

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 10, 2016
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance – Vice Chairman Holt

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

Vice Chairman Holt took the opportunity to welcome the newest member of the Board of Police Commissioners, Bob Tabor. Commissioner Tabor is a life-long resident of Stonington. He has had a long career in banking. He is retired from Chelsea Groton. He has served on the Mystic Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, as President of the Lords Point Association, served on the Stonington Board of Finance and also a member of the President's Council for the Mystic Aquarium. He will be a tremendous asset in the financial issues the Police Commission may face.

Vice Chairman Holt also thanked former Chairman Moukawsher. He had the privilege of serving with him for the past four years. He was a good Commissioner, a great Vice Chair and a phenomenal Chair. His attention to detail is second to none. He performed a great service to the Town of Stonington and it will not be soon forgotten.

Chief Stewart gave a brief review of the dedication and service of the former Board of Police Commissioners Chairman Patrick Moukawsher as recorded in the October 13, 2016 meeting minutes.

2. Recognition Ceremony

Chief Stewart began by stating that the Commission wants to pay tribute to Commissioner Peter Rotella. He was a great member of the Board of Police Commissioners. He would attend Commission meetings even when he was ill and the Commission always appreciated his support. When Commissioner Rotella started on the Commission he put his law degree to work right away. He effectively challenged any new hires. He threw out politics and was all about the police department and moving it forward. It had to do with what was right and good for the department.

Vice Chairman Holt stated that it was a great honor to serve on the Commission with Commissioner Rotella. He was able to learn a great deal from him. Commissioner Rotella was always able to steer him in a better direction. Commissioner Rotella had the uncanny ability to see things in a different way and point out what had been overlooked. He will be greatly missed.

Former Chairman Moukawsher stated that both Chief Stewart and Vice Chairman Holt hit the mark in regard to Commissioner Rotella. Commissioner Rotella, while on the Commission, was working on doing away with the partisanship that the Commission had suffered from for a short period of time. In the process, he would resolve

most of the conflicts with his good sense of humor. Former Chairman Moukawsher remembers that Commissioner Rotella would call himself a contrarian. Commissioner Rotella was an extraordinary person and former Chairman Moukawsher was very glad to be here tonight to share this with everyone.

Chief Stewart presented Commissioner Rotella's wife Katie Rotella with a plaque. Katie Rotella stated that her husband was passionate about the Commission and he did not let politics play into it and he was not afraid to speak up. She thanked the Commission for all that they do.

Chief Stewart also wanted to recognize partners in the community.

First is Strobes N More out of Westerly, RI. They install lights, radios and decals in the cruisers. They work closely with Lieutenant Schneider on what will work and look best then they make it happen. Three representatives of Strobes N More were in attendance to be recognized and received an award.

Second is Rich LaSaracina who helped set up the video surveillance system around town for the police department, human services, and other organizations around town. He has gone out of his way for the department and Chief Stewart appreciates all his time and effort. It has helped solve a lot of crime. Mr. LaSaracina was in attendance to receive an award. He thanked the Commission and stated that he was extremely humbled. He appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the department.

3. Election of Board of Police Commissioner Officers

Commissioner Trebisacci stated that over the past two years he has come to know Vice Chairman Holt through his service on the Commission. He further stated that Vice Chairman Holt will have big shoes to fill. It is his honor and pleasure to place Vice Chairman Holt's name in nomination for Chair of the Police Commission.

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to nominate Harry Holt as Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner Gourd stated that he was runner up twice in the selection for Commissioner on the Board of Police Commission. He lost to Commissioner Rotella and then to Commissioner Trebisacci. He now understands why Commissioner Trebisacci was selected. Commissioner Gourd nominated Commissioner Trebisacci for Vice Chairman of the Police Commission.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to nominate Raymond Trebisacci as Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. Seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to nominate Henri Gourd as the Secretary of the Board of Police Commissioners. Seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

4. Remarks of Public

None.

5. New Business

a. 2017 Mystic Half Marathon *VOTE NEEDED*

Beth Shluger, Hartford Marathon Foundation CEO and Director of the Mystic Half Marathon & 10K

Ms. Shluger began by stating this will be the third year for this event. It gives people the opportunity to be healthy and fit. It is also put on to support the community. According to an economic impact survey that was

done last year by Whitman Intelligence Marketing Research Strategy this event adds a 1.8-million-dollar economic value to the community. The results of this survey were given to the Commissioners. Fifty-four percent of spectators come from beyond the Mystic area, seventy-five percent came from outside the region to participate. Seventy-eight percent of spectators and sixty-four percent of participants enjoyed going to local attractions while in town. Ninety percent of both groups gave the event the highest satisfaction.

Chief Stewart stated a lot of the funding goes to the Mystic Rotary Club and they put it back into the community. Ms. Shluger stated a little over \$30,000 is contributed to the Rotary.

Chairman Holt was very impressed by the numbers from the survey.

The event will be held May 21, 2017. There will be a children's race as part of the event, a 10K, and the half marathon. Ms. Shluger would like to increase the number of participants from 2000 to 2200 which they can do in a safe manner. There is ample parking available and they can accommodate that number of people on the roads safely. The event is run very well. Chief Stewart pointed out that Masonicare by McQuade's will be open so he cautioned that there may need to be more planning in that area along Jerry Brown Rd. in the future. Commissioner Trebisacci asked if the event was limited to 2000 and did they turn anyone away. Ms. Shluger said that they did limit it and had to turn people away. Each year the event has asked to increase the number of participants. Chairman Holt asked what the highest number Ms. Shluger would anticipate adding in the next five years with which she replied not more than 400-500 more people. The roads can only accommodate so many people. If people are lagging behind they remove their number and end the race for them so the event does not drag on. The event starts at 7am on a Sunday and most will be over the Mystic River Bridge before it goes up at 7:40am. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy asked if those along the route are informed of the event ahead of time. Ms. Shluger said that a post card is mailed out three weeks in advance. Signage is also put up along the route in advance.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the Sunday May 21, 2017 Mystic Half Marathon as presented upon proof of proper insurance and such other requirements as the administration may deem necessary. Motion seconded by O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

6. Old Business

a. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit Application – West Vine Street School *UPDATE*

Chief Stewart asked the Commission to modify the agenda to include both West Vine Street School and Dean's Mill. Peter Manning from Gilbane and Chuck Warrington from Collier International are present to discuss both schools in regard to the request of the Police Commissioners at the October 13th meeting to address concerns regarding safety and traffic flow while construction is ongoing.

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to modify the agenda as directed by Chief Stewart. Seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Manning discussed traffic flow and phases during construction for both Dean's Mill and West Vine Street schools.

Dean's Mill will be a little more complicated because there is a demolition component involved. Phase 1 will begin April 2017 while school is in session. The construction entrance will be on the west side of the site and will follow a direct path to the back of the school. Commissioner Tabor questioned the sight-lines in that area. Mr. Manning assured the commission that construction ahead signage will be installed and there will be some clearing in the area to improve sight-lines. Phase 2 will begin in the summer and the entire school will be closed

and fenced off. Access to the school will be for construction only, no teachers, faculty or students will be allowed on site. Phase 3 will begin late August 2017 and will continue while school is in session up until April 2018. During Phase 4 there will be a temporary drive to a new lot in front of the new part of the school. The new bus loop will be in use.

Chief Stewart had concerns with construction crews parking personal vehicles along the street. Mr. Manning said that they will have all vehicles registered and tagged to control parking, however, there will be enough parking within the construction fence to accommodate these vehicles. There is no reason for parking on the street.

Phase 5 will begin Fall 2018 and part of the existing school will be demolished and that part of the site will be developed.

Chief Stewart asked if there will be enough parking for after school activities while construction is ongoing. Mr. Manning stated parking will be available in the lot and on the bus loop and will be more than enough to accommodate the needs for parent nights, etc.

West Vine Street School was discussed next. During Phase 1, April 2017 to the end of school, there will be a construction entrance only on Liberty Street. There was discussion with DOT about access on Liberty Street, construction vehicles will be able to enter only due to sight-lines. The exit for construction vehicles will be on West Vine Street. The first couple of months will focus on excavation and concrete foundations. There will be sufficient access for fire vehicles. Phase 2 will begin in the Summer 2017 and access will only be for construction crews. Phase 3 will see construction behind the school. Over the summer, part of a parking lot will be developed for teachers to use until construction is complete. Phase 4 will be in the Spring 2018 students will be in the new part of the school while construction crews will be renovating the old building. In this phase the access to Liberty St. will be removed. The teachers will be able to use the new parking area and the new bus loop will be in use. There will be emergency vehicle access all the way to the new play field behind the school.

Chief Stewart told Mr. Manning that it may be worthwhile to inform surrounding neighbors about the plans to have temporary construction vehicle access to Liberty Street.

Commissioner Tabor asked Chief Stewart if West Vine Street School is still used in the summer. Chief Stewart informed the Commission that all summer activities have all been moved to Spellman Drive.

Chief Stewart asked that they work with DOT to get approval for signage and use of Liberty St. Chief Stewart also informed Mr. Manning that the site contractor will need to give the Police Commission advanced notice in regard to proposed signage on local roads in ample time in order to get the items on the Police Commission schedule since the local traffic authority needs to approve such signage.

No action.

7. Traffic

a. Letter Re: North Stonington Road Parking

A letter was received from Ted Tylaska about Clyde's Cider Mill and parking along North Stonington Rd. Chief Stewart suggested enhancing the signage by adding tow zone to the current no parking signs. On the north side, there are no parking signs. The south side is open to parking as long as they do not park in the road. Commissioner Gourd asked if there is room to widen the road. Chief Stewart said not without taking from private property. Again, this is an example of an existing business with limited parking on site. Paper signs are

put up on weekends to discourage parking in the road, however, permanent signage is needed. The police department, Captain Olson especially, has been fielding complaints about receiving parking tickets.

The Chief asked if the Commission would approve adding more no parking signs and changing to tow zone along North Stonington Rd.

A motion was made by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy to allow the Chief at his discretion to add and modify as necessary the signage along North Stonington Road at the Cider Mill property. Seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. E-Mail Re: Old Stonington Road

The curb has been painted and signs have been adjusted. We will see if this works when warm weather returns.

8. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, October 13, 2016 REGULAR Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 13, 2016 regular meeting as reported. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

9. Approval of Minutes from Monday, October 17, 2016 SPECIAL Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 17, 2016 special meeting as reported. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

10. Report of the Chief of Police

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that Peter Sieczkiewicz has passed all his tests and will start at the academy on December 31st. Mr. Ryan has been at the academy for four weeks and is doing well. Dan Sousa and Halim Hage will be graduating from the academy in three weeks. Lieutenant Peckham is in contact with the recruits and keeps the Chief and Captain updated on their progress.

a. Budget Report

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that we are thirty percent through the fiscal year and have used thirty-one percent of the budget. So far so good. Finance is aware of the over-expenditure for the air conditioning unit.

Chairman Holt asked Commissioner Tabor to take a leadership role in the budget report and be more involved in the CIP budget.

b. Monthly Report

Pistol Permit applications are up to 142 for this year only 83 last year. DWI are up 29 from last year which is a twenty percent increase. Criminal arrests were up ten percent.

Sergeant William Morrison is now Detective Sergeant. The Detective Department also includes Detective Greg Howard and Detective Matt Capalbo. They are in the process of doing a property audit and cleaning out the property room.

c. Alarm Report

d. Special Event Schedule

e. Cyber Report

Chief Stewart included this information to show the surprising number of hits the department gets on the spyware.

f. CIP Budget *VOTE NEEDED*

This includes the typical things the department needs every year which include police vehicle replacement, department radios, IT upgrades, Uninterrupted Power Supply replacement, Town wide security cameras (body & cruiser cameras) and Mobil Data Terminal replacements.

The department requests three marked vehicles and one unmarked. It is necessary to keep all marked cruisers under 100 thousand miles and unmarked cruisers under 60 thousand miles. Commissioner Tabor would like to discuss the vehicle replacement information with Lieutenant Schneider. Chief Stewart noted that the cruisers are the departments lifeline and the officer's office.

In regard to the department radio system replacement even after adding \$400 thousand the department is still short about \$500-\$700 thousand. The installation of radio towers is still an ongoing discussion. Chief Stewart is looking into funding from the USDA (2.2% municipal loan over 40 years) and will have more information at the next meeting. Even the amount in the IT upgrades account will not cover the amount the department is short for the radio system replacement.

The UPS keeps 911 system and radio systems running during the delay between a power outage and the generator kicking on. The UPS system provides a constant power supply and the existing one is at its shelf life.

There are currently no cruiser cameras or body cameras. Chief Stewart puts this in the budget in case State legislature requires either to be implemented so there will be money set aside for these items. Chief Stewart is hesitant to implement the use of body cameras due to Freedom of Information issues and footage storage issues. The state has a grant program for body cameras in which they will pay for the cameras but the department has to use them by the State's terms. The State does not cover the cost of storing the video footage. He would love to have video on use of force but there needs to be a balance. There would be a retention schedule set by the State Librarian on how long the department would need to store the footage and there also are issues with editing footage, for example if a juvenile is involved the footage would have to be edited in some way to protect the juvenile.

Mobile Data Terminals periodically need to be replaced in the cars.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the CIP Budget as submitted by Chief Stewart for 2017-2022. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart thanked Captain Olson for his work in putting the CIP Budget together.

g. Letter Re: POST – Officer Brett Cody

Officer Cody had been out on his own.

h. Letter Re: POST – Officer Richard Souza

Officer Souza's FTO has been extended twice. There will be further discussion in the future.

i. Potential Ordinance Bi-Directional Amplifier

Many windows and bullet proof glass that are being installed in the schools has prevented the portable radios from communicating. The bi-directional amplifier helps amplify the radios and gets the broadcast outside the building. The new radio system may alleviate this but bi-directional amplifiers may still be needed. Chief Stewart gave the Commissioners the West Hartford's Ordinance for Bi-Directional Amplifiers in large new construction buildings which has become a model for the State.

Chief Stewart is looking to see if the Commission would like him to send this off to the town attorney to review to potentially bring this to the Board of Selectmen, then to the Town meeting to make an ordinance so if there is any future large scale construction there is an ordinance to make sure there will be emergency communication capability inside the building. Chief Stewart would modify this template to meet the Stonington Police Department's needs.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion for the Chief to take the radio bi-directional amplification system forward to a possible ordinance change. Seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

j. End Probation: Officers Powell & Friend *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that Officer Powell and Officer Friend have both been doing a wonderful job and they are upcoming stars for the department.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to terminate probation for Officers Powell & Officer Friend. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Officer Wholean made the first save with NARCAN.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy attended the UCONN Transportation Institute of Technology Transfer Center (T2) for the understanding of roadway safety data program. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy stated that they were able to see the UCONN database that tracks accidents on highways and breaks down accidents by town and roads. It is very useful data. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy gave information to Chief Stewart to forward to the Commissioners.

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

11. Consent Agenda


- a. Letter Re: Thank you – St. Michael School
- b. Letter Re: Thank You – SHYC Wounded Warrior Project
- c. Letter Re: Kelley's Pace Events
- d. Highway Use Permit – Veterans Day Parade
- e. Letter Re: Thank You – Mystic Seaport Antique Vehicle Show
- f. E-Mail Re: Traffic in Boro
- g. Click-It or Ticket Request for Proposal (Wave 51 and 52)
- h. Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control
- i. Letters Re: Donations to K-9 Fund

Commissioner Trebisacci made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. All in favor, motion approved.

12. Adjourn

At 6:44 p.m., Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri Gourd
Secretary