

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JULY 10, 2008  
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman O'Boyle called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**2) Remarks of Visitors**

No Parking, James Street, Lord's Point

Chairman O'Boyle recused himself and requested Vice-Chair Curran preside over this matter.

Ray Thompson, 25 Langworthy Avenue

Nominated to speak on behalf of Lord's Point Association, which is not in favor of additional 'no parking' signs.

Speaking as a property owner, he believes adding 3 additional stop signs at the intersections of James Street and Langworthy Avenue will alleviate any problems.

Richard Drake, 32 James Street

Stated this situation exists throughout Lords Point. Believes 'no parking' signs will not serve any valid purpose, they will only exacerbate the problem. Asked that the Commission decline request for 'no parking' signs on James Street.

John Saari, 45 Langworthy

Mr. Saari is a retired state police officer and has dealt with parking issues during his career. Mr. Saari completed measurements of the area, compared them to state requirements, and in his opinion cars parking on James Street do not violate any statues. In addition, as a resident of Langworthy Avenue he does not believe there are any safety issues when cars are parked on James Street. He agrees with Ray Thompson's statement that adding 3 stop signs will alleviate concerns.

Mark Robbins, 31 Langworthy Avenue

Not in favor of 'no parking' signs.

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

No Parking, James Street, Lord's Point (cont'd)

Carolyn Galligan, 33 Langworthy Avenue

Cars double parked on James Street were the reason she sent a letter to the Commission. Since the letter went out and the situation was addressed by the Commission she has witnessed no further issues.

Dixie Lufbery

Stated that at one time there was a 'no parking' sign on James Street, it was illegally removed several years ago and never put back. Believes there are safety issues when cars are parked on James Street and would like the 'no parking' sign reinstalled.

Megan Dunnarumo

Sight is blocked due to parked vehicles, has almost been in accidents at intersection and believes 'no parking' signs are necessary.

Jack Morehouse, 17 Boulder Avenue

Believes parking on James Street is necessary, as installing 'no parking' signs will only cause additional problems on other streets.

Vice-Chair Curran requested the Commission address agenda item 7g at this time.

## 7) **Traffic**

g. Memo Re: James Street "No Parking Sign"

Vice-Chair Curran visited the site with Chief Stewart and presented photographs. He stated James Street is a narrow street, but not the narrowest lacking 'no parking' signs. Vice-Chair Curran requested input from the school department as well as Fire Department Chief Texiera. The school department had no issues, but Chief Texiera had a truck drive through the area and believes it would be hazardous for cars to be parked on both sides of the street. Vice-Chair Curran also stated that history of signage cannot be found, and the Commission would still have to make a ruling whether the sign was already there or not.

Vice-Chair Curran believes there are other narrower streets in this area where 'no parking' signs would have greater validity, and does not see a need for 'no parking' signs on James Street at this time. Commissioner Coan agrees, and believes putting 'no parking' on one street is going to cause additional parking problems on other street. No motion was made by the Commission, and the issue of stop signs will be addressed at a future meeting.

With the conclusion of the James Street discussion Vice-Chair Curran turned the meeting back over to Chairman O'Boyle.

### **3) Approval of Minutes for the June 12, 2008 Special Meeting**

Correction:

Report of the Chief, Item 6d should read:

- d. Branford holding reserve police academy totaling 798 hours for the course, which includes 18 months of training with the candidate being hired at the end as a reserve officer.

Upon the above corrections, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran seconded by Commissioner Tibus to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2008 Special Meeting and it was voted.

### **4) Report of the Chief of Police**

- a. Meeting tomorrow morning regarding Blessing of the Fleet this weekend.
- b. Captain met with Segway representative regarding planned Mystic location
- c. Street light process: working with the Town Engineer and First Selectman developing a process to address issues with street lights as efficiently as possible.
- d. Budget update: since the budget has not passed all necessary expenditures must be approved by the Board of Finance. The Chief has created a process and put it in place until this occurs. Next Board of Finance meeting is Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup>.
- e. There have been two more motorcycle accidents. Chief Stewart has requested the Captain review for commonalities and has also contacted the Police Chief's Association regarding this reoccurring problem; options to address include running ads or scheduling training sessions with the DOT.
- f. There have been two minor accidents with cruisers, one with a deer and the other backing into a guard rail.
- g. Chief Stewart will be on vacation next week and out of town for two of those days; the Captain will be on vacation July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- h. Attorney Satti - Reserve Academy  
Attorney Satti addressed the Commission at the request of the Chief regarding issues with fair labor practices that may arise if Stonington elects to send a candidate to the Reserve Academy offered by the City of Branford. Attorney Satti stated while it may be the opinion of Gary Picci of the Department of Labor that there is potential to exempt from compensation a significant number of classroom hours as well as field training hours, Attorney Satti believes a more conservative approach is needed, as the ultimate decision would be left up to a jury should a case actually go to trial. Chief Stewart stated there is the option of paying a candidate minimum wage. Attorney Satti would like to speak to Gary Picci in person before the decision is made to send a candidate to the Academy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tibus to accept the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holstein and approved.

## 5) Correspondence

- a. Memo Re: Officer Peckham – Tuition Reimbursement
- b. Memo Re: Officer Capalbo – Job Well Done
- c. Memo Re: UCONN Technology Transfer Center Courses
- d. Memo Re: Stonington Garden Club
- e. Chapter 12 Revision – Request From Lt. Beebe
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to approve the Chapter 12 revision as requested by Lt. Beebe. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved.
- f. Letter Re: Perrin Retirement

## 6) Consent Agenda

- a. Letter Re: Battle of Stonington Run
- b. Memo Re: Mystic Community Bikes
- c. Report Re: Re-Arrest Warrants
- d. Letter Re: Memorial Day Parade
- e. Letter Re: Coast Weeks Row – Mystic Seaport
- f. Memo Re: Special Olympics Torch Run

A motion was made by Commissioner Holstein and seconded by Commissioner Coan to approve the Consent Agenda and it was voted.

## 7) Traffic

- a. Memo Re: Chase Street & Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center
- b. Letter Re: Jeffrey Road Sub-Division
- c. Letter Re: No Parking Zone – East Main St., Mystic
- d. Letter Re: Speed Limit – Flanders Road
- e. Letter Re: Hampton Inn & Suites/Retail/Residential
- f. E-mail Re: Traffic Issues on Pequotsepos Road
- g. Memo Re: James Street “No Parking Sign”
  - Moved under “Remarks of Visitors”
- h. E-mail Re: James Street – Stop Sign Request
- i. Rich Petrillo – Segway Riders Mystic
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to approve the request by Rich Petrillo of Segway Riders to provide guided Segway tours in Mystic provided proper insurance is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved.
  - The Commission will monitor for complaints and review and end of season, as well as add review as agenda item for Commission meeting in April or May of 2009.
- j. Pawcatuck Fire Department – Request for Fire Zone
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to approve the request by the Pawcatuck Fire Department for a fire zone at Stonington Arms senior housing complex. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

**8) Executive Session**

At 6:19PM a motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of interviewing Officer Candidates. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

The Board of Police Commissioners came out of Executive Session at 7:30PM. Vice-Chairman Curran made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tibus to make a conditional offer of employment to Joseph Saunders, pending satisfactory completion of background, polygraph, physical, and psychological testing. Candidate Jonathon DePerry will be retained with the current pool of candidates under consideration. Candidate Nicholas Rankin will not be retained for additional consideration. Motion approved.

Vice-Chairman Curran made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:32PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Larese-Casanova  
Secretary