

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, March 8, 2018  
5:00 P.M AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

AMENDED 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 5:01.

**2. Remarks of Public**

Lou Allyn, Mason's Island Resident

Mr. Allyn addressed the Police Commission in regard to speeding on Mason's Island. There was some discussion about the increase of traffic and speeding, about what traffic laws are enforceable on private roads and how to make these roads safer. Chief Stewart noted that an officer surveyed the speed and found that in one area on the private road the average speed was 15.92mph and in another area it was 20.66mph. On Mason's Island Rd (a public road) the average speed was 24.47mph. Chief Stewart suggests that when someone has a complaint, they contact the police immediately so the police may address the issues right away. He also explained that the Police Commission is the Local Traffic Authority and would have to decide whether or not they would entertain posting speed limit signs or speed bumps on Mason's Island. Chairman Trebisacci thanked Mr. Allyn and was appreciative of his comments. He informed Mr. Allyn that the Mason's Island Property Owner's Association may want to reach out to the Police Commission in regard to these issues.

Tabled.

**3. New Business**

**a. Donahue Road Race \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Julie Stillman, Representative for the Donahue Road Race

The race is held in memory of Pawcatuck Fire Chief Steven Donahue. Proceeds will go to the Stonington High School Scholarship Fund. Chief Stewart commented that the Pawcatuck Fire Department also helps out at this event and he sees no issues.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Donahue Road Race to be held on Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 3 p.m. as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**b. Brain Injury Alliance Race \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Chief Stewart explained that this is a casual bike riding event that goes from Avery Point through Mystic and into Westerly, RI. He recommends that the Police Commission approves this race.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to approve the Brain Injury Alliance 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Tour of Lights Bike for Thought Race to be held on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as submitted upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner O'Shaughnessy. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**c. March for Our Lives Event \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Hannah Lamb, Stonington High School Junior  
Elissa Bass, Resident

Ms. Lamb is seeking the approval from the Police Commission for the use of Spellman Drive. Stonington High School students would like to organize a rally and march in solidarity with Parkland, FL. They are planning on starting in Event Lot C, walk up Spellman Drive, walk through the teacher parking lot and congregate at the lighthouse area. This will be a school event so the insurance is a not a concern.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to approve the request for the use of Spellman Drive for the March for Our Lives Event to be held on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 with the understanding that the insurance will be provided by the Stonington High School and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

**4. Old Business**

**a. Past Due Alarm Fines: Tractor Supply & Five Guys \*FYI\***

Chief Stewart informed the Police Commission that Tractor Supply has a new manager who will be forwarding the past due fines to corporate. He will revisit this next month.

Five Guys will be moving from the Mystic location. Chief Stewart will keep the past due fines as an open item for now.

No action.

**b. Mystic Outdoor Art Festival Letter to Residents \*AS REQUESTED - FYI\***

Peggy Roberts, President, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce  
Lauren Giliberto, Co-Chairwoman, Mystic Outdoor Art Festival

As requested, thirty-two letters with surveys were sent out to residences and businesses along Haley Street, Stanton Place, Willow Street and Church Street. Seventeen surveys were returned and the overall response to the change in the route was negative, therefore, according to Ms. Giliberto, they are modifying their request to the Police Commission. There will be no booths on Willow St. Instead they are asking to keep the route the same as last year using Cottrell St., Holmes St., part of East Main St., part of Jackson Ave., and part of Washington St. with one slight change on Washington St. They are also looking for the Police Commission's approval for the use of golf carts. Golf carts will only be used by the chair, the two co-chairs and three volunteers.

Bill Scheer of Haley Street was in attendance and he inquired about handicapped parking during the event. Tammy Hayden of Haley Street was also in attendance and she commented on ways to make the event safer. Chairman Trebisacci thanked them for their comments.

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy made a motion to approve the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival to be held on Saturday, August 11 and Sunday, August 12, 2018 based on the information presented to the Police Commission by the Mystic Outdoor Art Festival Committee upon proof of proper insurance and subject to the requirements the administration and the Chief may deem necessary. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

## **5. Traffic**

### **a. E-Mail Re: Speeding Traffic on Cove Road**

Doris Rich, Cove Road Resident

Ms. Rich expressed her concerns about speeding on Cove Road. Numerous times in the past she has addressed these concerns to the Police Commission and nothing has been done to remedy the situation. The road is too wide on the straightaway and promotes speeding. She feels that white lines may help in this area as well as speed bumps or an electronic device that can scan plates and send tickets to speeders. Ms. Rich has lived on Cove Road for almost sixty years and the increase in traffic and speeding is an ongoing concern.

Chief Stewart acknowledged that speeding is a concern but that installing stop signs does not control speed and speed bumps create more problems. Currently, the State of Connecticut does not allow for the use of electronic ticket devices. The best way to curb speeding is to place a cruiser in the area. The threat of a ticket will make drivers slow down. According to Chief Stewart, there is no easy answer. He will put Cove Road on the hot spot list and do a survey on the speed. If warranted, the speed signs may be used to collect additional data. Commissioner Tabor commented that there may be even more traffic on Cove Road due to the consolidation of the middle schools. The Police Commission thanked Ms. Rich for voicing her concerns.

### **b. Route 1A (Trumbull Street) @ North Water Street**

John & Binti Ackley, Omega Drive Resident

Mr. Ackley brought to the Police Commissioner's attention the issue with the sightlines at the Trumbull Avenue and North Water Street intersection. Mr. Ackley has had some close calls when taking a right hand turn from Trumbull Ave onto North Water Street. Cars parked along North Water Street obstruct the view from Trumbull Ave and there is no stop sign on North Water Street at this intersection. Chief Stewart has reached out to the DOT. They recommend to do nothing with the existing design. Chief Stewart noted that residents will complain if they restrict parking, however, if a stop sign is installed they will still lose at least two spaces due to the fact that there would be no parking 25 feet from the stop sign.

Tabled until next meeting to give the Police Commissioners time to look at the area and to decide if anything will be done.

### **c. Traffic Study: Mistuxet @ Cove Road Intersection**

Commissioner O'Shaughnessy explained that it is necessary to inch out past the white stop line on Cove Rd in order to see oncoming traffic on Mistuxet Ave. Vice Chairman Gourd noted that the width of the

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road is also an issue. Chairman Trebisacci stated that with the consolidation of the middle schools, there will be more traffic in this area. Chief Stewart will contact Scot Deledda and Barbara McKrell to see if anything can be done with this intersection.

### **d. Town of Stonington Project 172-474 Pedestrian Signing and Pavement Marking Project on Local Roads**

This is an FYI for the Police Commission. Chief Stewart will inform them that there is no need for a full hearing.

### **e. 2018 Resurfacing Program Installation of Centerline Rumble Strips**

This is an FYI for the Police Commission. The State will be repaving Route 1 from the Stonington Shell to the Mystic train station and will be installing the centerline rumble strips in areas that meet the required criteria. Commissioner Tabor noted that there are some maintenance concerns regarding rumble strips, however, this would be an issue for the State and not the Town. Chief Stewart commented that the centerline rumble strips are very effective.

Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to accept the recommendation from the State of Connecticut to put in centerline rumble strips as outlined by the State of Connecticut. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

### **6. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, February 8, 2018 Regular Meeting \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Commissioner Elmer made a motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, February 8, 2018 regular meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tabor. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy recused himself due to absence from the February meeting. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

### **7. Report of the Chief of Police**

#### **a. Budget Report**

According to Chief Stewart, we are 63.8% through the fiscal year and 61.3% of the budget has been used. He sees no major issues. Vice Chairman Gourd questioned the Building Maintenance line item. Chief Stewart noted that this was due to the fact that there were additional expenses that were necessary for the air conditioning system beyond the scope of the bid.

#### **b. Monthly Report**

Chief Stewart stated that there were 158 Ill/Injured Persons in February, 124 summonses and 17 DUI's. There were also a lot of calls due to the winter storms.

#### **c. Alarm Report**

Commissioner Tabor asked Chief Stewart why the number of alarms have declined to which Chief Stewart noted that some registrations are still coming in and also some owners are using different technologies to protect their homes and properties.

#### **d. Special Event Schedule**

#### **e. Radio Project Update**

Chairman Trebisacci informed the Police Commission that he had the joy and privilege to experience Mr. LaSaracina's worth to the Police Department at the Motorola meeting. With Mr. LaSaracina's help, Stonington will be able to tie into a system that is the best the State can offer. Chairman Trebisacci went

into further detail discussing what he learned about the radio system at the meeting. This is a great undertaking and the system is impressive. Chief Stewart noted that in July they will be moving Mr. LaSaracina's fee to the operating budget line and increasing it to \$2500 per month. He further noted that there will be a meeting with RI about the RI State system which has a similar set up. They are still working on getting the portables.

Captain Olson discussed with the Police Commission about the radio reception in Dean's Mill and West Vine Street Schools and also the reception at Mystic Middle.

#### **1. Radio Shelter Work**

- i. Jet Electro Finishing Inc**  
An epoxy floor was needed in the radio room.
- ii. SNS Electric LLC**  
An electrician was needed for work being done in the radio room.

#### **2. Signed Memorandum of Understanding**

This is an FYI for the Police Commission.

#### **f. School Safety Update**

Officer Cullen and Officer Paige have been meeting with the school administrators regarding school safety. Commissioner O'Shaughnessy mentioned that he saw one of the school safety drills and was glad to see the strong relationship between the police department and the school administrators and personnel.

#### **g. New Police Cars**

The new cars are in according to Chief Stewart. They are just waiting on the new radios.

#### **h. Covanta Invoice**

This was an FYI for the Police Commissioners in regard to the \$328 charge to incinerate the drugs from the drug drop box in the lobby. This was an unanticipated expense. Commissioner Tabor commented on possibly getting the fee waived. Chief Stewart will look into it.

#### **i. Chaplain Program Discussion**

Chief Stewart remarked that there is a draft policy in the Police Commissioner's packet regarding the Chaplain Program and he will be putting this item on next month's agenda. He further discussed the interest in formalizing a Chaplain Training Program.

#### **j. Dispatcher Tim Desillier – 30 Years of Service Recognition**

Chief Stewart will send Dispatcher Desillier a letter and a plaque.

#### **k. Officer Ryan Rodgers – End of Probation \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Officer Rodgers has been out of the Academy for a year. Chief Stewart recommends that the Police Commissioners end his probation.

Commissioner Tabor made a motion to end probation for Officer Ryan Rodgers. Motion seconded by Commissioner Elmer. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief Stewart updated the Police Commission about the issues with Farmholme Road after every storm. He spoke with EverSource about how to prevent these power outage issues.

Captain Olson noted that Ice Cream with a Cop will be held at Mel's Creamery. He also informed the Police Commission that hiring closed on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-two people applied and so far, twelve will be coming to the agility on Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup>. He further discussed some of the potential candidates. Also, a new crossing guard has been hired to replace Mr. Bump.

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.

#### **8. Consent Agenda**

- a. Highway Use Permit: Memorial Day Parade**
- b. Letters & Highway Use Permit Re: Good Friday Walk**
- c. Letter Re: Crossing Guard Herbert Bump Resignation**
- d. Letter Re: Lions Club Race**

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 7:00 p.m., Vice Chairman Gourd made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Elmer, all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert O'Shaughnessy  
Secretary