

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 8, 2016
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Remarks of Public

None

3. New Business

a. Approval of 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule *VOTE NEEDED*

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the 2017 Regular Meeting Schedule for the Board of Police Commissioners. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

b. Planning & Zoning Special Use Permit – Go Fish Restaurant *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Chairman Holt reached out to the Commission in regard to the Routing Sheet for a 1,900-square foot addition and interior reconfiguration to the Go Fish restaurant. Approval of the expansion will have no impact on public safety, traffic or parking. Chief Stewart does not foresee any issues. Informing the Police Commission is part of the formal process.

No action.

4. Old Business

None.

5. Traffic

None

6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, November 10, 2016 REGULAR Meeting *VOTED NEEDED*

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

7. Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

b. Monthly Report

Chief Stewart informed the Commission that there were 22 DWI's in November which is a near record high. The year to date DWI total is 154. The number of accidents in November 2016 was 46 compared to 34 in November

2015. The number of injury causing accidents is also up which may correlate to the increase in DWI's. Chief Stewart pointed out to the high school students in attendance the concerns of DWI and why it is important to be responsible.

Chief Stewart stated that the Department just had a seat belt wave. The number of assaults and disorderly conducts are up. All in all, the statistics are right around what Chief Stewart expected.

c. Alarm Report

Commissioner Tabor asked Chief Stewart why the number of registered alarms has declined but the year to date responses have increased. Chief Stewart answered by stating that the economic downfall played a role in the number of alarms that are registered with the Department. Also, weather can create the need for registering alarms. Alarms may go off if there are power outages so when the Department responds to an unregistered alarm, the owner is given a registration form and told to have the alarm registered with the Department. Chief Stewart drew a parallel between the number of accidents because of weather conditions such as snow and ice to the number of alarms responded to because of weather conditions or power outages.

d. Special Event Schedule

The Special Event Schedule is starting to fill up for 2017.

Chief Stewart reported to the Commission that Santa arrived via tugboat for the Annual Tree Lighting and the Holiday Lighted Boat Parade in Mystic. Thousands flocked to Mystic for this event which caused a traffic nightmare. Chief Stewart suggests that another discussion may be needed with the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce concerning this event. Another event coming up that is not on the list of special events is the Olde Mistick Village Festival of Lights. The event is mostly contained within the Olde Mistick Village; however, traffic problems still persist. The Department has 4 officers working this event as well as 2 state police officers for traffic on Route 95. Chief Stewart stated that gridlock is our enemy. It is becoming a challenge to keep emergency access flowing when traffic is at a standstill because of the huge numbers that events like the Olde Mistick Village Festival of Lights and the Annual Tree Lighting and the Holiday Lighted Boat Parade draw into the Town of Stonington. Events like these keep growing every year. Chief Stewart referred to a Sponge Bob Square Pants event put on by the Mystic Aquarium which caused traffic problems. The event drew in huge numbers and the traffic generated hit the Department out of the blue. Large events are increasing in number and create a growing concern in regard to traffic.

e. FY2017-2018 Budget *VOTE NEEDED*

Chairman Holt invited Chief Stewart to give an overview of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget.

The total salaries budget is \$4.1 million. This includes all personnel, the Chief, Captain, Lieutenants, Sergeants, Officers, Reserves, Dispatchers, Janitorial Staff, CSO's, Animal Control, Clerical and Crossing Guards. This figure also includes overtime, training, longevity and holiday pay. Salaries for the Lieutenants, Sergeants and Officers are all determined by union contract which increased 2.6%.

Chief Stewart commented that internal expenses which includes postage, advertising and office equipment was originally budgeted at \$43,700. Chief Stewart lowered that figure by \$300 within the advertising line item making the total budget for expenses \$43,400.

Services expenses includes building maintenance, maintenance of the radio system and the fuel, repair, storage and docking for the boat. Chief Stewart is looking to increase the originally budgeted figure by \$300 for a total of \$112,544.

The uniform budget for the officers was bumped up by union contract. The total expense for regular officers' uniforms is \$35,500.

Headquarters expenses includes the telecommunications line item which Chief Stewart upped to \$108,000. This category also includes expenses for furniture & equipment, physicals, and education incentive. Per Chief Stewart, no one has utilized the education incentive in two years so he lowered that line item by \$500.00 for a total of \$2500. The Headquarters expenses also includes the Municipal Employment Retirement Fund. This figure fluctuates and is determined by the Board of Finance.

The Police Commission expenses will remain the same as would the Regular and Reserve training expenses.

Animal Control expenses includes telephone service, clothing allowance, professional services and building maintenance. Chief Stewart reduced the professional services (veterinarian bills) line item by \$500 and the building maintenance line item by \$100. The total expense for Animal Control is \$6,000. The Animal Control facility located on Greenhaven Rd. was improved and updated a few years ago through a Capital Improvement Project.

The Maintenance and Operation of Vehicles expenses includes emergency and medical equipment, fuel, oil, parts & labor, and tires. Chief Stewart increased the parts & labor line item by \$1000 for a total of \$40,000. Chief Stewart increased the fuel line item by \$3500 because the Department has not locked in for a price on gasoline yet. Normally 31,000 gallons of fuel is utilized. The total expense for Maintenance and Operation of Vehicles is \$120,500.

Total Police Services Budget is \$4.9 million before the to be determined line items are added in from the Director of Finance.

Chief Stewart feels there needs to be a discussion with the Board of Finance to see where Stonington stands in regard to the ideal number of officers in the Department. Currently there are 38 full time officers, however, the Department is never up and running with a full workforce. There are always people either out ill or on vacation and people have been retiring or leaving. Chief Stewart goes on to say the Town of Stonington is unique. There are 1200 hotel rooms within the town and 70% of them are full. Chief Stewart calls this the hidden population. There is also a hidden population in regard to boaters that utilize the waters around Stonington. There is a new senior facility, Masonicare, which has added to the population. Spruce Meadows will be opening soon and there are plans for a facility on Jerry Browne Rd. All of these facilities and populations will require police services. The Department should be running in the range of 42-44 officers which coincides with the figure released by the FBI in relation to population. This does not even take into account the number of tourists that visit. There are around 3.1 million visitors to Mystic per year, 700-850,000 visitors to the Mystic Aquarium per year and about 300,000 visitors to the Mystic Seaport per year.

The Board of Finance has recognized this need for more officers and has slowly moved in the direction of adding more officers to the Department. Chief Stewart is asking to add another officer Jan. 1, 2018 to begin at the Academy. This officer would be fully trained and on the road by fall 2018. Chief Stewart wants to act on this now since it will be almost 2 years before the officer would be on the road. Chief Stewart would also like to add a third part-time dispatcher. Commissioner Tabor stated that what Chief Stewart has articulated about the uniqueness of Stonington is very important to convey. Commissioner Tabor supports the increase that Chief Stewart is asking of the Commission.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve a 2.6% salary increase to all non-union employees and to adopt the same Accrued Time/Sick Leave program as stated in Article IX, 9.1I and Article 15.1 of the contract manual, in regards to longevity pay for both the Chief and the Captain. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

f. A-Day Discussion – Chief/Captain

Approved in above motion.

g. CIP Project Request Form *VOTE NEEDED*

Captain Olson informed the Commission that there are two boilers that service the Police Department. One is for the Dispatch Center and the other services the rest of the building. One of the two boilers is damaged in the section where water is heated and it cannot be repaired. Extremely cold water is being fed into the boiler to be heated. This cold water has caused cracks and the unit was leaking water onto the floor. Now one unit is providing heat for the entire building. Captain Olson has worked on a contingency plan to get a temporary boiler if needed. He has reached out to the company, Trane, that replaced the A/C units. A mixer valve needs to be installed to correct the problem of ice cold water being fed into the system. This will allow for lukewarm water to be fed into the boiler. At installation, the boiler should never have been fed ice cold water. Installing the valve and a replacement boiler cannot be done until the summer because the system needs to be shut down completely and dismantled.

If a portion of the boiler is replaced it will not be warrantied. Captain Olson is also looking into analyzing the entire building and checking the option of replacing both boilers with high efficiency boilers that may result in significant tax credits and incentives. Captain Olson has an estimate from Trane for \$20,000 to replace one boiler and \$45,000 to replace both.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the CIP Project Request Form to retrofit the two existing boilers and have Trane also install a mixer valve. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. Chief Stewart discussed with the Commission that the CIP will go to the Board of Finance in order to address the issue the Department is facing with the boilers, however, if the high efficiency resolution works out, that would be presented in place of the retrofit. Captain Olson stated that it would be one plan or the other. All in favor, motion approved.

h. Letter Re: Richard Souza Resignation *VOTE NEEDED*

Commissioner Gourd made a motion to accept the resignation of Richard Souza. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

i. LEC Mutual Aid Compact *VOTE NEEDED*

The original compact was implemented by Chief Hedge in 1992-1993. With the creation of new police departments, for example Ledyard Police Department, the compact needed to be revised. There was some discussion about how the Mutual Aid Compact effects the Department.

Vice Chairman Trebisacci made a motion to forward LEC Mutual Aid Compact Motion to the Office of the First Selectman with the Police Commission's recommendation to have it approved. Motion seconded by Commissioner Gourd. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart informed the Commission Stuff a Cruiser will be held this Saturday from 10-3. Around noon time there will be a large donation of bicycles from the Formosa Yacht Club. The A/C units have been installed. There was a small amount of damage to the building caused by the crane but that has been fixed as well. The recruits

will graduate from the academy on December 21st. The new cruisers were picked up today and three are already ready for their up-fit.

Chief Stewart invited the high school students in attendance to ask questions about what they just listened to regarding the budget or anything they would like answered. Questions ranged from, "Have there ever been shots fired?" to "Why are the DWI's up in Stonington?" to "Do all the officers carry tasers?" Chief Stewart and Commissioners encouraged and answered all questions presented.

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

8. Consent Agenda

- a. Report – Economic Benefits of Mystic Half Marathon
- b. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Officer Wholean
- c. Memo Re: Completion of Probation – Officer Powell
- d. Memo Re: Completion of Probation – Officer Friend
- e. Letter Re: Mystic Half Marathon Approval
- f. Renewal of Permits for Pedestrian Safety Signs
- g. Letter Re: Thank You – Potter's House Church of God
- h. CPCA Nominating Committee Minutes
- i. Memo Re: Thank You – Officer Palmer

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

Chief Stewart thanked the Commission for all its support and for moving forward in a positive direction. He wished the Commission a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

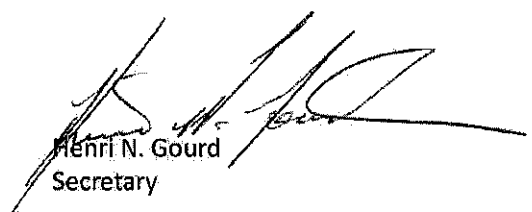
Chairman Holt stated that he is honored to be the Chair of the Board of Police Commission.

Commissioner Tabor gave the members of the Commission a hand out of instructions for completing a Capital Improvement request form.

12. Adjourn

At 6:12 p.m., Commissioner Gourd made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice Chairman Trebisacci. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henri N. Gourd
Secretary