

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 4, 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. Interviews / Meet & Greet – Police Chaplains

Barbara Dakota, Westerly Friends Meeting, Westerly
Ray Jones, Pastor, Lighthouse Community Baptist Church, Pawcatuck
Cal Lord, Pastor, Central Baptist Church, Westerly

Captain Olson briefed the Police Commission on the Chaplain program and policy. Three candidates were interviewed and successfully completed the background check. Barbara Dakota, Pastor Ray Jones and Pastor Cal Lord were all present at this meeting and all spoke to the Police Commission about their backgrounds and why they decided to become Chaplains for the Stonington Police Department.

Barbara Dakota is a lifelong resident of Stonington. She worked for many years as an EMT for Stonington Ambulance. She decided to be a Chaplain in order to serve the Town of Stonington and have the opportunity to give back and be spiritual support for the community. The Police Commission thanked Ms. Dakota for her time and interest in the program.

Pastor Ray Jones was born in Westerly and raised in North Stonington where he was a three-sport athlete at Wheeler High. At age nineteen, he moved to Philadelphia and went to the Baptist Seminary. In 2000, he started Lighthouse Baptist Church in Pawcatuck. He has a great desire to help this community. The Police Commission thanked Pastor Jones for his interest and support.

Pastor Cal Lord calls Southern New England his home. He attended a seminary in Boston and later was involved with the community of Norwich. He was President of the American Baptist Churches of Connecticut. He feels that police in local communities are under assault and he would like to help in any way he can. The Police Commission thanked Pastor Lord for his interest and dedication to the community.

Chief Stewart commented that the Chaplains will interact with people when they are in a time of great need which will be different from their regular interactions with the community. He also informed the Police Commission that all Chaplains will attend Crisis Intervention Training.

**4. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – Martin Olson Irrevocable Trust (Olde Mistick Village)
*COMMENTS NEEDED***

Chief Stewart commented that they are planning to turn an existing building, within the Olde Mistick Village, into a 129-seat restaurant. As noted in the applications, there will be no parking issues.

Commissioner O’Shaughnessy made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that the Police Commission sees no adverse safety or parking effects from the proposed change in use and development of the structures at Olde Mistick Village. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

5. Traffic

a. Letter Re: Request for No Parking Zone – Richmond Street, Pawcatuck *POSSIBLE ACTION*

Anthony & Sandra Sanquedolce, 8 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Sue Johnson, 1 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Jennifer Currier, 5 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Joe Conti, 7 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Mr. Sanquedolce distributed photos and documentation to the Police Commission regarding the narrowness of Richmond Street. He is very concerned with safety. Emergency vehicles cannot come down the road and they have also run into problems with trash pick-up and snow removal. He is requesting no on street parking on Richmond Street. Ms. Johnson voiced her concerns about making the entire street no parking. Ms. Currier is also concerned with loosing on street parking. The road is wider in front of her house and people park there including any of her visitors.

Mr. Conti voiced his concerns with the water and drainage issues at the end of the street in front of his property. He further discussed with the Police Commission how he has been contending with the water problems and that he cannot routinely park on his property since the tires will create ruts and his yard will turn into a swimming pool. He currently parks his vehicles on the street in front of his property.

Chairman Trebisacci noted that he is not sure that the Police Commission holds the answer to these issues. He appreciated everyone’s comments and concerns, however, he is not sure that no parking signs will solve the problem. Chief Stewart stated that there are two separate issues, the water/drainage issue and the parking/safety issue. The road, like many in town, was built long ago and was not designed for modern vehicles.

Chairman Trebisacci further stated that this issue is bigger than this Commission and he would like to try to talk to other Town officials and fire department officials to try to collaborate and come up with a solution. Chairman Trebisacci cannot guarantee that there will be a solution.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to table this item until the October Police Commission meeting and invite appropriate personnel from Town, as deemed necessary, in order to talk this issue through. Motion seconded by Commissioner O’Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. E-Mail Re: Route 27 @ Williams Street Crosswalk *POSSIBLE ACTION*

The Board of Police Commissioners are not inclined to recommend at this point.

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, August 9, 2018 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner O’Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, August 9, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. All in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart noted that it is early in the fiscal year and there is nothing major to report.

b. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that there were 222 persons ill/injured in the month of August. Year to date, the total persons ill/injured is 1512 compared to 1376 last year. Twelve years ago, the number was under 1000.

Chief Stewart asked the Police Commission if he could replace the category "Accidents by Day of the Week" on his monthly report with "Number of Calls to Medical Facilities." The medical call data is more relevant. The Police Commissioners agreed. Chief Stewart also noted that the other statistics are fairly consistent.

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Officer Nicholas Long – End of Probation *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart stated that it has been a year since Officer Long has graduated from the Academy. He recommends that the Police Commission make Officer Long a permanent member of the Department.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to end the probation of Officer Nicholas Long and make him a permanent member of the Department as recommended by Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

f. First Responder Certificate Renewal

FYI.

g. Radio License

Chief Stewart noted that this is for the State system.

** Chief Stewart gave the Police Commissioners a brief radio system update. The dispatch furniture and equipment installation will begin next week. Chief Stewart has been speaking with the New England manager at SBA in regard to getting the notice to proceed so the antennas can go up on the tower. This is still a work in progress. Chief Stewart noted that they will be working on the uninterrupted power supply next. Also, the generator went out to bid and was awarded.

According to Chief Stewart, the State will more than likely be putting in a traffic light at Route 184 and Taugwonk Rd.

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

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Kristy Murray
- b. Letter Re: Mystic Eats
- c. Letter Re: Walk for the Penguins Event
- d. Highway Use Permit – Columbus Day Parade

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 6:27 p.m., Commissioner Elmer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O'Shaughnessy
Secretary