

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 13, 2013  
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

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

**2) Remarks of Visitors**

Re: Agenda Item: 3b) Correspondence - Harrison Associates, LLC Letter

Lynn Bodner, Fair Acres Circle

Addressed the Commission regarding the overpopulation of cats. Requested someone from Animal Control visit the site to review the problem. Mrs. Bodner stated that she cannot even sit outside or open windows due to the odor.

John Bodner, Fair Acres Circle

Mr. Bodner stated that at the moment, it seems to be a trailer park problem, however being that Mystic is a top vacation spot in the State, with many hotels in the area, it can easily become a problem that extends past the trailer park borders if not addressed.

Frank Schoonmaker, Fair Acres Circle

Mr. Schoonmaker stated that some residents have taken up feeding the cats; rules allow one cat, but there may be one resident feeding over 8 cats. Mr. Schoonmaker said that Animal Control did come to the site, and did an excellent job, but then the "powers that be" in Police Department stopped allowing visits. Mr. Schoonmaker stated that he believes approximately 24 cats were removed; however the numbers have increased again.

Chair Bates stated that he understands how cat populations can become a problem, as Stonington Borough has had the same issues.

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

Re: Agenda Item: 3b) Correspondence - Harrison Associates, LLC Letter (cont'd)

Chief Stewart stated that this matter came to his attention approximately one year ago. The Department Supervisor agreed with the property manager to allow the ACO to visit the site at that time, however cats populations are not regulated in law enforcement, as there are too many other animal based issues, and the end result would be the Department becoming the "angel of death" for these cats, and that is not a role the Department wants to take on, as it would have additional consequences, such as the Department taking on the cost of euthanasia, as well as workers comp issues due to bites/scratches that occur. Chief Stewart explained that the law in Connecticut is clear: if you feed, you own, and therefore responsible for medical costs. Cats will stay around as long as they are fed. On a case by case basis the Department may come out, but the Department is not responsible for managing feral cat issues; the bottom line is that residents need to stop feeding. Chief Stewart can assist with referrals to agencies that may help.

Captain Desmond confirmed that residents are feeding against the rules, and suggested those rules need to be tightened up.

Kathy Murphy, Murphy Company – Property Manager for Harrison Associates  
Ms. Murphy stated that all residents are tax payers, and there are a few residents that are feeding, but she also believes that due to the proximity to 95, cats are also released and wind up at the trailer park. Ms Murphy stated she hopes to get some assistance periodically, but understands the Chief's constraints. Harrison Associates pays considerable taxes in Stonington, but is willing to incur some expense if help can be obtained.

Commissioner Pucci suggested Harrison Associates sends out a memo; Ms. Murphy stated she sent one out as recently as last week, and the next step is to have maintenance personnel go around & remove food off of decks.

Vice-Chair Olsson stated that he does understand the issue, however he believes responsibility belongs to the property owner.

Chair Bates stated that with limited Department resources, there may be limited incidents of assistance, however the bottom line is that the Department cannot take up management of a feral cat program, it is the responsibility of the property owner to enforce the rules.

## 3) Correspondence

- a. Planning & Zoning Application Re: Keeping of Hens  
Not law enforcement issue
- b. Harrison Associates LLC Letter - See Remarks of Visitors

**4) Traffic**

- a. E-Mail/Letter Re: Parking on Hatch Street  
Chair Bates will request that Commissioner Moukawsher join Captain Desmond in reaching out to the business owner.
- b. Letter Re: Sharrow Marking Town Roads for Bikes
- c. Letter Re: Bike Stonington
- d. Paving & Line Painting Update (as of 05/29/13)

**5) Approval of Minutes for the May 9, 2013 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved, all in favor.

**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. E-Mail Re: New Computer Quote
- g. Letter/Agreement Re: New London County Multidisciplinary Team
- h. Letter Re: Peddlers & Solicitors
- i. Road Construction Uniform Shirts/Pants
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to authorize the Chief to look within the budget to see if it is feasible to purchase a portion, or provide a stipend toward the purchase, of the requested road construction uniform. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci and approved, all in favor.
- j. Mutual Aid Meeting – Discussion regarding Eastern Connecticut
- k. New Carpet – Dispatch, Supervisors Area
- l. Racial Profiling Discussion with Central CT State University Student
- m. Contract Negotiations Occurring
- n. CT Police Chiefs Association - Chief Stewart's three year term up

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

**9) Consent Agenda**

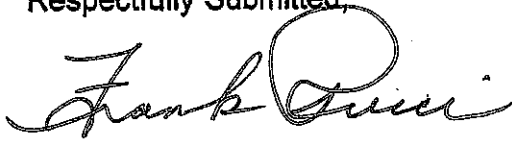
- a. Letter & Memo Re: Thank You – Mr. Perkins
- b. Memo Re: Outsourcing DNA Cases
- c. Letter Re: SMS Road Race
- d. Letter Re: Thank You – Angel Ride
- e. Letter Re: Thank You – Easter Seals
- f. Letter Re: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade
- g. Memo Re: Disposition of MP-40
- h. Article Re: Encouraging Bicycles to Get Around Town
- i. Letter Re: Thank You – Safe Futures
- j. Letter Re: Thank You – Our Lady of Fatima
- k. Letter & Memo Re: Paige – Good Job

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

**10) Adjourn**

Commissioner Pucci made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson and approved, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Pucci". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Frank Pucci, Secretary