

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
6:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Tibus called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.

2) Remarks of Visitors

70th Anniversary Celebration - Charles W. Morgan Mystic Arrival
Ed McCabe, Mystic, CT

Requesting closure of Cottrell Street in Mystic, CT from 8am to 9pm on Saturday, October 29, 2011 for the antique car show coinciding with the 70th Anniversary Celebration of the Charles W. Morgan Mystic Arrival.

- A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bates to approve closure of Cottrell Street, provided the committee can meet the requirement regarding continued work between the police department and committee. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

Chair Tibus thanked the Commission for attending the special meeting scheduled for this evening, and requested to discuss consent agenda item 10h at this time.

10) Consent Agenda

h. Articles Re: Pawcatuck

Vice-Chair Bates stated that an article in the New London Day was incorrect in noting that the Police Commission meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, September 8th was cancelled, as it was not cancelled but rescheduled, for Monday, September 12th so that all Commission members could be present. Vice-Chair Bates thanked Chair Tibus for rescheduling, as he was in attendance at the 10th Annual 9-11 Summit in Washington D.C., with Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, Director of FEMA Craig Fugate, and survivors and survivor family members of 9-11.

Chief Stewart presented reports detailing crime statistics in downtown Pawcatuck in order to address recent newspaper articles stating concerns over supposed increases in crime. Statistics were gathered from 2008 through present day to look at trends in incidents and arrests made, as well as the causes. Statistical analysis concluded a flat line trend from 2010 to 2011, and a decrease in crime from 2008.

2) Remarks of Visitors (cont'd)

10) Consent Agenda (cont'd)

h. Articles Re: Pawcatuck

Chair Tibus discussed various initiatives that are being taken with local establishments in order to deter incidents, including installation of surveillance cameras.

Captain Desmond stated there have been many studies regarding the issues downtown; however results found that actual crime is not the problem, it is the perception of crime due to individuals loitering, being boisterous, etc. that is the problem.

Lt. Todd Olson discussed his visit to, and discussions with residents of, the Edythe K. Richmond senior housing complex. Lt. Olson stated he listened to concerns they had regarding incidents that occurred in their complex, and explained that since these incidents occurred within the Edythe K. Richmond complex, residents need to bring their concerns to the Board. In addition, Lt. Olson discussed when and when not to call 911, what information that needs to be provided to dispatch, and how to stay safe in and out of their homes, as well as how to handle medications they may have and their exposure to theft.

Chair Tibus explained that she did contact the First Selectman to make him aware of the change in meeting time, which occurred so that the full Commission could be available to address and answer questions regarding this perceived crime wave.

Commissioner Coan stated that the Commission is very concerned regarding the outlet used by the First Selectman to voice concerns regarding crime in Stonington, and stressed that the public media is not the place to deal with these issues; that the Commission meeting is the forum to do so, and that should be respected. Commissioner Coan requested that Selectwoman Glee McAnanly, who was present at the meeting, relay this to First Selectman Haberek on behalf of the Police Commission.

3) Traffic

- a. Route 1 Stonington Bridge Work, Potential Detour
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Coan to authorize the Chief to detour at his discretion on a temporary, emergency basis, in order to work with the State on the Route One project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved.
- b. Letter Re: MOU – Mystic Aquarium & Town of Stonington
- c. Columbus Day Parade
- d. E-Mail Re: Speed Limit – Prentice Williams Road
- e. E-Mail Re: Deans Mill Project Update
- f. Emails Re: Parking Signs on Route 1 – Mystic Post Office
- g. Letter Re: St. Michael School Walk-a-thon & Fall Festival
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the St. Michael School Walk-a-thon & Fall Festival provided all necessary insurance and paperwork is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Olsson and approved.
- h. Letter Re: Mystic Aquarium Run/Walk for Penguins

4) Approval of Minutes for the August 11, 2011 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2011 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

5) Approval of Minutes for the August 31, 2011 Special Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Olsson to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2011 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Coan and approved.

6) New Business

None

7) Old Business

None

8) Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Monthly Report
- b. Alarm Report
- c. Special Event Schedule
- d. PowerPhone Agreement
- e. Animal Control Budget
- f. Letters Re: CPCA Officer Medal
 - Officers Marley, Ritacco & Schneider are the only recipients of the award this year.
- g. Vehicle Bids
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Coan to recommend to the Board of Selectmen acceptance of the bid submitted by MHQ. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved.
- h. No hurricane damage to Police Department.
- i. Ribbon cutting at ACO October 1st at 10am.
- j. Chris Murray out of Academy; academy starts in October for other two candidates moving forward.
- k. Records management system update; fielding complaints from officers regarding issues.
- l. Movie scheduled to starting filming in Stonington Borough in two weeks.
- m. E-mail Re: crossing guard coverage. E-mail from Sgt. Schneider sighting concerns over coverage issues that arise when officers have to cover crossing guard shifts. Sgt. Schneider stated hiring fill-in guard will alleviate concerns.
 - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Bates to approve the hiring of a fill-in crossing guard. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved.

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

9) Correspondence

- a. E-Mail Re: Village at Briar Hill

10) Consent Agenda

- a. First Responder Certificate of Operation Renewals
- b. First Responder Certificate
- c. Memo Re: Good Job – Officer Howard
- d. Memo Re: Mystic Aquarium MOU
- e. Letter Re: Parking at Town Dock
- f. Letter Re: River Glow
- g. Note Re: Thank You – River Glow
- h. Articles Re: Pawcatuck
- i. Article: "Hackers Make Hoax 911 Calls"
- j. Article: "Police Wrestle With Web-Inspired Criminal"
- k. Memo Re: Social Media Policy
- l. Memo Re: Thank You – Lt. Olson
- m. Memo Re: Groton Elks Special Officer Recognition
- n. Letter Re: Enrique S. Camarena Award

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

11) Adjourn

A motion was made by Commissioner Coan to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Bates and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Pucci
Secretary