

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 13, 2011  
4:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Chair Susette Tibus and Vice-Chair Scott Bates  
Commissioners Mel Olsson and Frank Pucci  
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond  
Absent: Commissioner Dr. Stephen Coan

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

Chair Tibus called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

**2) Remarks of Visitors**

Greg Howard, Stonington Resident

Greg Howard, an officer with the Stonington Police Department, in attendance as a citizen to discuss social network policy, as presented in a New London Day article. Mr. Howard stated there are portions of the policy he agrees with, however he felt it necessary to address the Commission due to certain policy requirements he is opposed to, specifically the restriction of photos showing officers in uniform, expression of political opinions, and the requirement of officers to allow access to personal pages. Mr. Howard stated he is surprised that a policy that could potentially bring civil litigation would be considered, and requested the Commission review further before accepting.

Chair Tibus confirmed that Mr. Howard was in attendance as a citizen, and then explained to him that citizens do not dictate policy within the Department; however that as an officer, he has the ability to contact the union to express his concerns. Chair Tibus also reminded Mr. Howard that this policy has been on the agenda for two months, allowing time for discussion, comments and revision. Chair Tibus stated that she is in favor of further review so that all concerns can be addressed.

Vice-Chair Bates stated he agrees with Chair Tibus, and believes the policy should be further reviewed, and also hopes that it would be the presumption of all effected that review and open communication is wanted by the Commission.

Don Wooley, 185 Jerry Browne Road, Mystic.

Chairman of the Perkins Farm Committee at StoneRidge

In attendance to reinforce the committee's request to relocate current entrance to the proposed Perkins Farm development. Mr. Wooley stated that it is his opinion that a safety hazard will be created by adding another source of traffic onto Jerry Browne Road.

Chair Tibus clarified that this item was addressed at the December Police Commission meeting; the Commission had no issue with the proposed development and forwarded a recommendation for approval to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

Tim Babcock, Vice-President of Operations, YMCA

In attendance to request permission to hold a road race on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> that will benefit the YMCA's "Reach Out to Youth" campaign. Looking at Mechanic Street in Pawcatuck, but open to other locations.

Chair Tibus stated she was concerned about traffic, and deferred to Captain Desmond.

Captain Desmond stated there is definitely a concern with traffic, and he believes it will be unfair to area residents to add another road race at this location.

Chief Stewart suggested Barn Island or the Pawcatuck Treatment Plant instead of downtown, as the Mechanic Street area has been saturated with races. Chief Stewart stated he would assist with necessary state permits if Barn Island is selected.

Chair Tibus suggested Mr. Babcock work with Chief Stewart regarding other available routes & come back to the Commission when plan is complete.

Rich Froh – Vice President, Mystic Community Bikes

In attendance to follow up on Mystic Bike Tour plans that were presented at the December Police Commission Meeting. He has worked on a more complete plan, and met with Chief Stewart to review.

Chief Stewart stated he recommends approval, provided approval is received from the Town of Groton & the State, and all necessary paperwork is in place.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bates to approve the Mystic Bike tour on a one year trial basis, provided approval is received from the Town of Groton & the State of Connecticut, and all necessary insurance and paperwork is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Olsson and approved.

## 3) **Traffic**

- a. Rich Froh - Bike Tour (see Remarks of Visitors)
- b. E-Mail Re: YMCA Event (see Remarks of Visitors)
- c. E-Mail Re: Exit 90 Off I95, Mystic
- d. E-Mail Re: Wrong Way Traffic
- e. Letter Re: Request For "Pedestrian Crossing" Sign
- f. Letter Re: Regional Transportation Project Plan Update
- g. Letters Re: Mystic Irish Parade

## 4) **Approval of Minutes for the December 15, 2010 Special Meeting**

Revision to the December 15, 2010 Special Meeting minutes:

Item 7p. should read:

7p. Sergeant Louis Diamanti had gone 24 years without using a sick day.

Upon the above revisions, a motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2010 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Olsson and approved.

**5) New Business**

- a. Zoning Amendment Application Form: Cottrell Brewing, Pawcatuck.  
Chris Kepple in attendance on behalf of Cottrell Brewing to inform the Commission of plans to go before the Planning and Zoning Commission to request a zoning amendment to allow the sale of beer after a brewery tour. Mr. Kepple stated Cottrell Brewing is the only brewery not allowed to sell beer out of the brewery after a tour is conducted, and explained the process and intent of the request.  
Chair Tibus stated she does not believe a traffic issue will be created due to the approval of this request.  
Chief Stewart will send a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Police Commission has no objection to this request.
- b. Working Agreement – Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond  
Chair Tibus stated that the First selectman brought to her attention that a working agreement for Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond may be outdated. This item will be discussed in executive session.

**6) Old Business**

None

**7) Report of the Chief of Police**

- a. Monthly Report
- b. Yearly Statistics
- c. E-Mail & Letter Re: Radio Tower
- d. E-Mail Re: Update on 2011 Federal Funding Requests
- e. 2010 Holiday Season Statistics
- f. Personnel Update
- g. E-Mail Re: Audio Recorder;
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bates to approve that the Chief go before the Board of Finance for approval to purchase a new recorder unit for the 911 system using 911 funds. Motion seconded by Commissioner Olsson and approved.
- h. Memo from Finance regarding the 2011-2012 budget process; February 2<sup>nd</sup> budget hearing, February 16<sup>th</sup> CIP review, March deliberations, April 13<sup>th</sup> public hearing.
- i. Article re: K9 in school
- j. Duck race next month
- k. \$65K cut from CIP budget after meeting with First Selectman. Revenue of \$53,168 generated from use of police vehicles at road jobs; Director of Finance Maryanna Stevens recommended requesting that the Board of Finance appropriate \$20K for the purchase of a used animal control vehicle.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve that the Chief request the Board of Finance approve \$20K for the purchase of a used animal control vehicle. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Bates and approved.
- l. Gasoline Line Item FY11/12
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bates to modify the FY11-12 Gasoline Line item from 92K to \$94K. Motion approved by Commissioner Olsson and approved.
- m. Social Networking Policy

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Bates and approved.

**8) Correspondence**  
None

**9) Consent Agenda**

- a. Letter Re: Thank You – Stonington Borough Holiday Stroll
- b. Memo Re: Thank You – Holiday Party
- c. Memo Re: Disposal of Old Bullet Proof Vests
- d. Memo Re: Convex Mirror Policy
- e. Memo Re: Lattizori Development
- f. Letter Re: Gardens By The Sea Event
- g. Memo Re: Natalie Mitchell – 10 Year Anniversary
- h. Memo Re: Letter From Chief State's Attorney's Office
- i. Memo Re: Officer Rebello – Good Job
- j. Memo Re: ACO Davis – Job Well Done
- k. Letter Re: ACO Davis – Job Well Done
- l. 2010 DUI Test Results
- m. Boiler Operating Certificates
- n. Report on Arrest Warrants
- o. Notice of Grant Award
- p. Bulletin Re: CTI
- q. Memo Re: Disposal of Bullet Proof Vests
- r. Memo Re: Officer Hersh – Job Well Done

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bates to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved.

**10) Adjourn**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Bates and approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:42PM

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Pucci  
Secretary