

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, October 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
Chief Darren Stewart & Captain Todd Olson

Absent: Commissioner Elmer

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. Mystic Pirate Invasion *VOTE NEEDED*

Stephanie Marshall, Downtown Mystic Merchants

According to Ms. Marshall, there are no changes from previous years. Chief Stewart would like them to hire one officer to help with crowd control.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Mystic Pirate Invasion event scheduled for Sunday, October 14, 2018 as presented, 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.

4. Planning & Zoning Site Plan & Groundwater Protection Permit Application – BCMAN, LLC (62 Voluntown Road, Pawcatuck) *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Frank Zaino, Representing Richard Manfredi, owner of RJ Diesel

According to Mr. Zaino, RJ Diesel is planning on adding a 3,205sqft addition to the existing garage, with office space. The entry to the site will remain the same. Chairman Trebisacci stated that there is no impact to traffic or safety with this plan.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that the planned addition does not appear to adversely affect safety or traffic. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

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

Chairman Trebisacci stated that this request does not appear to affect safety or traffic. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy reviewed the plans and stated that these plans are contained within the Olde Mistick Village. Chief Stewart mentioned that there is plenty of parking.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to pass along the following comments to Planning & Zoning; that there does not appear to be any adverse effects to safety or traffic for the requested change. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

6. 2019 Regular Meeting Schedule *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the 2019 Regular Meeting Schedule as submitted to the Police Commission (meetings to be held the second Thursday of each month at 5p.m.). Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Traffic

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

Scot Deledda, P.E., Town of Stonington, Town Engineer

Joe Conti, 7 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Jennifer Currier, 5 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Anthony Sanquedolce, 8 Richmond St., Pawcatuck

Mr. Deledda was asked to look into and provide any recommendations for improving parking on Richmond St. He acknowledged that Richmond St. is very narrow. There is not much that can be done. He did suggest possibly moving the utility pole located near the end of the street on the right. This would require contacting Eversource to see if it would even be possible to move the pole.

Mr. Deledda would have to look through historic deeds to determine property boundaries and other concerns. He informed the Police Commission that the GIS is an approximate of the boundaries. There could be other surveys or documents which give a more accurate depiction of the right-of-way. Mr. Conti voiced his concerns to Mr. Deledda about the water issues which make him unable to park in his front yard. Mr. Deledda revealed that it would be a challenging endeavor to address the water issues on Mr. Conti's property.

Chairman Trebisacci thanked Mr. Deledda for trying to give a public solution to a private problem. He also assured Mr. Conti that he understands his concerns. Chairman Trebisacci noted that the on-street parking and the water issues are separate matters. The Police Commission does not have the authority to address the water issues nor do they have control over Eversource moving the utility pole.

Ms. Currier suggested a possible emergency alert that would notify the neighbors if emergency vehicles were responding to Richmond St. so that vehicles could be removed from the street. Mr. Sanquedolce declared that he was expecting more representatives from the Town to discuss the issues with emergency vehicles being able to access Richmond St.

According to Chairman Trebisacci, the residents of Richmond Street can continue this discussion with the Town of Stonington. The Police Commission does not have the authority to deal with these issues. At this time, the Police Commission is not willing to create no parking on Richmond St. and the Police Commission did not have success in finding an alternate solution.

No Action.

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

Steven & Charlene Bowman, 21 Williams St. Mystic

The Bowman's informed the Police Commission that they are requesting a pedestrian crosswalk at the end of Williams St. across Route 27. Mr. Bowman noted that it is very difficult to cross Route 27. The Bowman's attempt to cross Route 27 with their kayaks. The existing crosswalks are not at a convenient distance from where they cross at Williams St. Mr. Bowman provided the Police Commission with a suggestion of where a crosswalk could be added.

Chief Stewart stated that there are sixteen crosswalks on Route 27. At one point, the State of Connecticut wanted to eliminate some of them. He does not think that the State will be willing to add another crosswalk. Not only will the road need to be lined but signage will also have to be put in place. Chief Stewart stated that the State would only put in a crosswalk if there is new development that warrants one or if accident data determines a crosswalk is necessary. He also noted that motorists are not required to stop unless a pedestrian is on a crosswalk, however, he suggested waiving a flag to get motorists attention to the fact that you are trying to cross the street.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy commented that adding another crosswalk may impede with the flow of traffic. Vice Chairman Gourd explained that there is not a significant amount of foot traffic to warrant the installation of a crosswalk at this location.

No action.

c. E-Mail Re: Intersection of Route 1 @ Route 2, Pawcatuck

According to Chairman Trebisacci, this intersection has been a problem for a long time. Vice Chairman Gourd recalled that he learned in traffic school that devices in the pavement are very expensive to put in and would have to be removed when resurfacing the road. He contacted Tapconet (the company suggested by the writer of the email) and received no response. Vice Chairman Gourd does not feel this is feasible for long term.

No action.

d. E-Mail Re: MPH Tracking Device

According to Chief Stewart, Masons Island is looking into establishing a speed limit which would be enforceable by the Police Department. They are requesting the use of the speed signs in April of next year in order to survey the area. Chief Stewart suggests putting one up, weather permitting, to gather the data they require. Chief Stewart further explained that the Police Commission would set the speed limit for the private roads and the State of Connecticut would have to approve it. He also noted that the use of golf carts on these roads would then have to be regulated.

e. E-Mail Re: Pedestrian Crossing Phase – Route 1 Light @ Stonington High School

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the State plans on changing the pedestrian crossing so that when the button is pressed, the traffic light will turn red for all four ways. This is a safety improvement.

f. E-Mail Re: SCCOG Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Chief Stewart has been keeping an eye on this plan. He suggested to Jason Vincent that if this plan becomes more active that the Police Commission be kept involved. Chairman Trebisacci suggests that they make their recommendations and bring them before the Police Commission for approval.

8. Approval of Minutes from Tuesday, September 4, 2018 Special Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the minutes for the Tuesday, September 4, 2018 special meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. All in favor, motion approved.

9. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

According to Chief Stewart, the number of Ill/Injured Persons was 187. He found that 20% of medical calls were generated by medical facilities (Masonicare, Stoneridge, Sava and Apple Rehab).

b. Monthly Report

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Radio Update

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that the amount of work that has been done is impressive. He gave credit to Captain Olson and Richard LaSaracina for making this happen. There are still some challenges ahead. Chief Stewart notified the Police Commission that the Department has gone through most of the contingency.

Chief Stewart explained that they have a conditional notice to proceed from SBA. The Town Attorney will handle this issue from here on out.

Chief Stewart also noted that they are still working on selecting the portables. The State should be deciding if the Harris radios will work with their system. There is a difference in pricing with the portables. The Department prefers to have the Harris radios as long as the State gives their blessing. Plan A, the Department chooses Harris and goes out to bid. Mr. LaSaracina will draw up a quote and note the features the Department needs. Plan B, the Department goes with Motorola and applies for a bid waiver. If the Department goes with Motorola, they will also need the single band Kenwood radios and would go out to bid for those.

Mr. LaSaracina prefers the Harris radios. Plan B is acceptable, however, having two brands of radios in the Department is not ideal. There is still time to decide between plan A or Plan B, according to Mr. LaSaracina, the Department will not be forced into a purchase because of timing constraints.

Mr. LaSaracina discussed with the Police Commission the status on the Harris radios. Harris is going to demo their product for the State of Connecticut. He further explained the need to test the Harris radios with our system to be sure it is working correctly. The conditions of the radio purchase will be that the radios work to our satisfaction. Prior to the radios being deployed, the officers will need training to make the transition to the digital radio as smooth as possible.

Mr. LaSaracina noted that, as time goes on, the risk of not going with Motorola will be less. Chief Stewart stated that the Harris portable looks to the future. The Department needs a portable that can adapt. Motorola has not been motivated to make any changes.

According to Captain Olson, the antennas still need to be put up. The Department is currently running on the VHF system and can flip to the State system when everything is ready. The Department will still have access to the VHF system and will still be able to talk to other agencies that are using the VHF system.

The Watson dispatch furniture has been installed.

f. Generator Grant

This is an FYI for the Police Commission. The Police Commissioners thanked Captain Olson for working on this grant.

Vice Chairman Gourd 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.

10. Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: Good Job – Detective Howard
- b. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Kristy Murray
- c. Memo Re: End of Probation – Officer Long
- d. Memo Re: 30 Year Anniversary – Sgt. Beebe
- e. Letter: Re: Stonington Prevention Council Grant for Opioid Crisis
- f. Certificate of Appreciation – Chief Stewart
- g. Memorandum of Understanding – Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern CT
- h. Letter Re: Thank You – OpSail Connecticut
- i. 2018 Census of State & Local Law Enforcement Agencies
- j. Westerly/ Pawcatuck Veterans Day Parade Paperwork
- k. Memo Re: Outstanding Job – Dispatcher Desillier
- l. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Hage & Officer Saunders
- m. E-Mail Re: Downtown Mystic Holiday Stroll
- n. Thank You Letter – Mystic Eats

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked Chief Stewart if the Police Commission needs to approve the Veterans Day Parade to which Chief Stewart responded that this is an event that has been grandfathered in and does not need Police Commission approval.

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

11. Walk Through of Radio Room

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Chief, Captain and Police Commissioners began a walk through the dispatch center and the radio room.

12. Adjourn

At 6:41 p.m., Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Gourd, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O'Shaughnessy
Secretary