

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2013
6:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS
MEETING MINUTES**

Present: Chair Scott Bates and Vice-Chair Mel Olsson
Commissioners Patrick Moukawsher and Frank Pucci
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond
Absent: Commissioner Harry Holt

1) Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

2) Remarks of Visitors

None

3) Correspondence

None

4) Traffic

a. Letter Re: Pequot Cyclists Time Trials

- A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to approve the Pequot Cyclists Time Trials request, provided all necessary paperwork and insurance is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

b. E-Mail Re: Sign Request – Taugwonk Road
Tabled

5) Approval of Minutes for the February 14, 2013 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

6) New Business

None

7) Old Business

None

8) Report of the Chief of Police

- a. Budget Report
- b. Monthly Report
- c. Alarm Report
- d. Pawcatuck Statistics
- e. Special Event Schedule
- f. Dispatcher Donald Nava Retirement
 - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to accept the letter of resignation submitted by Dispatcher Donald Nava. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.
- g. Police Video Equipment Technology Grant
- h. Letter Re: Recertification Training
- i. Burglary Arrest(s)
- j. Budget Revisited
- k. Per Diem Employees
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to allow the Chief to use his discretion when hiring per diem employees. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson, all in favor, motion approved.
- l. Grant Update – Captain Desmond
- m. Choking victim saved by officer
- n. Stonington Ambulance
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to accept Stonington Ambulance's request to return to the Department for dispatching services. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson, all in favor, motion approved.
- o. Letter Re: Officer Randy Holt Retirement
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Olsson to accept the letter of resignation submitted by Officer Randy Holt. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.
- p. Letter Re: Substitute Crossing Guard Marjorie Moshier Resignation
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to accept the letter of resignation submitted by Substitute Crossing Guard Marjorie Mosher. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to approve the Report of the Chief. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson, all in favor, motion approved.

9) Consent Agenda

- a. Letter Re: Memorial Day Parade – Mystic
- b. Letter Re: March of Dimes Charity Walk
- c. Letter Re: YMCA Turkey Trot
- d. Letters & Highway Use Permit Re: YMCA Triathlon
- e. Letters & Highway Use Permit Re: YMCA Tarzan Brown Race
- f. Memo Re: Dispatcher Timothy Desillier 25 Year Anniversary
- g. Letter Re: Thank You – Chief Stewart
- h. E-Mail Re: Code Red Drill
- i. Letters Re: Memorial Day Parade – Westerly/Pawcatuck
- j. Letter Re: SHS Memorial Day Bearathon
- k. Letters Re: Veteran's Day Parade – Westerly/Pawcatuck
- l. Letter Re: Donahue Road Race
- m. Letter Re: Easter Seals "Walk With Me" Event
- n. POSTC List of Certified Law Enforcement Officers
- o. E-Mail Re: Lion's Club Road Race
- p. Memo Re: Job Well Done – Lt. Olson, Lt. Beebe & Officer McDermott

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson, all in favor, motion approved.

10) Adjourn to Joint meeting with Board of Education to discuss School Safety

At 6:49PM a motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to adjourn to Stonington High School to conduct a joint meeting with the Board of Education in order to discuss school safety issues. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson, all in favor, motion approved.

In attendance at joint meeting with Board of Education at Stonington High School:
Chair Scott Bates and Vice-Chair Mel Olsson
Commissioners Patrick Moukawsher and Frank Pucci
Chief Darren Stewart and Captain Jerry Desmond
Absent: Commissioner Harry Holt

Captain Desmond addressed the Board and introduced the Police Commission.

Captain Desmond reviewed school safety protocols currently in place, including that there is an officer assigned to the schools on a daily basis. He also suggested having substations in each school, which will promote a better relationship with the students with minimal cost, as well as having a separate radio frequency for emergency responders.

Chair Scott Bates discussed the Commission's commitment to school safety, and that the Commission felt it necessary to take action within the current budget cycle by presenting a \$100K Police Department budget increase in order to provide an increased police presence throughout Stonington schools.

Ken Donovan, Bill King, Captain Desmond and Chief Stewart presented Stonington Schools Security Analysis, which covered current security protocols, ideas for the future, and associated costs. A copy of the presentation was available.

The Board of Education discussed options regarding when to include safety measure funding. Chair Gail MacDonald suggested putting a request forward, as there is a risk of losing an entire budget season if they wait until next year.

The Board of Education made the following motions, per the draft minutes of the Stonington Board of Education Regular Meeting, March 14, 2013:

<http://www.stoningtonschools.org/uploaded/BOE/Minutes/31413minutesdrafttown.pdf>

Motion 2: To support the proposal brought forward by the Police Commission of \$100,000 for staffing and training.

Motion 3: To move to submit a request to the Board of Finance for \$48,000 for security enhancements as outlined by the Stonington Police Department with the thought that the Board may be returning to the BOF for more funding.

Chair Bates stated that this was a policy decision for the Board of Education, and pointed out that the Commission, along with Chief Stewart and Captain Desmond, presented options as well as a \$100K increase in the Department budget, but any further action is up to the Board. He stated that if there is a large Town reserve, then he can think of no better way to use those funds than to protect our children.

Chief Stewart stated that right after the Sandy Hook tragedy, Dr. Riley has been coming to the Department on a regular basis to ensure they have the right mix to move these security issues forward. He has been working along with Ken Donovan, Bill King, Captain Desmond and the Commission for the children, and appreciates the opportunity to address the Board.

Presentation completed 9:01pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Frank Pucci, Secretary