

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 10, 2011
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2) Remarks of Visitors

Dennis & Sharon Curran, Rose Ridge Dr., Pawcatuck

In attendance to personally make the Commission aware of the wonderful job performed by the dispatchers & officers that responded to emergencies at their residence, specifically Desillier, Hogan, Singer, Peckham, Ritacco & Holt. Mrs. Curran stated the officers were extremely professional, kind and courteous in an especially stressful situation.

3) Traffic

a. Letter & Memo Re: Pita Spot

- Clint Brown, DiCesare Bentley Engineers & Vivian Torregrossa, Owner
Ms. Torregrossa provided list of some area neighbors that approve of additional outdoor seating and alteration to parking, and stated she is working on making the area behind the building more appealing for parking.
 - Kelly McBain, 21 Hatch Street, Mystic
Neighbor of restaurant, stated that traffic has increased due to the restaurant and believes it is a nuisance; has an issue with employees of The Pita Spot parking in front of her house, as well as on both sides of street, creating only one way traffic. Ms. McBain also stated that she has never been consulted regarding any revisions, and questioned what neighbors signed the letter of support Pita Spot owner Vivian Torregrossa is referring to.
 - Mary Visser, 39 Hatch Street, Mystic
Ms. Visser stated that parking is an issue on Hatch Street, and often cars are parked from The Pita Spot all the way down the street to The Knights of Columbus.
 - Vivian Torregrossa, Pita Spot owner, responded that there has been times her restaurant is not open, or there are not many customers, and cars were still parked down Hatch Street, and that not all parking is from the Pita Spot.
 - Lynn Young 164 Wamphassuc Point Road, Stonington
Former Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission
Stated The Pita Spot is in a business zone, and Hatch Street is open for public parking
 - Paul Flynn, 26 Hatch Street, Mystic
Questioned amount of additional seating, and stated it is his opinion that the tables currently out there appear to create safety issue.

3) Traffic (Cont'd)

- a. Letter & Memo Re: Pita Spot (cont'd)
 - Chair Tibus stated she sees no traffic related safety issue with the proposed additional outdoor seating and modification of parking spaces, and requested the opinion of the Commission.
 - Commissioner Coan stated he concurs with Chair Tibus, and does not believe there is a safety issue. Commissioners Olsson and Pucci agreed.
 - Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond concurred with the Commission.
- b. Letters Re: Taste of Mystic & Mystic Outdoor Art Festival
 - Alexa Shelton, in attendance to answer questions regarding the Taste of Mystic and the Mystic Art Festival. Ms. Shelton stated that plans are the same as last year.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the Taste of Mystic from September 9th – 11th, provided all necessary insurance and paperwork is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.
 - Chair Tibus recused herself at this time
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Olsson to approve the Mystic Art Festival from August 13th – 14th, provided all necessary insurance and paperwork is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved.
- c. YMCA Mystic River Valley Triathlon
 - Concern regarding start time.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Olsson to approve a change in date of the Mystic River Valley Triathlon, from June 5, 2011 to June 12, 2011. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved.
- d. North Stonington Road – Event Parking
 - Annette & Harold Miner, in attendance to discuss parking issues on North Stonington Road as a result of their business, Clyde's Cider Mill. Mrs. Miner stated that parking issues primarily arise in the month of October, and she is hoping to work out a plan with the Commission
 - Chief Stewart stated plan needs to be formalized, so that regulations are set in place
 - A motion was made by Commission Pucci to grant Chief Stewart the authority to approve temporary parking during the fall season on North Stonington Road, as well as set "No Parking" signs where applicable. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.
- e. Letter Re: Taugwonk Road Resurfacing Project
- f. E-Mail Re: Tour de Mystic
- g. Letter Re: Leslie Buck Family Fun Walk

4) Approval of Minutes for the February 10, 2011 Regular Meeting

Revision to the February 10, 2011 Regular Meeting minutes

Item 3) Executive Session should read:

Based upon Officer Giorno's request to submit a letter of resignation from his employment with the Town of Stonington, a motion was made by Chair Tibus that the Commission move for acceptance of said resignation letter, that they not seek reimbursement of the \$15,000.00 due to the Town by Officer Giorno pursuant to Sections 16.3 and 16.4 of the 2006 to 2010 Collective Bargaining Agreement, and for approval of the attached Settlement Agreement entered into between Officer Giorno and the Town. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Bates and approved.

Upon the above revisions, a motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2011 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

5) New Business

None

6) Old Business

None

7) Report of the Chief of Police

a. Monthly Report

b. Alarm Report

c. Bid Proposal: New Administrative Vehicle

- A motion was made by Commissioner Coan to recommend approval of the bid from Plaza Ford to the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded by Commissioner Olsson and approved.

d. Memorandum of Agreement: Division of Criminal Justice and Stonington Police Department – Cold Case Stipend

e. State Feasibility Study

f. Budget Update

g. Captain Desmond Presentation on School Program

h. ACO Vehicle

i. Animal Control Facility Update

j. Promotions Update

k. Personnel commendations: Dispatcher Fiore, Officer Holt, Officer Cullen, Officer Hersch.

l. Pedaled vehicle purchased to simulate effects of texting or drinking while driving; partnering with Stonington Human Services.

m. FBI audit today.

n. Met with fire departments to review records management system.

o. Animal control issue in Stonington Borough surrounding informal dog park; trying to work with residents to reach compromise.

p. Emails regarding convex mirror policy.

q. Social Networking Policy information.

r. Police Commission Association meeting March 30th.

s. Local road accident prevention grant opportunity

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

8) Correspondence

None

9) Consent Agenda

- a. Letters Re: Mystic VFW Memorial Day Parade
- b. Highway Use Permit: Mystic VFW Memorial Day Parade
- c. Memo Re: Bid Waiver – Hand Gun Replacement
- d. Letters Re: YMCA Triathlon
- e. Highway Use Permit: YMCA Triathlon
- f. Letter Re: YMCA Turkey Trot
- g. Letters Re: YMCA Tarzan Brown Race
- h. Highway Use Permit: YMCA Tarzan Brown Race
- i. Memo Re: Officer Wholean – Job Well Done
- j. Letter Re: Donahue Road Race
- k. Memo Re: Dispatcher John Fiore – Job Well Done
- l. Letter Re: Chief Stewart – IACP Conference
- m. New London County Multidisciplinary Team Interagency Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

10) Executive Session

At 6:25pm a motion was made by Commissioner Pucci and seconded by Commissioner Coan to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing working agreements and Police Officer Candidate interviews. Invited into executive session were Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond.

The Commission came out of executive session at 7:15pm. No motions made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Coan to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Pucci
Secretary