

TOWN OF OLD SAYBROOK
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE



302 Main Street • Old Saybrook, Connecticut 06475-2384
Telephone (860) 395-3123 • Fax (860) 395-3125

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MARINE PATROL ADHOC COMMITTEE
MINUTES
Thursday, February 11, 2016
7:00 P.M.
Town Hall – Cafeteria
AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER-All members present excepting Joe Maselli**
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE-Recited**
- III. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC-None at this time**
- IV. BUSINESS BEFORE THE BOARD**

- A. Election of Officers. Mr. Thorpe nominate Mr. Fortuna as Chairman, Seconded by Mr. O’Nell-So moved. Mr. O’Nell nominated Mr. Thorpe as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Fortuna. So moved. Mr. Fortuna nominated Mr. O’Nell as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Thorpe. So moved.

Discussion on marine patrol and coast guard surplus. Carl Fortuna informed the audience of the availability of a used coast guard vessel that could possibly be used as a police boat. He was made aware of the availability of 6 USCG 25' Response boats, with triple axel boat trailers, being surplused, in Buzzards Bay Massachusetts, by Les Bowman, a member of the OS Harbor Mgt Committee. Carl followed up on the information and was informed by the USCG contracting Officer, Karen Craig, that the vessels were being offered to town and state agencies for \$25K prior to being offered at public auction. The agency bidding would need to review the boat, make full payment and remove the vessel from government property by March 9, 2016. Carl had SGT DePerry and Walsh travel to Buzzards Bay to review the boats for possible use for OS Marine Patrol. The SGT's identified one vessel which was in good condition and could suit our mission. Carl took an option this vessel subject to an acceptable pre purchase survey, evaluation and cost of upgrading and outfitting the unit for service and approval of the board of selectman, board of finance and town meeting. The vessel being investigated would need (2) new 225HP engines at a cost of \$30K. Other equipment needed would be the Radar, GPS Depth Finder. Communications equipment will be transferred from our current vessel and it is estimated the full cost of this new /used vessel will be approximately \$75K. Carl explained that the new vessel if purchased would not go into the water until July 1, 2016 and that \$50K currently in the 2015/2016 budget could be used towards the purchase with only \$25K of new money needed to purchase the boat. The boat survey will be completed by Wednesday and we will schedule another committee meeting for a week from today.

Mr. Cooper asked about the electronics on the CG boat. It was noted that they were stripped.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC- Mr. Duhig made a variety of comments. He commented that he thought the OSPD does not need a boat, that the enforcement actions are so few and far between, the cost is not justified, that the town is putting the cart before the horse, that if we get a boat we could get an 18' and put one man on it (like DEEP), that this boat will create more of a wake than the other boats in the river it is trying to prevent a wake from. He continued that the committee was supposed to review the mission and now that is all being bypassed. Carl responded that there is a policy and procedures manual for Marine Patrol describing the geographical responsibilities and mission from the former Chief of Police dated Sept 23, 2002.

Bill Webb stated that two 225's is a lot of power, why do we need so much power?, a smaller boat would suffice, that we should explain the mission better as it relates to other town assets.

Mr. Cooper believes 18' is not big enough, especially not in the sound, that paying an officer 1.5 pay is a tough thing to swallow and that we might be better off hiring just a part-time officer for this. However, he was then told that this is bargaining unit work and that would not be practicable. He asked about Town liability if something does happen in our waters (answer to this is unclear). Feels that the taxpayers want coordination, a policy based on need rather than wants.

Ms. Manning stated that she thought this might indeed be a good idea but is looking for more clarification as to the mission, cost of two engines (gas and upkeep), and what expense there is to labeling the boat and the lights. She asked about overtime and how the boat will be manned. Sgt Walsh stated that the budget was based on a middle of the road salary with a police officer on time and a half pay and the boat handler on straight time.

Mr. Goduti thought this was a reasonable "deal" but that there may be distrust of the system and that some answers as to this program will be needed at a town meeting.

Mr. Thorpe indicated that the mission is the waters of Old Saybrook, emergencies and mutual aid. That is what the current policy states.

Officer DePerry says it is necessary to go as far west as Chalker Beach to properly enforce water-skiing rules.

Mr. Root did not feel that a 24.5 foot boat is too big at all. The public perception of the OSPD is the problem.

Renee Root had no problem with the town having a boat. However, she simply feels that this program and the OSPD have a public relations problem as a result of the Homeland Security boat that was defeated at referendum.

Mr. Mulvihill stated that the CG cannot be everywhere and certainly does not patrol this area. 2 people are needed on a boat especially if you need to board another boat.

Mr. O'Neil agreed that there needs to be a coordinated policy.

V. ADJOURNMENT-at 8:39