

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 11, 2016
5:00 p.m. at the Stonington Police Headquarters**

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Patrick Moukawsher & Vice-Chairman Harry Holt
Commissioners Robert O'Shaughnessy & Henri Gourd
Chief Darren Stewart & Captain Todd Olson

ABSENT: Commissioner Raymond Trebisacci

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

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

There were no remarks of visitors

2. New Business

a. Letter Re: Easter Seals Walk With Me Mystic *VOTE NEEDED*

Dawn Veillette Diana

Director of Donor Relations, Easter Seals

This is an event that is normally held in the Spring, but this year has been moved to September 10, 2016. There are approximately 400 participants. Chairman Moukawsher noted a conflict with the date as it is the same as the Mystic Eats event. The Special Olympics Regatta is also that day. This would cause an additional strain on Police Department resources. After a brief discussion, Diana decided that the walkers would stay on Olde Mistick Village property and not cross Coogan Boulevard, or walk around the Mystic Aquarium. Chairman Moukawsher noted that the alteration to the route would alleviate the burden to the Police Department. Chief Stewart said if the walkers are not touching Town roads then no approval is needed from the Police Commission. Chairman Moukawsher advised that walkers need to understand they must stay on Olde Mistick Village property. **No action taken on behalf of Commission as event will occur on private property.**

b. Letter Re: Mystic Pirate Invasion *VOTE NEEDED*

Al Valente

President, Downtown Mystic Merchants Association

The dates for the Mystic Pirate Invasion are September 30, 2016 – October 2, 2016.

This is the 4th year for this event involving pirates arriving by boat, kidnapping Town Officials with the ransom money going to the Terry Brodeur Foundation.

September 30th (Friday night) the movie "Hook" will be shown by Stonington Human Services

October 1st (Saturday) there will be events for the kids at Mystic River Park. At night, there will be pirate themes in the bars.

October 2nd (Sunday) the pirates will arrive by boat with sirens and mermaids. There will be events for the kids in the Mystic River Park.

Chairman Moukawsher noted that there is no conflict on the calendar with other events. Chief Stewart noted some issues with parking from last year and that Washington Street, Willow Street and Cottrell Street will probably be posted as "No Parking" in that area. At least two (2) officers will have to be hired this year for the event, and the Police Department will need the hold harmless agreement and insurance certificate as soon as possible. Captain Olson noted that last year two (2) officers were hired and the Department had two (2) Reserve Officers to work this event. Chief Stewart said this is a good event that brings lots of people and kids into Town.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Mystic Pirate Invasion based on the premise that Chief Stewart will set the number of officers needed and upon presentation of proof of proper insurance and any other requirements the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

c. Stonington Winter Road Race *VOTE NEEDED*

Kathy Robbins

TRIMOM Productions

This request is for a winter road race to benefit a local charity (not identified) to be held the first week of March, 2017. It will be a half marathon.

Chairman Moukawsher noted the moratorium on approving new events and asked for Chief Stewart's opinion. Chief Stewart stated that he did not delve too deep into this event as the Commission has already said no to a few other events. There are areas in Town that have become saturated with these types of events over the years including Mechanic Street with the Donahue Race, Lion's Club Race, and St. Michael School Race. Mason's Island Road area also has lots of events such as the Turkey Trot and the Bearathon. About four or five years ago, the Commission said enough. There is a lot of behind the scenes work to prepare for these events. It is time consuming for the Police Department and creates many issues. Chairman Moukawsher noted that there were at least five events that were turned down from places that are very dependent on these events to exist. The Commission doesn't want to turn people down; however, the number of events is becoming too much for the Department to handle. Commissioner Gourd pointed out that as a Town, there has been much support for charity fundraisers and road races with nine events this year, an average of one per week. **Stonington Winter Road Race was not approved.**

3. Old Business

a. Handicap Parking – Mystic Post Office

Gary Collins

Mystic Post Office

Tabled from July 14, 2016 meeting. Request from Mystic Post Office to have handicap parking spot relocated from the alley way on the side of the building out on to East Main Street. Chairman Moukawsher expressed his concern about moving the spot to East Main Street. He stated that the road narrows out and to have to exit a vehicle into traffic is sort of a dangerous circumstance. Commissioner Holt inquired as to why they want the space moved. Collins explained the mail carriers park in the back and there isn't a lot of space. He does not want anyone to get hit. A discussion took place about possible solutions, including moving the spot to the lot in back of the Post Office. Chairman Moukawsher noted the issue seems to be with the layout of the property. Chairman Moukawsher polled the Commission and no one would make a motion to move the space onto East Main Street. Chief Stewart advised Collins to speak with the Postmaster, look it over and come up with plan B. They can again bring it to the Commission to see what will work. **No action taken on behalf of the Commission.**

4. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Safety Concern – Old Stonington Road @ Route 1

Letter received from Quiambaug Fire Company about safety concern at east end of Old Stonington Road. The east end of Old Stonington Road is a one way from Route 1 only allowing one way traffic to come off of Route 1. It is not an outlet from Old Stonington Road to Route 1. Several vehicles have been observed ignoring the "No Outlet" sign to get to Route 1. There are concerns for potential head on collisions. Chief Stewart suggested putting an additional "No Outlet" sign by the Dog Watch BBQ at 20 Old Stonington Road to try to help the problem. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy said he was in that area the other day and observed drivers going by the signs and then turn around. He doesn't think people are actually exiting that way.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to add an additional "No Outlet" sign on Old Stonington Road at Chief Stewart's discretion to alert motorist to no outlet at east end of road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

b. Traffic Investigation Report – Meadow Avenue

This is a response Chief Stewart received from the Department of Transportation for a formally designated speed limit on Meadow Avenue. **FYI**

c. E-Mail Re: No Parking Signs – Holmes Street

"No Parking" signs on Holmes Street missing. Chief Stewart will contact Highway Department to restore missing signs. **No action required.**

d. E-Mail Re: Route 2 Traffic Light

Concern regarding the timing of lights and traffic flow at intersection of Route 2 and Elmridge Road. Chief Stewart stated he hears concerns about this intersection on occasion. He said the Department of Transportation will not change the timing of the lights. It is more about enforcement against motorists running the red light. There was a discussion about the turn lanes at the intersection. Based upon the letter received, Chief Stewart will send an official letter to the CT DOT requesting they re-examine the intersection. Chairman Moukawsher suggested Chief Stewart site the letter received. Chief Stewart said he will send a copy.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to authorize Chief Stewart to send a letter to the DOT to re-examine the intersection of Elmridge Road at Route 2 with a proposal to install a right turn only lane heading south on Route 2 from Elmridge Road. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**e. CT DOT Community Connectivity Program
FYI**

**5. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, July 14, 2016 REGULAR Meeting
*VOTE NEEDED***

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the minutes from the Thursday, July 14, 2016 Regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. Commissioner Holt abstained. No discussion. Motion approved.

**6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, July 21, 2016 SPECIAL Meeting
*VOTE NEEDED***

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes from the Thursday, July 21, 2016 Special meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Chairman Moukawsher. Commissioners Gourd and Holt abstained. No discussion. Motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Alarm Report

b. Pawcatuck Statistics

c. Budget Report

d. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart noted 19 DWI arrests, 83 arrests for the month. Busy! Mystic is hopping.

e. Special Event Schedule

f. Training Report – January 2016 to June 30, 2016

g. Letter Re: Groton Town Police Department Use of SPD Radio Frequency

h. Department Air Conditioner Bid Waiver Request *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart will meet with Board of Finance tomorrow to vote on bid waiver for larger units. The basement unit also needs to be replaced.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to authorize Chief Stewart to go to the Board of Finance for a bid waiver for the purchase of a TRANE system as secondary air conditioning unit for the building. Commissioner Holt seconded the request. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart stated that the Department will be adding one more camera at Steak Loft. The cameras have been very useful in assisting investigations including determining fault at an accident scene.

Recruits are doing well. Officers Cody and Souza are out on the road. The two recruits at the Academy are also doing well.

Chief Stewart is looking at the organization of the Department following the retirement of Sergeant David Knowles.

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

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Letter Re: Maria Assunta Candle Light Procession**
- b. Highway Use Permit: Maria Assunta Procession**
- c. Letter Re: Mystic Eats**
- d. Letter Re: St. Michael School 5K Road Race**
- e. Letter Re: Request for Truck Lane & No Parking Areas**
- f. Letter Re: John Fiore, Jr. Resignation**
- g. Letter Re: Thank You – Dog Watch BBQ**
- h. Letter Re: Thank You – Pat Hambly**
- i. Letter Re: Thank You – New Song Assembly of God Church**
- j. Letter Re: Animal Care & Control Facility Fence**
- k. Notice Re: Lateral Hires, Comparative Certifications, Decertification Process**
- l. Letter Re: Thank You – Noreen Kepple**
- m. Letter Re: Thank You – CT Law Enforcement Memorial**
- n. E-Mail Re: Threadmill *FYI – Follow-up from last meeting**
- o. Letter Re: Intersection of Mistuxet Avenue, Pellegrino Road, & Deans Mill Road**
- p. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Rathgaber**
- q. 2016 Semi Annual Records Division Report**

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

9. Executive Session

At 6:39 p.m., Commissioner Gourd made a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing full and part-time Dispatcher applicants. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Present: Chairman Moukawsher
Commissioners Gourd & O'Shaughnessy.
Absent: Commissioners Holt & Trebisacci

At 7:42 p.m., Commissioner Gourd made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

At 7:45 p.m., Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to extend a conditional offer of probationary employment for the position of full-time Dispatcher to Cameron Thompson, contingent upon the successful completion of a psychological examination, physical examination, field training, and obtaining State certification. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

At 7:47 p.m., Commissioner Gourd made a motion to extend a conditional offer of probationary employment for the position of part-time Dispatcher to Nick Lassell contingent upon the successful completion of a psychological examination, physical examination, field training, and obtaining State certification. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

10. Adjourn

At 7:48 p.m. Commissioner Gourd made a motion to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patrick Moukawsher
Chairman