could be professional use but plans would not change from the first floor being designated as commercial and the second floor designated as residential.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to forward the Special Use Permit Application for 17-19 East Main Street to Planning and Zoning with the following comments; that the Commission's only concern is with there being sufficient parking for the project, that the Commission be able to review the traffic study that was already completed and also to confirm that there were no material changes from the prior approvals. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. River Glow *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart noted that this event has been held for the last ten years and it is always well attended. He recommends that the Commission approves this event.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the River Glow event held on Saturday August 5th from 7pm to 10pm 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. Sergio Franchi Concert *VOTE NEEDED*

Tabled to next meeting.

e. Alarm Fines – Sheldon *ACTION NEEDED*

Walter Sheldon, Jr., 6 Billings Street Pawcatuck, Administrator of the Estate of Adrienne Sheldon
Gail Sheldon, 6 Billings Street Pawcatuck

Vice Chairman Trebisacci appreciates the Sheldon's letter in response to this alarm issue. Chief Stewart has met with Mr. Sheldon and discussed the circumstances surrounding the alarm issue. Mr. Sheldon explained that the alarm company did not correctly update the changes made to contact numbers for that alarm. He was away while this was going on and was never notified until Sgt. Diamanti was able to reach out to him. He appreciates the efforts of Sgt. Diamanti and thanked Sgt. Diamanti for notifying him of the issue.

Chief Stewart recommends that the Commission waive the alarm fee.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to waive the fines given the special circumstances presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Legends Smoke Shop Alarm Fines *ACTION NEEDED*

Chief Stewart has not received a response from Legends Smoke Shop regarding this alarm fine. He will stop at the establishment to try to make contact.

Tabled to next meeting.

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Route 184 @ Jeremy Hill Road/Taugwonk Road

Chief Stewart forwarded the letter from Mystic Transportation to the CT DOT. In reaching out to the DOT he was informed that they will come out and look at the intersection but previous studies have shown that there is not enough vehicle traffic to support a traffic light.

Vice Chairman asked Chief Stewart if he could reach out to the property owner about the hedges on the corner which may contribute to sight-line issues.

Chief Stewart feels that the bigger issue is the dip in the road on Route 184. Since it is a State road the State would be responsible for any reengineering that would need to be done.

b. Letter Re: Downtown Pawcatuck Parking

Chief Stewart sent a letter to the CT DOT regarding changing parking times in Downtown Pawcatuck.

c. E-Mail Re: Pedestrian Signing Project

Chief Stewart will need to respond to the DOT by June 30th. He spoke with Jason Vincent about areas of concern. Pequotsepos Rd. crosswalk and the crosswalks in the West Vine Street School area are ones that the State could address. Chief Stewart will complete and submit the appropriate forms to the State. He does not foresee the State coming out right away, it may take a year or so.

d. Letter Re: Tentative Vendor-in-Place Paving Program 2018 Construction Season

The State will be paving Route 1 from the Mystic Train Station to Route 1A next year.

e. Heartsafe Signs

Chief Stewart is still waiting to hear from Stonington Ambulance on this item. He will put this on next month's agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, May 11, 2017 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2017 regular 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 informed the Commission that we are 90.7% through the fiscal year and have used 82.9% of the budget. We are 8% under budget overall, however, numbers for paid holiday's and the retirement fund have yet to come in from finance. Chief Stewart expects that the actual figure will be closer to 2% under budget. We are over in the services category which is due to the building maintenance line item and also in the uniforms line item. Overall the bottom line is healthy.

b. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that in the month of May 2017 there were 188 medical assists, 173 assist other agencies, and 24 DUI's. There has been a total of 81 DUI's for the year so far. If they continue at this rate there will be more than 200 DUI's for the year which we have not seen since the early 90's. There were 65 speeding tickets and the traffic stops have doubled. The Department has been very busy.

Commissioner Tabor commented that the police have had very prompt response times to medical emergencies and he is very impressed. Chief Stewart stated that is due in part to the Dispatcher's using a vehicle locator technology to see exactly where each cruiser is which facilitates sending the closest unit to the emergency.

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Overhead Door Company Invoice

Chief Stewart included the invoice from Overhead Door Company in the Commissioner's packets. He noted that the second door may need to be replaced soon.

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that the data from the speed signs on North Main Street has been collected. In the 21-day period that the signs were in place there were ~38,000 vehicles (1800 vehicles per day) traveling north bound showing an average of 38 in a 35mph zone and ~45,000 vehicles (2100-2200 vehicles per day) traveling south bound with an average of 41 in a 35mph zone. The average maximum speed was 61-63 mph. Chief Stewart sent results to the neighborhood. There have also been requests for speed signs on Pequotsepos Road, Old North Road and Taugwonk Road. Chief Stewart noted that moving these signs and collecting data require a lot of time and work that was not originally anticipated. There may be room in the budget to buy another sign bringing the total to 5 signs.

The Taste of Mystic and Gardens by the Sea are both this coming weekend. Chief Stewart addressed the music issues with the Marathon event organizers. Peter Sieczkiewicz will be completing the Academy in a few weeks. Ryan Rodgers will be out on his own in a few weeks. Nick Long is doing well at the Academy, he will be done in September. Things are going well with Mr. LaSarcina and the radio systems. There was some recent concern with the ongoing issues with the Mason's Island Road traffic light. Traffic was backed up past Big Y. There are very few accidents at this intersection but a lot of inconvenience. There will be a meeting on Tuesday with the Riverwalk Condo's in regard to the lot at the end of Coggswell Street. The Department is in the process of hiring

a fourth CSO. There may be money left in the account that will allow for hiring a fifth CSO on a part-time, 20 hours per week basis. CSO's currently work 35 hours per week.

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

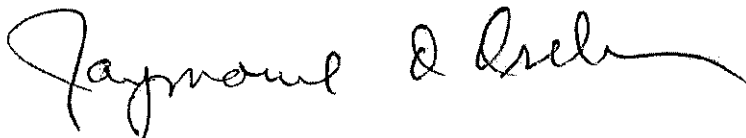
- a. POSTC Letter: Officer Daniel Sousa**
- b. Letter Re: Mystic Outdoor Art Festival**
- c. Letter Re: Taste of Mystic**
- d. Letter Re: Request for Signs**
- e. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officers Barrell & Kristy Murray**
- f. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officers Barrell & Hersh**
- g. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Sgt. Diamanti, Officers Barrell, Sousa & Wholean**
- h. Letter Re: Holy Ghost Processions**
- i. Letter Re: Ownership of Tower**
- j. Thank You Note: Cimalore Family**
- k. Law Enforcement Agency Application for Participation**
- l. Memo Re: Officer Cullen Thank You – City of New London & New London Police Department**
- m. Letter Re: Thank You – Stonington High School**
- n. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Discordia**
- o. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Hage**
- p. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Capalbo**

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

9. Adjourn

At 5:50 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Trebisacci", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Raymond Trebisacci
Vice Chairman