

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2013  
5:00 PM AT THE STONINGTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

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

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

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

**2) Remarks of Visitors**

**3) Correspondence**

**4) Traffic**

- a. Letter Re: St. Michael School Walk-a-thon & Fall Festival
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to approve the St. Michael School Walk-a-thon & Fall Festival, provided all necessary insurance and paperwork is in place. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.
- b. Letter Re: Request for School Bus Signs – 119 Farmholme Road  
Tabled until next month to allow Commissioners time to review site
- c. E-Mail Re: Hidden Driveway Signs
- d. Letter & Highway Use Permit Re: Columbus Day Parade
- e. Requirements for a Special Event Permit for Highways
- f. Traffic Investigation Report  
Lord's Point
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to set the speed limit on Lord's Point at 20 miles per hour, as recommended by the State. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.Palmer Neck Road
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to install a stop sign at the south end of Palmer Neck Road going north, as recommended by the State. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

**5) Approval of Minutes for the September 12, 2013 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

**6) New Business**

a. Bids for Police Cruisers

Chief Stewart welcomed Lieutenant Schneider.

Lieutenant Schneider reviewed cruiser specifications.

Chair Bates confirmed cost is within budget, and cruisers are all wheel drive.

Chief Stewart recommended the Commission forward a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to accept the MHQ bid of \$106,535.

- A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to forward to the Board of Selectman a recommendation to accept the cruiser bid from MHQ. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

**7) Old Business**

a. Noise Ordinance

Chair confirmed recommendation was provided to Board of Selectmen.

**8) Report of the Chief of Police**

- a. Budget Report
- b. Monthly Report
- c. Alarm Report
- d. Pawcatuck Statistics
- e. Special Event Schedule
- f. Camera System
- g. K-9 Program
- h. School Safety

Chair Bates stated that the Commission received communications from various school administrators regarding the level of police presence in schools since the Newtown tragedy, and that they would like to see this presence continue. There has been positive feedback from West Vine Street School regarding the red button system that the Commission put in motion, and the Department made a reality. Chair Bates stated the Commission undertook three initiatives that are now in place; a change of protocols, increased presence in schools, and the pilot project at West Vine Street School, and he would like the Commission to continue to move forward.

- Vice-Chair Olsson motioned that the Stonington Board of Police Commissioners recommended to the Stonington Board of Education that the West Vine Street School Safety Pilot Project be expanded to other schools in Town, and recommend to the Board of Finance that the funds be provided to maintain the level of police presence at Stonington Schools, which has been agreed upon between the Stonington Police Department and the Board of Education since the Newtown shootings. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

Chief thanked the Commission for their support.

- i. Letter Re: Safe Kids Program

**8) Report of the Chief of Police (cont'd)**

- j. Memo Re: Records Disposal Authorization
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Pucci to approve the records disposal per State statute, as recommended by Chief Stewart. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Olsson, all in favor, motion approved.
- k. 2014 Meeting Dates - Meeting form signed; meeting schedule for 2014 will remain unchanged; 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.
- l. Phil Carrier Resignation
  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to accept the resignation of Officer Phil Carrier, and waive fines that can be imposed. Motion seconded by Commissioner Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.
- m. Current Upcoming Trades

Chief Stewart stated he would like to hold back one of the cruisers, as opposed to trading in, to allow for additional revenue on road jobs.

  - A motion was made by Vice-Chair Olsson to allow Chief Stewart the authority to trade in two vehicles instead of three. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

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

**9) Consent Agenda**

- a. Memo Re: Thank You – Holy Ghost Processions
- b. Memo Re: Sergeant Beebe - 25 Year Anniversary
- c. Darsan Technologies Agreement
- d. First Responder Certificates
- e. Letter Re: Casino Traffic
- f. Letter Re: Thank You - Eagle Scout Project
- g. Letter Re: Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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

Chair Bates stated he would like to take a moment to comment as outgoing Chair of the Police Commission.

Commissioner Pucci stated that he enjoyed working with Chair Bates, and wished him the best. Commissioner Holt seconded.

Chair Bates outgoing comments as Chair of Police Commission:

My Fellow Commissioners:

Tonight marks my last regular meeting as a member of the Stonington Board of Police Commissioners, and as your Chairman.

I wanted to use this opportunity as a chance to briefly reflect on the challenges we have faced—and met—and on what the future might hold for our Department and our friends and neighbors, the people of Stonington.

It is important for citizens to know that the Stonington Police Department is one of the most professional and respected organizations in Eastern Connecticut. Chief Stewart is a recognized and honored leader with law enforcement organizations at the regional and state level. Captain Desmond is a key player in homeland security efforts in the region and state, and has spearheaded recent innovative school safety initiatives that have gained attention across the nation. They are a great team, leading an exceptional force of men and women who are dedicated to the mission of providing for the public safety. We are fortunate to have them here.

In the past five years since I have been on this Commission, the Stonington Police Department has improved its training, increased its capabilities, and returned hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Town budget. Credit goes to all members of this Department, and to current and previous members of this Commission. It has been a total team effort all in the public interest.

Which leads me to my main message I'll leave with you.

During my five years on this Commission, I have worked with people of varying backgrounds, political affiliations and temperaments. We were all very different people, but we were always united in our belief that the public interest should always come first in all our actions. This past year, our Commission has met several great challenges, and in each case we stood united in our actions.

When the shootings in Newtown took place we stood united in our response. We worked with the schools in this Town to fashion a response that included updating emergency protocols, developing innovative infrastructure upgrades and deploying a stronger and sustainable police presence at our schools. Our Commission stood united and we have gained the support of the people we are charged to protect.

When voices of concern were raised regarding the safety of downtown Pawcatuck, our Commission worked together, holding public hearings, gathering facts and thinking through an appropriate response. We set aside emotion, focused on facts, stood united and developed a sustainable plan that is enjoying community support.

When the U.S. Department of Homeland Security offered the Town of Stonington a new and improved maritime platform to replace our aging police boat, our Commission stood united when explaining to friends and neighbors the benefit to Town finances and the safety and security of our people that will result from this action.

Chair Bates outgoing comments as Chair of Police Commission (cont'd):

You do not have to look far in our area to notice what can happen to a Police Department and the negative impact on public safety that can occur, when personalities and politics prevail over the public interest.

In a world in which much is uncertain, I am certain that for as long as we maintain this independent spirit, united in the public interest, that this Commission and this Department can remain a point of pride for the people of Stonington.

I would like to thank several people at this time if I could. Thanks to Chief Dave Erskine who first put the notion in my head to apply for the Police Commission. I first met the Chief when lobbying him for a crossing guard in the Borough. He was patient with me, and we got our crossing guard.

To the Board of Selectmen in 2008, Pete Balestracci, Bill Brown and Ed Haberek for making my service on this Board possible. Thanks to this Board for giving me the honor of serving as your Chairman.

Harry and Patrick, you bring great expertise on many discussions, in particular maintenance of our fleet and school safety issues. Frank Pucci, I first met you several decades ago when you and my father Larry were in the same car pool. You shared a lot of what I would call, "old school values" that I cherish, and so believe me, I listen when you have something to say. You are close to our community and serve as an important guide for me and all of us.

Mel Olsson, it is my great hope that you will serve as the next Chairman of this Commission. Your steady hand, sound judgment and calm demeanor will serve this Department and this Town well in the days ahead.

Finally to my wife Lisa and son Jacob. Thank you for your support, for understanding that time spent on the business of this Commission has not been a burden, but indeed a blessing.

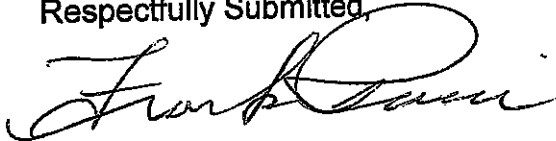
And one last thing- especially for you Jacob, I'd like you to know this. I have worked with Presidents, Premiers, Ambassadors and Prime Ministers...but serving our Town on the Police Commission, being responsible for the safety and security of our neighbors, has been and will remain the greatest honor in public life that I will ever have the opportunity to experience.

Thank you,  
Scott Bates

**10) Adjourn**

At 5:47PM Vice-Chair Olsson made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Pucci".

Frank Pucci, Secretary