

**STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 12, 2013
5:00 p.m. at Stonington Police Headquarters**

MEETING MINUTES

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

1) Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Olsson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2) Remarks of Visitors

Matt Forde – Mystic Irish Parade Foundation

- Parade is scheduled for March 23, 2014, stepping off at 1:00 p.m.
- Vice-Chair Pucci made a motion to add the Mystic Irish Parade to the agenda. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.
- Vice-Chair Pucci then made a motion to approve the Mystic Irish Parade. Motion seconded by Commissioner Moukawsher, all in favor, motion approved.

Jennifer Lacker – Bike Stonington

- Bikers are happy with Route 27 now that it has been paved. Her group would like to work with the Commission on signage for bikers on local roads, specifically Route 27. After discussion, it was suggested that any possible changes be discussed with Town Planner.

3) New Business

4) Correspondence

a. Planning & Zoning

1. PZ1317SUP Sea Research Foundation Special Use Permit Application

- The Commissions concern was that there has been discussion in the past about pedestrian safety crossing Coogan Blvd. The engineer representing the project, Paul Biscuti of DiCesare-Bently Engineers, was present and did answer questions including clearing brush that could improve site line.
- Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to return the matter to Planning and Zoning – no issues with traffic, but concerns with site line and pedestrian safety. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

Correspondence (Cont'd)

2. PZ1315SUP D'Amato Investments, LLC Special Use Permit Application

- The Commission discussed this project, which is a restaurant planned for the shopping center adjacent to the Police Department. Chief Stewart wondered if the establishment would just be a restaurant, or a restaurant/night club. No representative for the project was in attendance to answer questions.
- Based on Chief Stewart's recommendation, Vice-Chair Pucci made a motion to return to Planning and Zoning requesting further information on use of property. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

5) Traffic

a. Letters Re: Speeding Issue – Al Harvey Road

- Officers have been running radar and monitoring traffic on Al Harvey Road. There has been one traffic stop and one ticket in that area.

b. Letters & E-Mail Re: CT DOT Project – School Signing

- Chief Stewart has assigned Lt. Schneider to look at this project. Schools on local roads are in compliance with State. State will replace signs for schools on Route 1 and St. Michael School. Speed is a concern, especially on Mistuxet Avenue and Deans Mill Road. Lt. Schneider is working with Dr. Riley and Lou DiCesare. The Commission may see a request in a month or two to change the signs on those roads.

c. Letter Re: Renewal of Permits – Pedestrian Safety Signs

d. Permits – Pedestrian Safety Signs

6) Approval of Minutes for September 30, 2013 Special Joint Meeting – Board of Selectman, Board of Police Commissioners, Planning & Zoning Commission & Economic Development Commission *VOTE NEEDED*

- No vote needed as none of the Commissioners were present at this meeting. FYI only.

7) Approval of Minutes for Thursday, November 14, 2013 Regular Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

- A motion was made by Commissioner Holt to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2013 Regular Meeting. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

8) Approval of Minutes for Monday, November 25, 2013 Special Meeting *VOTE NEEDED*

- A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2013 Special Meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

9) Old Business

10) Report of the Chief of Police

a. Budget Report

b. Monthly Report

- Chief Stewart noted that the jump in "All Others" is from checks on businesses and traffic. This is part of an accountability system developed by Lt. Schneider. This will be broken down by type for December.

c. Alarm Report

d. Pawcatuck Statistics

e. Special Event Schedule

f. 2014/2015 Operating Budget *VOTE NEEDED*

- Moved to end

g. Pay Adjustment

- A motion was made by Commissioner Moukawsher to approve the COLA increase to 2.4% for non-union employees and to include the Chief and Captain for 2013/2014 fiscal year. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

h. E-Mail & Letter Re: Donation to Animal Control

- Chief Stewart stated that the Board of Selectmen mad a resolution to accept the \$25,000 donation to Animal Control. Funds must be used for the care of animals. A separate account will be set up for accountability purposes to the Estate, and a report of spending will be given to them each year. Chair Olsson thanked Chief Stewart for his hard work and presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

i. Letter Re: ACO Wescovich

- Tabled

j. K9 Program

- Due to age, K9 Fritz will be retired. Officer Howard will keep Fritz. Chief Stewart has met with Connecticut State Police – training will be in February. The Department will have to assign a handler and purchase a dog. Cost of the dog will be \$6,000 - \$7,000 coming from funds set aside in the last fiscal year and funds in our current K9 account. The handler will be chosen in the next month. Chief Stewart will keep the Commission up to date.

k. CPCA Report – Newtown School Shooting

l. Letter Re: Groton Elks Law Enforcement Night

m. Memos Re: Cold Case Squad Selection

- Officer Wholean's time on this assignment is coming to an end. Officer McDermott will be the new officer assigned to this.

n. Police Boat

1. New Boat

- New boat completed, test driven and approved. There are a few changes in process. Will be delivered in the Spring (mid-March).

2. Old Boat

- Has been winterized and is in storage.
- Presented for consideration by Commission – Director of Finance Maryanna Stevens will be conducting an auction, by sealed bids. Looking for approval to place old police boat in auction. If approved by Commission, the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen would be

Report of the Chief of Police (cont'd)

approached to see if there are any concerns. Captain Desmond would attend meetings to let them know what the intentions are. The auction will be taking place at the end of January, date to be determined. Captain Desmond will work with the Director of Finance to set a reasonable price.

- Motion made by Vice-Chair Pucci to send the boat to the auction with the approval of the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

f. Budget

- Chief Stewart presented the Proposed Operational Budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015. Union employee's salaries are set by contract which is being negotiated. Increase for non-union employees voted on earlier (see item 10g.). The Commission had a brief discussion on fuel for the new boat and school safety.
- Commissioner Moukawsher made a motion to approve the Proposed FY2014/2015 Operational Budget as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Holt, all in favor, motion approved.

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

11) Consent Agenda

- a. Award & Program: CCADV – Chief Stewart**
- b. Letter Re: Thank You – Run or Walk for Penguin Event**
- c. Letter Re: Thank You – Stonington High School CIA Class – Chief Stewart**
- d. Letter Re: 1033 Program**
- e. Memo Re: New Officers – Board of Police Commissioners**
- f. Memo Re: Therese Alexander – Completion of 1 Year**
- g. Letters Re: Animal Control Donations**
- h. Article: The Westerly Sun "Police Ponder Increased Parking"**
- i. Article: The Westerly Sun "Judge Hears Testimony In Portland Panhandling Suit"**
- j. Letter Re: Thank You – U.S. Sub Vets Thanksgiving Meal**
- k. Memo Re: Records Disposal**
- l. Letter Re: Thank You – Central Baptist Church**
- m. Memo Re: Additional Personal Day**
- n. E-Mail Re: Bicentennial Celebration**
- o. Letter Re: DSET Survey**

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

12) Adjourn

At 6:50 p.m. Commissioner Holt made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Pucci, all in favor, motion approved.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Holt, Secretary