

**DRAFT**  
**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**MARCH 13, 2008**  
**5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Chairman James O'Boyle, Vice-Chair Dennis Curran,  
Commissioners Dr. Stephen Coan and Susette Tibus,  
Chief Darren Stewart, Lieutenant Curioso and Lieutenant Bebe  
Absent: Commissioner John Holstein

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

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

**2) Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works – Re: Cove Road**

Presentation of the Cove Road Realignment Project  
Joe Bragaw, Director of Public Works

Project will be completed by Town Highway Department. A detailed map of Cove Road and photographs were presented. Mr. Bragaw stated he was present at the meeting to specifically request Commission approval to go forward with the road realignment as originally constituted and make the Commission aware that a detour will need approval when this takes place. In addition, Mr. Bragaw discussed the possibility of widening the road from 15 feet to 18 feet going southward approximately 300 feet past the home of Mr. Rathbun. Mr. Bragaw also commented on his concern of keeping current stonewalls in place as well as the importance of repaving the road, especially since the equipment needed will already be on site. Mr. Bragaw stressed that if nothing is done now to fix pavement the stability of the road will deteriorate rapidly.

**3) Remarks of Visitors**

**Comments regarding Cove Road:**

A resident of 192 Cove Road questioned if the poles between 197 & 193 Cove Road will go back up or if they will be buried underground, and whether it was feasible for residents to contribute to the cost of burying the lines if they wish to. Mr. Bragaw stated he was meeting with AT&T next week to stake out where poles will be placed, which will allow residents to view and provide input on their location, and that the cost to bury the lines underground is enormous.

Harry Martin, 193 Cove Road:

Questioned whether residents or AT&T is responsible for moving poles to accommodate road. Mr. Bragaw stated that AT&T is responsible for the entire cost of relocating the poles, whereas the Town is responsible for the cost incurred if they are buried.

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## 3) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

### Comments regarding Cove Road (cont'd):

Jared & Judith Beaulieu 197 Cove Road:

Ms. Beaulieu questioned whether guard rails will be put in front of stone wall in front of their property. Mr. Bragaw stated that if the Town touches any part of the road at that location then the Town is responsible for safety and would need to. Mr. Beaulieu believes it is the 10 and 14 wheel trucks that are responsible for causing major damage to road as opposed to automobiles. Chief Stewart commented that by law the Town cannot stop these trucks from using this road, and referenced the case of Griswold Sand & Gravel vs. the State of Connecticut (one town through a town into another town). He is also concerned with the additional expense of moving south of original plan and what reassessments will be made to absorb this cost.

Mr. Palmer:

Questioned if accommodations have been made for safety personnel access when Cove Road is closed. Also concerned with grade of road surrounding cut out by private road. Also requested speed bumps on road to increase safety. Mr. Bragaw stated arrangements have not been made yet for safety personnel, but they will be before the road is closed. In addition, the grade of the road will not change.

Frank Rich, 146 Cove Road:

Concerned with speeding on road, believes it will get worse with widening.

David Rathbun:

Concerned about speeding. Requested 3 way stop at Kidds way. Questioned whether it is possible to move poles and not increase width. Mr. Bragaw stated this is a possibility.

Tom Ludlow, 132 Cove Road:

Understands safety issues, but believes this is prettiest section of road & believes it will resemble Interstate 95 if guard rails are put in place. Believes road is fine with a 25 mile per hour limit. Does not want guardrails or widening of the road to occur, and agrees with a 3 way stop at Kidds Way. Discussion of burying lines was again brought up, and the First Selectman requested Joe Bragaw obtain the actual cost of burying the wires.

Chris Palmer, 224 Cove Road:

Concerned with stone wall located by private road and questioned if it can be relocated. In addition, he is also concerned with increased speeding if the road is widened. Mr. Bragaw stated he is looking to the Boards to direct him on what to do.

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## 3) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

### Comments regarding Cove Road (cont'd):

Bill Griffin, 212 Cove Road:

Concerned with finances surrounding project, and whether all finances were available as only \$25K was originally appropriated. Mr. Bragaw stated the Board Of Finance originally appropriated \$25K, then re-appropriated additional to \$58K from the Town CIP account. A total of \$83K is available.

Chair O'Boyle requested that anytime there is an issue with speeding on any Town roads that the Board of Police Commissioners is made aware, and that the Commission will review a 3 way stop sign at Kidds Way.

Doris Rich, 146 Cove Road:

Lives on straight part, very concerned with speed, and will approve of anything that can be done to limit speeding.

Mr. Bragaw concluded by stating that the realignment of Cove Road is much safer, and if the Board of Finance and the Board of Police Commissioners do not want to go forward with the widening of the road (which he believes is a safety issue for the Town), at least repave the road while crews are out there.

At this time a Motion was made by Commissioner Curran seconded by Commissioner Coan to move agenda item 9 to item 4. Motion carried.

## 4) Swearing-In of Father Tom Hoar as Police Chaplain

Chief Stewart presented letter received from Father Tom Hoar detailing the need for a Police Chaplain. Father Tom Hoar was then sworn in as Police Chaplain for the Stonington Police Department.

## 5) Approval of Minutes for the February 14, 2008 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Tibus and seconded by Vice-Chair Curran to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2008 Special Meeting and it was voted.

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## 6) Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Chief Stewart presented the statistic report & newsletter.
- b. Commended Lt. Bebe for running command post regarding a missing elderly man from Sisk Drive suffering from alzheimer's disease. This was a tremendous group effort and the gentleman was found in good condition around 1pm in Westerly.
- c. K-9 policy presented, program is moving forward. Board of Finance approved \$5K for the program, K-9 has been donated, Board of Selectmen approved the agreement with the union and interviews were conducted yesterday with four officers within the Department. Commissioner Tibus questioned residence requirements of the officer assigned. Chief responded that the officer assigned must live within a 15 mile radius of the Police Department. Requested K-9 policy is addressed next month.
- d. Small landscaping project will begin in front of building when weather permits.
- e. Board of Finance approved 5 marked and 1 unmarked cruisers.
- f. Issue of insurance for special events: had a meeting with the Town's insurance carrier and George Sylvester, Director of Administrative Services on Monday. Came up with some figures and minor changes as to what is appropriate insurance for special events. Policy will be coming out from George's office and Administrative Services will be taking on the follow through on the insurance itself.
- g. Received \$20,800 from insurance company for damaged cruiser.
- h. Meeting with 4 fire departments working with station T. Discussed fire hydrant locations, cross streets & towns GIS project. Will continue to meet every 3 months.
- i. Chief away next week at FBI Law enforcement executive development program.
- j. Budget deliberations with Board of Finance on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>.
- k. Presented Strategic Plan, any input from Commission is welcome. Commissioner Curran questioned status of discussions surrounding Liberty Crossing & police satellite office. Chief believes it is too early to discuss as phase of development is not yet decided.
- l. Presented alarm report.
- m. Connecticut Transportation Traffic Seminar Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Storrs from 8:30 – 3:30. Provides Municipal highway professionals tools to identify features of unsafe local roads and to identify counter measures for correcting them inexpensively.
- n. Commissioner Curran followed up last months meeting regarding public relations and dissemination of information to the public. Vice-Chair Curran consulted the Board of Police Commissioner's Bylaws and verified that the Chief of Police is ultimate arbiter of information to the public.

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

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## 7) Correspondence

- a. Letter Re: Lion's Club Annual Road Race
- b. Letter Re: Good Friday Hunger Walk
- c. Letters Re: Mystic Art Festival / Taste of Connecticut
- d. Letter Re: Pawcatuck River Duck Race
- e. Letters Re: YMCA Tarzan Brown Race
- f. Letters Re: YMCA Triathlon
- g. Letter Re: YMCA Turkey Trot & Dip
- h. Letter Re: Mr. Rustici – Streetlight Installation
- i. Letters Re: Memorial Day Parade
- j. Letter Re: Bushes @ Palmer Street & Lathrop Avenue
- k. Thank you from Marcia Erskine
- l. Thank you from David Erskine

## 8) Consent Agenda

- a. Memo Re: K-9 Unit Costs
- b. Memo Re: Totaled Police Vehicle
- c. Memo Re: Dive Team Status
- d. Memo Re: Proposed Boat Trailer Ordinance
- e. Letter Re: Pawcatuck Farms
- f. Letter Re: Re-Arrest Warrants
- g. Stonington Police Department's "Employment Opportunities" Page on Town of Stonington Website
- h. Article Re: "Becoming a Stonington Police Officer"
- i. Letter Re: Rev. Christine Geer
- j. Memos Re: Thank You – Chief Erskine's Retirement Party
- k. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Sgt. Olson
- l. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Sgt. Olson, Officers Peckham & Capalbo
- m. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Detective Floyd
- n. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Home Invasion
- o. Letter Re: Training Requirements – Officer Manley
- p. Letter Re: Training Requirements – Officer Hersh
- q. Letter Re: Mandatory Training – CT Police Academy

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

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## 9) Traffic

- a. Letter Re: Traffic Sign Retroreflectivity
- b. Letter Re: Mystic Seaport Request
- c. Letters Re: Speed Limit – Flanders Road
- d. Letter Re: Speed Limit Changes on Various Town Roads
- e. Letter Re: Closure of Palmer Street

## 10) Adjourn

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Curran to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Morosini  
Secretary