

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 13, 2009
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Dennis Curran, Vice-Chair Susette Tibus
Commissioners John Holstein and Scott Bates
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond
Absent: Commissioner Dr. Stephen Coan

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Curran called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

2) Remarks of Visitors

Chairman Curran requested the Commission review agenda items 8e and 8a at this time.

8) Traffic

e. E-Mail Re: Oversized Truck Ordinance

Police Commission will hold a public hearing at next meeting detailing information on new signage regarding oversized trucks. Hearing will be added to September agenda and letter will be sent to residents.

a. Letter Re: Proposed "No Parking" Zone – Richmond Street, Pawcatuck

Linda Curtin, 35 Downer Street

Concerned about emergency vehicle access when cars are parked on Richmond Street, and favors "no parking".

Carl Johnson, 4 Richmond Street

Concerned regarding width of Richmond Street and emergency vehicle access when vehicles are parked on road. Believes that allowing any parking on that street is a safety hazard, and would like to see "no parking" on both sides. In addition, Mr. Johnson stated that due to the fact he has 80 feet of frontage on Richmond Street; the Town approved a site plan to split his property. However, at the moment his property cannot be accessed due to an impediment created by his neighbor. Mr. Johnson expressed his concern over a Town road being impeded upon, and requested the Town take action to remove this impediment.

2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

Letter Re: Proposed "No Parking" Zone – Richmond St., (cont'd)

Tony Sanquedolce, Richmond Street

Mr. Sanquedolce has a Town approved building on lot, however does not have access to his property due to the Town road being impeded by his neighbor. In addition, he is concerned about emergency vehicle access to Richmond Street due to the width of the road, and does not believe parking should be allowed.

Chairman Curran explained that at this meeting the Commission can only act on the request for "no parking" on one side of Richmond Street, as requested by the Town engineer.

Chief Stewart recommends "no parking" on south side of Richmond Street, as well as revisiting the site in the future to access if "no parking" is also required on the opposite side of the street.

Brandon Conti, 7 Richmond Street

Stated his name and address for the record.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bates to restrict parking to the north side (right side) of Richmond Street, making the south side of Richmond Street "no parking". Motion seconded by Vice Chair Tibus and approved.

3) Approval of Minutes for the July 9, 2009 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Bates to approve the minutes from the July 9, 2009 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Tibus and approved.

4) Report of the Chief of Police

Chairman Curran requested the Commission review agenda item 5a at this time.

5) New Business

a. Discussion on 911 Center

Chairman Curran thanked First Selectman Haberek for attending the Police Commission meeting in order to get the Commission up to date on his plans to move the 911 Center out of Stonington to Groton.

First Selectman Edward Haberek, Jr.

The First Selectman stated the plan to move the 911 center was originally requested by Stonington Ambulance and Quaimbaug, and he reviewed various materials, including those from previous Chiefs, as well as an assessment study done under the Maranell administration. He was then contacted by Groton with an offer to help, and requested an inventory analysis of what Groton can provide, and had numerous discussions with Chief's Hoadley and Dennett. The First Selectman recommended Stonington create a "users" group, as Groton and Westerly have, and stressed that communication is imperative. He also stated he will be advocating to the Board of Finance next year for two dispatchers for twenty-four hour coverage. In addition, concerns that have come to him have had nothing to do with the performance of the dispatchers, it has been more in the aspect of protocols; he came into the situation as a facilitator.

Chairman Curran stated he is pleased the First Selectman will support additional staffing at Station T, and stressed the importance of continued dialogue so that there will not be misinformation throughout the Town.

Captain Desmond stated he has already sent e-mails to prospective user groups and is currently waiting to hear back from individuals so that a schedule can be implemented.

Chief Stewart stated he is pleased with the First Selectman's recommendation for additional personnel, and believes feedback from emergency services personnel is vital. The Chief is strongly against moving 911 from Stonington, and stated it is imperative to community safety.

Ed Dennett, Chief, Wequetequock Fire Department

Chief Dennett stated he is not in favor of moving the 911 Center.

4) Report of the Chief (cont'd)

Discussion on 911 Center (cont'd)

Dave Erskine, Retired Chief of Police, Stonington, CT
Recommend highly that 911 center never leave Stonington, would be absolute disregard for public safety. Chief Erskine explained Ken Richards originally set up a users committee, which was discontinued due to lack of participation, and when he heard complaints went back 5 years he was shocked.

Commissioner Bates thanked all emergency response personnel for their service to the community, and believes cooperation and communication are they keys to making everything work. He believes it should be public policy that the 911 center is located in Stonington, and stated that farming it out to another area does not make sense.

Captain Desmond stated that 911 calls may get transferred, but the officers in the Department are immediately dispatched, no money is worth sacrificing a life, which could happen if the 911 center is moved.

Victor Lima, President, Stonington Ambulance
Mr. Lima's main concern is public safety, and dispatchers can get overwhelmed. He stated Stonington Ambulance wants to grow; Stonington dispatchers are excellent dispatchers and need to grow with the times, however there was never any discussion of pulling the 911 system out, he only wanted to upgrade system.

Dan O'Conner, Captain, Quaimbaug Fire Department
Stated there are funds for on the State and Federal level, and talk about regionalization and how funds would be available.

Chief Stewart believes money is attached to moving 911, with Bill 6055 requiring regionalization of 911 answering points. He is opposed to the bill, as he believes local communities should have control.

Chief Richards, Old Mystic Fire Department
Chief Richards stated he did attend a meeting at Town Hall with local Departments. He stated call volume is increasing and has gotten to the point that staffing here was not present, however he supports Stonington and was never under the impression that 911 was going to get pulled. Bill 6055 did come up, but at that time had no idea where bill sat, and if that happened he knew Stonington would have to make decision. He felt that there was no way the First Selectman could go to any Commission without facts, and that's when numbers were given; all seven dispatchers stay, all 911 stays at Station T, Stonington dispatches own police. He does not think it's a bad thing to have information in hand in case something does happen with the Bill.

4) Report of the Chief (cont'd)

Discussion on 911 Center (cont'd)

First Selectman Haberek stated that when material was sent he had his assistant put together a meeting because the rumor mill was rampant, he made an effort to facilitate a discussion between all the entities. At no time was there any other effort to take 911 out of Station T.

Chief Stewart clarified they were not up to date on any information; no one had come to him to discuss anything; he had to go to Chairman Curran to request information. The Chief stated communication is key, especially when dealing with human life.

Vice Chair Tibus stated she appreciated clarification from Mr. Lima and the Chief, as she believes public safety is number one and communication is critical.

- a. Monthly Statistics Report.
- b. Alarm Report.
- c. Memo Re: Reserve Officer – Outside Job Rate of Pay
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Holstein to increase the rate of pay for outside jobs to \$38 per hour. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Tibus and approved.
- d. K-9 Activity Report
- e. Dispatcher John Fiore Jr. – End of Probation
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Bates to approve Dispatcher John Fiore as a permanent Full Time Dispatcher. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holstein and approved.
- f. Positive Tickets going well, approximately 60 issued so far.
- g. Over \$5K in overtime paid out due to storm, only \$100K budgeted for the year.
- h. All FY08/09 vehicles are in.

Chairman Curran thanked the Chief and Officer Cullen for his “ride along”. A motion was made by Vice Chair Tibus to accept the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holstein and approved.

5) New Business

- a. Discussion on 911 Center
 - i. Discussed under Report of the Chief

6) Correspondence

None

7) Consent Agenda

- a. Letter Re: Thank You – Chief Stewart
- b. Letter Re: Destruction of Police Records
- c. Report Re: Re-Arrest Warrants
- d. Memo Re: Article – Narrowbanding Prep
- e. Letter Re: Thank You – Officer Hersh
- f. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Fauquet
- g. Memo Re: Good Job – Jackie Gambin
- h. Letter Re: Thank You - Flooding
- i. Letter Re: Attorney Mark Milano – Thank You
- j. Memo Re: CSO Harrison Resignation
- k. Letter Re: CSO Harrison Resignation
- l. Letter Re: Borough Block Party
- m. Memo Re: Thank You – Sgt. Olson
- n. Letter Re: Sgt. Olson
- o. Letter Re: Mystic Seaport Regatta
- p. Articles Re: Positive Tickets
- q. Article Re: Profiling Law
- r. Memo Re: CSO Carmack – Good Job
- s. Agreement Re: “Deal Or No Deal”
- t. Assessment Study – Emergency Communications System
- u. Event Permit – Boat Regatta
- v. Memo Re: Officer Ritacco
- w. Memo Re: Officer Paige – Thank You Letter
- x. Memo Re: Special Olympics Torch Run

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

8) Traffic

- a. Letter Re: Proposed “No Parking” Richmond Street, Pawcatuck
 - o Discussed under Remarks of Visitors
- b. Letter Re: Fire Lane – LaQuinta Hotel
- c. Letter Re: Fire Lane – Burdick Lane, Pawcatuck
- d. Letters Re: Route 1 @ Bishop’s Cove, Mystic
- e. E-Mail Re: Oversized Truck Ordinance
- f. Letter Re: Request For Handicap Parking – William Street, Pawcatuck
 - o Chairman Curran concerned due to the fact that there is ample off street parking at this location. Chief Stewart recommended delaying a decision until a review of the area is completed. No motion made.
- g. Letter Re: Golf Carts
- h. E-Mail Re: Trumbull & Alpha Ave. Intersection
- i. E-Mail Re: No Parking Area At Town Dock
 - o A motion was made by Commissioner Bates to have a “no parking” area at the Town dock at the site indicated at the handicap access ramp. Motion seconded by Vice Chair Tibus and approved.

9) Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Holstein to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Tibus and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Holstein
Secretary