

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2008
7:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman James O'Boyle, Vice-Chair Dennis Curran
Commissioners Susette Tibus and Dr. Stephen Coan
Chief David Erskine, Acting Deputy Chief Darren Stewart, and
Captain Jerry Desmond
Absent: Commissioner John Holstein

1) Call to Order

Chairman O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Chairman O'Boyle thanked Chief Erskine for 42 years of service.

2) Remarks of Visitors

Regarding installation of stop signs on Lathrop Avenue:

- Mr. Lopes, resides on corner of Lathrop & South Broad Street: Cannot see any reason to install stop signs on Lathrop Avenue. Believes this will cause noise problems as people stop & start acceleration. In addition, Mr. Lopes commended one of the patrolmen for warning drivers of actions during the past ice storm for letting driver know about ice
- Mr. Canova, resides at 6 Lathrop Ave: Mr. Canova agrees with Mr. Lopes, stop sign will cause additional noise, he does not believe they are necessary.
- Resident of 21 Lathrop Ave: Driveway would be in middle of intersection, foresees problems when exiting. Also foresees noise issues & possible concerns with rubbish being discarded when stopping. Offered to allow town to place traffic trailer on property to display drivers speed.
- Frances O'Neil, #34 Lathrop Avenue: Believes that if the road was wider there would be no need for stop signs, and she stated that nobody obeys the stop signs that are already in place. In addition, Ms. O'Neil has concerns with the sight line on the corner of Lathrop Avenue & Palmer Street due to beach roses that were planted there, as well as the lighting on Mayflower Avenue. Chairman O'Boyle requested that Acting Deputy Chief Stewart assign someone to look into the sight line issue as well as the street lights in this area.
- Jean Marie Roche, #23 Lathrop Avenue: Would like stop signs installed, concerns with speeding on road and believes stop signs would help.
- Ron Brunelle, 64 Palmer Street: Has a concern with safety issues when walking. Since there are no sidewalks on Lathrop Avenue, when it snows he is forced to walk in the travel portion of the road; cars do not obey the speed limit, would like stop signs installed.
- Chief Erskine not in favor of stop sign; does not believe they are necessary as no accidents have been reported at this site.

2) **Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)**

Flanders Road:

- Carol Goodman: wondering how to go about changing speed limit sign on Flanders Road. Chairman O'Boyle requested Chief Erskine have letter sent to state traffic commission to request review of area.

Seaport Traffic Issues:

- William Parent, Director of Facilities and Projects, Mystic Seaport: concerned with high rate of speed on Greenmanville Ave. Seaport has a number of crosswalks utilized by visitors and staff; believes there is a significant safety issue when people are crossing the street. Posted speed limit is 30, although it does not appear this is obeyed by drivers. Monies were granted to conduct a transportation study to address these concerns; however changes may not occur for over a year before study is complete. Chief Erskine will write letter to DOT referencing study and addressing current concerns. Commissioner Coan suggesting putting pedestrian crossing signs in road, Mr. Parent will look into this suggestion.

Intersection of Stillman Avenue & Liberty Street:

- Mr. Canova, 6 Lathrop Avenue, Pawcatuck: concern with speeding on Liberty Street at this location. Requests that Police Commission investigate the possibility of a traffic light at the intersection of Liberty Street and Stillman Avenue, along with a flashing sign located at the top of Liberty Street by St. Michaels Church warning motorists that light is red at the intersection of Liberty and Stillman. Acting Deputy Chief Stewart will look into accident records at the sight & speak to DOT representative.

3) **Approval of Minutes for the November 8, 2007 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Curran seconded by Commissioner Tibus to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2007 Regular Meeting and it was voted.

4) **Approval of Minutes for the January 3, 2008 Special Meeting**

Revision to January 3 Minutes

- E. Executive Session
 - Should read: A motion was made by Commissioner Coan at 4:20 PM and approved to go into Executive Session to discuss the Lieutenant's position.

Upon the above revisions, a motion was made by Commissioner Coan and seconded by Commissioner Tibus with Commissioner Curran abstaining to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2008 Special Meeting and it was voted.

5) **Report of the Chief of Police**

- a. Received a letter from Kevin Riley approval of fire lane ordinance in front of the Higgins Pharmacy Building at 37-39 West Broad Street
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Curran and seconded by Commissioner Tibus to approve the fire lane ordinance. Motion approved.
- b. Tally of sick leave for 2007 submitted.
- c. On January 5th Acting Deputy Chief Stewart, Chief Erskine, Chairman O'Boyle, and Sgt. Smith had meeting in Boro with Wardens and Selectman to have better working relationship. Various issues discussed.
- d. A Subcommittee including Commissioner Tibus, Captain Desmond, Sgt. Smith and a Statewide A.C.O. concluded to make a conditional offer of employment to present part time A.C.O Rae-Jean Davis.
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Tibus to make a conditional offer of full time employment to A.C.O. Rae-Jean Davis. Seconded by Commissioner Curran and approved.
- e. Retirement party on January 18th at Elks Club for John Carr.
- f. Acting Deputy Chief Stewart met with Major Fields of CT State Police as well as other area Chiefs of Police regarding how to divert traffic off of Interstate 95 when it is shut down after a major accident. This meeting was prompted after the accident that occurred in East Lyme last month that caused complete gridlock in East Lyme and surrounding towns as motorists tried to find alternate routes. DOT is willing to fund any towns that 95 runs through to form diversion plans. Deputy Chief Stewart commented that Stonington is unique in having 3 exits (90, 91, & 92) to access 95. Exit 92 diverting to Route 2 is an option; however using exits 90 and 91 would cause major gridlock on Route 27 and Taugwonk road, respectively. Acting Deputy Chief Stewart suggested the best option is diverting as far back as possible to Route 184. DOT requesting any input for permanent signage for alternative routes.
- g. Captain Desmond commented on the \$6K of approved emergency management funding allocated to traffic control items. Ten water filled barriers purchased, will purchase a trailer to hold them, 10-15 plastic barriers, a trailer hitch for the new pick up, and 10-15 tall orange and white cones.
- h. Captain Desmond commented on testing of applicants. In the first wave of agility testing, 24 candidates were invited, 4 showed, and 1 failed. In the second wave 33 candidates were invited, 3 showed, and 1 failed. The five candidates that got through the agility test will move onto an oral board on January 16th. Another pool of names was requested to enlarge the current pool.
- i. Detective Coco is retiring after 31 years. Last day of work will be February 15. Detective Coco would like to be a reserve officer and the Chief recommends him for this position.
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Coan, seconded by Vice-Chair Curran to make Joseph Coco a member of the Police Reserve. Motion approved.
- j. Acting Deputy Chief Stewart will become the designee to the State Traffic Commission as of February 1st.

5) Report of the Chief of Police (cont'd)

- k. Statistic report submitted for the past 10 years as well as for the year.
- l. Chief received a phone call from Mary Lynn Donahue requesting road race in honor of Stephen Donahue. Chief Erskine recommended approval as long as necessary insurance is in place.
 - o A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran and seconded by Commissioner Tibus to approve the road race in honor of Stephen Donahue on April 22, 2008 as well as adding this race to the list of races that the Chief can approve. Motion carried.
- m. Chief received letter requesting approval for Duck Race on April 18. Chief recommended approval as long as necessary insurance is in place. Also requested Capt Desmond look into whether Pawcatuck Park can be used.
- n. Fiscal Year 2008 / 2009 Budget submitted. Meeting with First Selectman Monday January 14th at 8am.
- o. Alarm report submitted.
- p. Dock & Boat ordinance brought in for the Commissions review by Acting Deputy Chief Stewart. The Commission may forward any comments to him.
- q. A motion was made by Commission Coan to commend Captain Desmond for implementing the "This Is Your Captain Speaking" program, seconded by Vice-Chair Curran and approved.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to accept the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

6) Correspondence

- a. Letter Re: Officer Joseph Coco Retirement
- b. Memo Re: Detective Joseph Coco Retirement
- c. Letter Re: Retirement of Detective Coco & Officer Carr

7) Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: A.C.O Hiring Process
- b. Memo Re: Pawcatuck Street Scape
- c. Letter Re: Donation Animal Control Facility
- d. Memo Re: Donation Animal Control Facility
- e. Memo Re: Job Well Done - Trebisacci
- f. Letter Re: Job Well Done - Officer Fiore
- g. Letter Re: Job Well Done – Stonington Police Department
- h. Memo Re: Missing Persons Guidelines from POST
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Coan to incorporate Missing Persons Guidelines from POST into part of Chapter 13 – "Incidents & Follow-ups" of Stonington Police Departments Rules & Regulations. Seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran and seconded by Commissioner Coan to approve the Consent Agenda and it was voted.

8) Traffic

- a. Letter Re: Traffic Issues – Route 27 Mystic Seaport
- b. Letter Re: Traffic – Pawcatuck Farms
- c. Letter Re: Mystic Irish Parade 03/30/08
- d. Letter Re: Stop Sign Lathrop Avenue - Roche
- e. Letter Re: Stop Sign Lathrop Avenue - Jones
- f. Letter Re: Stop Sign Lathrop Avenue - Montalto
- g. Letter Re: Stop Sign Lathrop Avenue - O'Neil
- h. Letter Re: Stop Sign Lathrop Avenue - Brunelle

9) Old Business

None

10) New Business

None

11) Adjourn

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:36PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Morosini
Secretary