

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, July 12, 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

Richard Chamberlain and Martha Crum, Residents of 6 Willow St. Mystic, CT

Mr. Chamberlain addressed the Police Commission about the overabundance of signage along Willow St., Mystic. He counted sixty-three signs along Willow St. which is only a .2 mile stretch of road. Mr. Chamberlain articulated his concerns with the "visual pollution" in regard to the number of signs. He is interested in preserving the beauty of Downtown Mystic. Mr. Chamberlain offered his assistance in whatever manner is necessary. He also has some suggestions on how to alleviate some of the parking issues in Mystic.

Chairman Trebisacci stated that Mr. Chamberlain raised some interesting issues and he appreciates his comments. He further stated that he will get back to Mr. Chamberlain and Ms. Crum to see what the Police Commission may or may not be able to do in response to his concerns. Most of the signage in the area is the result of others coming before the Police Commission to request them.

3. New Business

a. River Glow Event *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, this event has been held in the past and he has no issues.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the River Glow Event as requested on Saturday, August 4, 2018 (rain date Sunday, August 5, 2018), subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Proof of proper insurance has been provided. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Maria Assunta Processions *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chairman Trebisacci, this event is planned to be held August 10th to 12th.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to approve the Maria Assunta Processions, August 10th to 12th 2018 in anticipation that the required documentations be submitted prior to the event, subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. Chairman Trebisacci abstained. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

c. Planning and Zoning Special Use Permit Application – People’s United Bank *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Attorney Ted Ladwig, Project Leader, representing owner People’s United Bank
John Mancini, Engineer, BL Companies Architecture & Engineering
Roy Hubbard, Director of Development, READCO, LLC

Attorney Ladwig addressed the Police Commission in regard to the proposed Hartford Healthcare Health Center at 350 Liberty Street. Chairman Trebisacci asked if the footprint of the building has changed to which Mr. Mancini replied that the footprint has not changed, however, there will be less parking in the front of the building and more behind the building. The changes that were made had to do with the style and the look of the building. There was some discussion about the overall project beginning with the cinema and the Stop and Shop. The architecture became more of an issue when they began developing the businesses right along Route 2, for example, the McDonald’s and the bank.

Mr. Mancini noted that they are working with the State DOT to make changes to the traffic light and to obtain an encroachment permit. The proposed building will not cast any unsafe shadowing at the traffic light. They also plan on installing security cameras around the building.

According to Mr. Hubbard, the hours of operation at this outpatient facility will be 8am-5pm, there will be no overnight care. The impact on traffic will be minimal, the levels of service at this light will be more than acceptable.

Chief Stewart suggests that they construct the building with the intention of installing a Bi-directional Amplifier in case it is needed. It is hard to retrofit an existing building for the installation of the amplifier. There was some discussion by the Police Commissioners to coordinate with Planning and Zoning to create a list of necessary standards that the Police Commission requires for developers to use as a reference for new projects.

Commissioner O’Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning and Zoning; that the Police Commission sees no added concerns for traffic at this time, but this needs to be coordinated with the State Department of Transportation. Also, the Police Commission would like to see the structure evaluated for and, if necessary, the placement of Bi-directional Amplifier (BDA) for the safety of first responders. Additionally, the Police Commission would like to see the coordination with the Department in regard to the placement of surveillance cameras around the building. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

d. Planning and Zoning Regulation Text Amendment Application – Allamoe, LLC *COMMENTS NEEDED*

No one was in attendance to present on this agenda item. Chairman Trebisacci stated that he does not see how this item effects traffic or safety.

Tabled, with no comments being forwarded to Planning and Zoning, until which time a project is brought before this Commission.

e. Discussion: No Wake Zone – Sandy Point Area

Jesse Diggs, Vice Chairman, Stonington Harbor Management Commission
Jay Spalding, Chairman, Stonington Harbor Management Commission

Mr. Diggs discussed with the Police Commission the need to put in a “Slow, No Wake” zone near Sandy Point and also at Pawcatuck Point due to the increased safety concerns for those who use the waterways in those areas. Once the ordinance is in place and the signs are installed, the “Slow, No Wake” zone can be enforced. There was some discussion about all the moving parts and departments involved in creating and approving the “Slow, No Wake” zone. The Police Commission would like to see Mr. Diggs go through all the appropriate channels in order

to get this approved. The Harbor Master can not issue citations, only the police can do so. Mr. Diggs is interested in making sure that once the "No Wake" zone is in place that the police will enforce it. Chief Stewart commented that the language in the ordinance needs to be specific so that it is enforceable by the police department. Mr. Spaulding noted that the ordinance has been reviewed by the town attorney.

Chairman Trebisacci appreciates Mr. Diggs' comments and all the work he is doing in order to create the "Slow, No Wake" zone. He asked Mr. Diggs to forward the ordinance to the Police Commissioners and the Chief so that they may review it.

f. Salt Marsh Opera Concert at Lighthouse Museum *FYI*

According to Chief Stewart, this is an FYI for the Police Commissioners that they will be serving alcohol at this event and that two officers will be available to help with traffic.

g. Special Olympics Regatta *FYI*

Chief Stewart commented that there is no alcohol at this event and that the Police Department has helped out in the past.

4. Traffic

a. E-Mail Re: Nautilus Way *POSSIBLE VOTE NEEDED*

Ted Merchant, P.E., Director of Land Development, Toll Brothers, Inc.

Mr. Merchant informed the Police Commission that they plan on turning over a portion of Nautilus Way to the Town and that they have created a temporary cul-de-sac to accommodate emergency vehicles. This cul-de-sac will be removed when site work on the remaining portion of the subdivision continues in the next year or two. The project is being completed in stages due to engineering issues. Mr. Merchant stated that the purpose of turning the subdivision's completed section of road over to the Town is so that the residents will have the benefits of a road maintained by the Town. There was still some concern amongst the Police Commissioners about the underlying purpose of this request.

Commissioner Tabor noted that the cul-de-sac does not have the same top course as the roadway. Mr. Merchant stated that it will be easier to demolish the cul-de-sac once the project resumes and the cul-de-sac is larger than the road and extends into future lots. The Town will not want to take over that part according to Mr. Merchant. Commissioner Tabor also questioned if Toll Brothers does not finish the remainder of the project, will the Town use the bond money to finish the cul-de-sac to which Mr. Merchant stated that the Town will reserve some of the bond money in order to finish it, however, he does not expect the project to be abandoned.

Tabled for further consideration until which time the Police Commission can get information on the bond and also get recommendations from the fire department and other emergency services and the town staff. This item will be placed on a future agenda.

b. E-Mail Re: Denison Farmer's Market Signs *VOTE NEEDED*

Jess Brown, Trustee for the Denison Homestead

Mr. Brown came before the Police Commission to request the installation of signs for the Denison Farmers Market at the intersection of Mistuxet Ave and Hewitt Rd and at the intersection of Hewitt Rd and Route 1. The placement of the signs should not obstruct sightlines. The Commissioners were concerned with the amount of information Mr. Brown has proposed for the signs. He would like the Denison Homestead, the Pequotsepos Nature Center and the days and hours for the Denison Farmers Market on the sign. The Commissioners would also like to see the proposed sign and their exact locations before approval. They requested that Mr. Brown speak with Tom Curioso and get all this information for the August Police Commission meeting.

c. E-Mail Re: Numerous Traffic Related Changes

Commissioner Tabor and Commissioner O'Shaughnessy informed fellow Police Commissioners that they went around town and looked at locations with issues regarding signage and parking. They came up with a few suggestions that they shared with the Police Commission about areas that need some improvement. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy will put a summary together and send it to Chief Stewart.

Chairman Trebisacci thanked Commissioner Tabor and Commissioner O'Shaughnessy for their efforts.

d. Letter Re: Paving on Route 1

Chief Stewart included a letter in the Police Commissioner's packet to the State DOT in regard to the recent Route 1 paving project. Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the road will be redone sometime after Labor Day. They will take one inch off the top and redo the surface.

5. Old Business

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, June 14, 2018 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, June 14, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. Comments: Commissioner Tabor requests, as a point of clarification, to add "The Police Commission authorized Chief Stewart to send a letter to State DOT regarding the paving project" after the sentence (on page #3 under the double asterisk), "There were some comments about the quality of the Route 1 paving project." Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Thursday, June 14, 2018 regular meeting minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. Vice Chairman Gourd abstained due to absence from the June 14th meeting. All in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Included in the Police Commissioners packet.

b. Monthly Report

Included in the Police Commissioners packet.

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Radio Update

- 1. Acceptance Test Plan of June 26, 2018**
- 2. Marcus Communications Invoice**
- 3. Consultant Update**
- 4. E-Mail Re: Passing Structural Analysis**

Richard LaSaracina updated the Police Commission on the ongoing radio project. He explained that they are looking into brands other than Motorola. He recommends for this department a radio that is compatible with both the old and new system. Mr. LaSaracina brought sample portable radios for the Police Commissioners and also provided them with price comparisons. He went into detail about some of the features that the new portables offer. Mr. LaSaracina stated that mobile communications can be encrypted. He further explained to the Police Commissioners that the State has exclusively worked with Motorola but are slowly working to be compatible with other brands.

Mr. LaSaracina noted that the State is motivated to make this radio project work since it helps them build out their network. Working with Stonington and Groton gives the State increased coverage. Groton has already bought the Harris portable radios. Mr. LaSaracina feels that Motorola is very expensive and he suggests purchasing the Harris portables. Harris is also running a \$700 trade-in program. According to Mr. LaSaracina, this discussion is about features and how much the department wants to spend on the radios while making sure that, throughout the lifespan of the radios, they remain technology fresh.

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that they are looking at purchasing forty-five Harris units for the price of approximately \$5,000 each and also a few of the smaller Kenmore units for CSO's, special events, etc. The total cost for the portables is more than originally anticipated. Chief Stewart stated that this is a big investment for the Town.

Mr. LaSaracina is not worried about the warranties with any of the radios he has presented to the Police Commission. He is concerned with getting the State to move on the network side. He wants to be 100% sure that the radios this department purchases will work on the State network. The Police Commissioners agree that it must be proven that these radios will work.

Chief Stewart noted that SBA approved the structural analysis of the radio tower behind the police station. SBA sent a renewed lease option requiring the department to pay \$900 rent per month before they will give the notice to proceed which is needed to start putting up the new equipment on the tower. Chief Stewart is working on resolving this issue. Mr. LaSaracina noted that SBA gets money from the providers that use the tower and that they should not have to charge public safety.

The Police Commission thanked Mr. LaSaracina for his presentation and all his hard work.

f. Chaplain Update

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that there are three applicants for two openings. Two Chaplains will be selected by next month's meeting.

g. September / October Police Commission Meetings

Chief Stewart noted that there are conflicts with his schedule for the Police Commission meetings for the months of September and October.

h. No Shave November

Chief Stewart stated that the department's rules and regulations have certain grooming requirements. These would have to be suspended in order for the officers to participate in "No Shave November." The union is on board with the idea. All donations will be made to the Cancer Society.

i. Generator Bids *VOTE NEEDED*

According to Chief Stewart, the Board of Selectmen voted to accept the bid from SNS Electric. They are a local vendor and submitted the lowest bid. They came in \$20,000 under budget plus there is a state grant available.

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to accept the Generator Bid from SNS Electric. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

j. CSO Update

Four Community Service Officers have been hired.

k. Vehicle Bids *FYI*

According to Chief Stewart, the vehicle bids will be going to the Board of Finance in August for three marked cars and one unmarked.

l. Stonington Harbor Management Commission Meeting *FYI/DISCUSSION*

See Agenda Item # 3. New Business e. Discussion: No Wake Zone – Sandy Point Area.

** Mr. LaSaracina presented a quote of \$40,000 for internal cameras. The Board of Finance appropriated \$25,000. The Board of Finance was prepared to appropriate enough money for the entire project, however, Chief Stewart made it known that there is money remaining from the grant and low bid for the generator project. Chief Stewart will use this remaining balance towards the cameras. Vice Chairman Gourd complemented Chief Stewart on being upfront with the Board of Finance.

Chief Stewart commented that the department is at full strength.

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

8. Consent Agenda


- a. Letter Re: St. Michael School 5K Road Race
- b. Letter Re: Thank You – Pequot Golf Club
- c. Memo Re: Officer Sieczkiewicz – End of Probation
- d. MOU: Sexual Assault Crisis Center & New London Children's Advocacy Center
- e. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Hewes
- f. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Barrell
- g. Waltham Services Letters
- h. E-Mail Re: Great Job – Officer Cullen
- i. Letter Re: Thank You – Scot Deledda

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 8:14 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,



Robert O'Shaughnessy
Secretary