

STONINGTON BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 5:00PM
MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Bill Turner, Vice Chairman Patricia Coan,
Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates
Chief Jay DelGrosso, Deputy Chief Todd Olson
Captain Bryan Schneider

Absent: Commissioner Richard Balestracci & Commissioner Jessica Mills

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Turner Called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Chairman Turner at the start of the meeting added that public comment will take place at the beginning of each meeting. Each speaker will have a 3-minute maximum.

Vice Chairman Coan made a motion to add the Veterans Day Parade to the agenda. Seconded by Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates. All in favor, motion approved

2. Remarks of the Public
Bike Stonington

Jennifer Lacker & Kevin Burke Addressed the Police Commissioners regarding new information that was given to them regarding safety with Bicyclists. Their intent is to make the streets in Stonington safer for Bicyclists.

3. Correspondence
NONE

4. New Business

a. Pawcatuck River Duck Race *VOTE NEEDED*

Dezmarie Doyle from the Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce addressed the Police Commission regarding the Pawcatuck River Duck Race happening on April 27, 2024 at Donahue Park. Ms. Doyle indicated that there are no changes to the event that has happened in the past.

Vice Chairman Patricia Coan made a Motion to Approve the Pawcatuck River Duck Race as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates. No discussion. all in favor, motion approved.

b. Planning & Zoning Special use Permit Application-100 Mechanic Street, Pawcatuck *COMMENTS NEEDED*

Mike Abbrese from Northeast Sign Company addressed the Police Commissioners to relay that the application that was submitted to the town was already approved, and get any questions answered. Chairman Turner indicated that because it is a sign, it doesn't affect traffic, safety, or parking, no special approval is needed.

c. Broadway Avenue, E. Main Street Rotary Crosswalk Concerns *POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM*

Added to next agenda

d. MYSTIC Chamber of Commerce Event: Celebration of Black History Month *VOTE NEEDED*

Bruce Flax from the Mystic Chamber of Commerce addressed the Police Commissioners regarding the upcoming Black History Month celebration. Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to approve the Celebration of Black History Month even as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

e. Westerly-Pawcatuck Memorial Day Parade *VOTE NEEDED*

Dan LaPointe from the Westerly-Pawcatuck Veterans addressed the Police Commissioners on the Memorial Day Parade. Chairman Turner asked how long the parade has been happening? Since 1990. Chief DelGrosso reminded Dan to have all paperwork submitted to the State within 90 days.

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to approve the Westerly Pawcatuck Memorial Day Parade as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to add the Mystic Memorial Day Parade to the agenda. Seconded by Vice Chairman Coan All in favor, motion approved.

f. Mystic Memorial Day Parade *VOTE NEEDED*

Bill Landry from the Mystic Memorial Day parade addressed the Police Commissioners regarding the parade happening on May 22 from 1-3:30. The Parade will go from Route 215 to Route 1 ending at the Mystic VFW.

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a Motion to Approve the Mystic Memorial Day Parade as submitted to the Police Commission subject to the meeting of the

Town's insurance requirements, and any issue that the Police Department may arise prior to the event. Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion. All in favor, motion approved.

5. Old Business

a. Isham Street Proposal

Many Residents from the surrounding streets addressed the Police Commission with their opinion on making Isham Street one-way. Chris Johnson 27 Greenmanville Avenue stated to do on a trial basis. Steve Menno 21 Greenmanville Avenue has lived there for 42 years and says there is no traffic problem there. He also added that if Isham Street has a problem now and is made a one way then they're going to go down Oak. Maryanne Solodiok 4 Oak St stated that Oak Street is even narrower than Isham Street and added that the Seaport has a delivery entrance on Isham Street. Todd Prishy 27 Greenmanville Avenue is in support of the proposal saying that there is a lot of pedestrian traffic from the Seaport to Downtown Mystic. Jerry Comp 7 Oak St says that there is a lot of traffic on Bay & Isham St and is in favor of the proposal. Virginia Wylder 19 Greenmanville Avenue is against the proposal, because adding more one-way streets will make it more difficult, and doesn't solve anything. Peter Armstrong from the Mystic Seaport has no objections, but should be part of the bigger plan, and welcomes a thoughtful plan. Anthony Capparelli 7 Isham St is not in favor of the proposal stating that it will drastically reduce access to the public boat launch, facts have been determined that that there isn't a speeding problem on Bay Street. Chief DelGrosso added that a speed sign was put up on Bay Street, and there was no indication of speeding. There are more accidents on Route 27. CT DOT has no objections to a one-way street. Bob Crucinski 5 Bay St added that this issue is beat to death. This is a dangerous situation people are going down way too fast. Dave Ryan 8 Bay Street says to come up with a solution that is reasonable. Cheryl Robdau 2 Bay Street says vehicles use Bay Street as a cut through, and something needs to be done to address it. Resident from 2 Oak Street doesn't like the proposal, adding that more traffic will be on Oak, Holmes, and Bay Streets. Ron Desmaris was the last person to speak, and added that all issues that were brought up are valid. Isham Street is much wider than Oak Street, and a measure needs to be executed to reduce volume of traffic on Oak Street.

No Formal vote was conducted due to two Commissioners not in attendance at the meeting,

6. Traffic

None

7. Approval of Minutes from Thursday, November 9, 2023 Regular Meeting

VOTE NEEDED

Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates made a motion to approve the minutes for the December 14, 2023 regular meeting as submitted. Motion Seconded by Vice Chairman Patricia Coan. No discussion, all in favor motion approved.

8. Report of the Chief of Police

Chief DelGrosso started out letting the Commissioners know the promotional exam for sergeant would be taking place by the LEC. He would like to focus on recruitment and retention. Vice Chairman Coan asked if a lot of people would step forward? Yes. Chairman Tuner asked if the interview process is the same for sergeant as for an officer? Yes. Chief DelGrosso also indicated that they're down two dispatchers, but just hired two. Chairman Turner asked how long the training time is? Captain Schneider indicated it takes 4-6 months.

a. Budget Report

Chief DelGrosso indicated that the budget must be tightened down. Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates asked if the budget could be modernized, and collapsed? Chief DelGrosso added that he had asked for the groupings to be changed but if the groupings are changed, could lose entire history.

b. Monthly Report

c. Special Events Schedule

No Special Events

d. Animal Control Officer David Giesing Resignation *VOTE NEEDED*

Chief DelGrosso added that the part-time ACO is on maternity leave. Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates asked if there are more animal surrenders? There are two in custody from other towns

e. Dispatcher Allyson Pollart Retirement *VOTE NEEDED*

9. Consent Agenda:

- a. Thank You Letter: Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center**
- b. Thank You Letter: Keicher Donation**
- c. Thank You Letter: Donation to Animal Control**
- d. Letter Re: Thank You-Officer Murray**
- e. Highway Use Permit: Good Friday Walk**

10. Adjourn

At 6:48PM Vice Chairman Coan Made a motion to adjourn seconded by Secretary Lisa Tepper Bates all in favor, motion approved. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Tepper Bates
Secretary