

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009  
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Dennis Curran, Vice-Chair Susetta Tibus  
Commissioners Scott Bates, Stephen Coan & John Holstein  
Chief Darren Stewart, Captain Jerry Desmond & Lt. Keith Beebe

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

Chairman Curran called the meeting to order at 4:58 PM.

**2.) Remarks of Visitors**

Agenda items 8b. "Time Trials \*VOTE NEEDED\*" and 8a. "Intersection of Farmholme Road @ Pequot Trail \*POSSIBLE VOTE\*" were addressed at this time in this order.

**8b. Time Trials \*VOTE NEEDED\***

Pequot Cyclists, 29 Trading Cove Drive, Norwich CT  
Jim Bierylo, President & Brian Scheffer, Chairman

Mr. Bierylo explained the Time Trial series which begins on June 4, 2009 and runs every Thursday evening, weather permitting, with the exception of July 2, 2009, until August 22, 2009. He stated that there will be no impact on traffic as the riders go single file. They have obtained insurance satisfactory to the Town requirements and a permit from the State Department of Transportation. Chariman Curran made a motion to approve the Time Trial series. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

**8a. Intersection of Farmholme Road @ Pequot Trail \*POTENTIAL VOTE\***

Ted & Judy Stanton, 677 Pequot Trail  
Larry Sullivan, Town Engineer

At the March 2009 meeting, Mr. & Mrs. Stanton asked the Commission to look into the intersection of Pequot Trail and Farmholme Road citing public safety issues and also their property being dug up by large, 18 wheeler trucks turning onto Farmholme Road. Larry Sullivan looked at the intersection with regard to the public safety issues. He said the first 300' of Farmholme Road is approximately 17' – 18' wide. New roads are required to be wider. The road could be upgraded to 24', however this

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

Intersection of Farmholme Road @ Pequot Trail \*POTENTIAL VOTE\* (cont'd)

would be an extensive project and result in the Town exercising "eminent domain" and taking a portion of property from residents as needed. Chief Darren Stewart contacted the State Department of Transportation and the State Traffic Commission to see if a "No Thru Trucks" sign could be posted. The State will not approve this as a State sanctioned sign. There is a Town Ordinance stating "No Thru Trucks" which is superseded by the state statute. The wording in the ordinance would have to be changed to "No Truck Traffic". The State Department of Transportation will work with residents on the issue and can post signs on the exit ramp from I95 at Exit 91 which will direct trucks to use North Main Street as an alternate route as it would be an easier road for trucks to maneuver. The State also suggested getting in touch with GPS manufacturers to suggest North Main Street as an alternate route. Captain Desmond spoke with the shipping manager at Davis Standard about alternate routes for trucks and Chairman Curran suggested contacting both Davis Standard and High Tech Profiles to see if the directions on their websites could be changed.

NO VOTE made on signage at this intersection. Chief Stewart will make a request to the State Department of Transportation for signs to be posted on the off ramp and will look into changing the wording in the Town Ordinance.

**3.) Approval of Minutes for March 12, 2009 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Tibus to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2009 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holstein and approved.

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

a. Monthly Report: Five (5) burglaries in past weeks in Downtown Mystic and Pawcatuck. E-mail alert system and canvassing being utilized. Good response from the press regarding the e-mail alert system.

b. Alarm Report

c. K-9 Activity Report: Officer Howard is finishing drug certification with Fritz. Final test will be in Pennsylvania next week. Fritz is top in his class. The Police Department has obtained the proper State and Federal licenses to legally possess certain drugs for training purposes.

Chief Stewart, at this time, mentioned that there are cameras in the High School that are now connected to the police dispatch center in the event of an emergency. The cameras are in the hallways, parking lot and fields. There are 12 cameras at the High School all covered by the Police Department. The police department has access to the cameras at the Mystic Aquarium as well. The Stonington Police Department is the first in the State to do this.

**4.) Report of the Chief of Police (cont'd)**

Agenda item 4e. "Grant Opportunities – Captain Desmond" was addressed at this time.

Captain Desmond discussed the two (2) categories of Federal Grants: the Justice Administration Grant (JAG) and the Community Orientated Police Service Grant (COPS).

JAG Grants: We are expecting possible opportunity to get funding under one of the JAG Grants. This would possibly used for equipment.

COPS Hiring Grants: For possible expansion of personnel. Some considerations might be additional patrol officer, school resource officer or community policing officer.

d. New Unmarked Vehicle Bid \*VOTE NEEDED\*: Chief Stewart recommended that the Commission approve the lowest bid from Valenti Ford in Mystic for a 2009 Ford Fusion in the amount of \$16, 349. Motion made by Commissioner Holstein to approve the Chief's recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Tibus and approved.

At this time Chief Stewart mentioned that the Positive Ticket program is going well with good response from the merchants.

**5.) New Business**

Special Events Policy: Requires any special event to be held in the Town of Stonington to obtain proper insurance, reimbursing the Town if there are any problems. Commissioner Coan commented that this is good, shows consistency.

**6.) Correspondence**

None

**7.) Consent Agenda**

- a. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Diamanti, Hersh, Howard
- b. Policy Re: Emergency Closings
- c. Highway Use Permit: Mystic VFW Memorial Day Parade
- d. Letter Re: Easter Seals "Walk With Me" Event
- e. Letters Re: May Day Parade
- f. Letters Re: Mystic Art Festival
- g. Highway Use Permit: May Day Parade
- h. Highway Use Permit: Mystic Art Festival
- i. SCCJA 2008-09 Salary Survey
- j. Memo Re: Smoking
- k. Letter Re: Donahue Road Race
- l. Letters Re: Good Friday Hunger Walk
- m. Letter Re: Westerly Ambulance Corps Open House
- n. Letter Re: Re-Arrest Warrants
- o. Letters Re: Maria Assunta Procession

## 7.) Consent Agenda (cont'd)

- p. Highway Use Permit: Maria Assunta Procession
- q. Letter Re: Angel Ride
- r. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Floyd
- s. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Marley and Paige
- t. Letter Re: Detective Sgt. Klebon – Maryland State Police
- u. Highway Use Permit: Time Trials
- v. Thank You – Hedge Family
- w. Letters Re: Thank You – Officer Saunders Training
- x. Letter Re: Mystic Seaport Antique Boat Show

A motion was made by Chairman Curran and seconded by Commissioner Bates to approve the Consent Agenda and it was voted.

## 8.) Traffic

- a. Memos Re: Intersection of Farmholme Road @ Pequot Trail \*POTENTIAL VOTE\*

\*Discussed under "Remarks of Visitors"

- b. Letter Re: Time Trials \*VOTE NEEDED\*

\*Discussed under "Remarks of Visitors"

- c. Memo Re: Clairemont Subdivision – D.O.T. Extension
- d. Memo Re: Route 2 @ White Rock Road
- e. Memo Re: Local Road Accident Reduction Program
- f. Letter Re: Emergency Signal Preemption System Replacement

Fire Departments have made a request to the State Department of Transportation for pre-emptive devices for traffic lights. There is a conflict because if something were to go wrong with the devices the burden of maintenance shifts to the Town. Most fire departments are paying for repairs if there is a problem. Emergency management is working to organize a meeting on this.

- g. Letter Re: Firelane @ Stop & Shop, Pawcatuck \*VOTE NEEDED\*
- Motion to approve made by Vice-Chair Tibus. Motion seconded by Coan and approved.
- h. Memo Re: Paving on Route 234

**9.) Adjourn**

A motion was made by Chairman Curran to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Bates and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Natalie R. Mitchell  
Secretary to the Chief of Police