

## MINUTES

### POLICE COMMISSION MEETING MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008 6:30 P.M. – MEETING ROOM 3

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bill Otfinoski, Art Standish, Glen Morran, John Jones, Jim Stavola

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** First Selectman Linda Hodge, Selectman Stan Soby, Sgt. Shane Hassett, Officer Tom Kelo

1. **Citizen's Comments:** None

2. **Review Correspondence:** None

3. **Approve minutes of August 25, 2008 and Special Meeting September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2008:**

J. Jones motioned to approve the minutes of August 25, 2008, seconded by G. Morran. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

A. Standish motioned to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2008 Special Meeting, seconded by G. Morran. All members present voted in favor with J. Jones and J. Stavola abstaining. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Jones motioned to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2008 Special Meeting, seconded by J. Stavola. All members voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

J. Jones motioned to move *Item 8c. Discuss Lines of Communication* to this point in the agenda, seconded by G. Morran. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 8. New Business

**c. Discuss Lines of Communication:** An outline of the current communication lines was reviewed.

J. Stavola questioned why the officers cannot come directly to the Police Commission before going to the First Selectman and after going to the Sergeant. He said there are discrepancies with what the state statutes say and what is being said can be done. L. Hodge stated that there are several statutes that vary in what is said. She has asked the town attorney for clarification. She also explained that the officers cannot go to the Police Commission first due to the grievance policy. J. Stavola requested documentation stating that the commission members are covered in what they do under the town and cannot be held individually responsible. The lines of communication will continue to be worked on to develop the best path.

4. **Budget Review:** Officer Kelo said that the Police Union has purchased digital cameras for all officers. He asked that batteries for the cameras be considered in next year's budget. Sgt. Hassett will discuss with the officers items to also be considered.

J. Jones asked if the officers would benefit from the Smart Cruisers such as those that nearby towns have purchased. Sgt. Hassett was not familiar with the product.

Lock boxes are still needed. J. Stavola questioned if the officers would be willing to participate in fundraising for this item or are there other items that should be more of a priority. Officers will be questioned about their willingness to participate in fundraising and a fundraising meeting will be held.

5. **Appropriation and Transfer:** None

6. **Resident Trooper Report (August and September):**

a. **Monthly Statistics:** Sgt. Hassett reported that in the month of September there were 8 high profile cases and in the month of October there were 6. In September Officer Kelo made a narcotics arrest. Officer Watrous had a criminal mischief as at William Johnston Middle School where spray paint messages were found on a back wall. Officers Kelo and Passacantando made an arrest after hours at the rec complex for possession of marijuana. Officer Green investigated a complaint of threatening from a

juvenile at the middle school. A fellow student threatened to cut the girls head off and kill her and himself. The juvenile later admitted that he has a problem talking about "bad things" when he is angry. Officer Girard investigated an attempted suicide but intervened before the male could complete the hanging. Officer Simkulak investigated a criminal mischief at the golf course where a vehicle had driven over several fairways. Officers Owens and Green responded to a group home where a female resident was armed with a knife. The woman was able to be stopped before any damage was done to herself or others. She was later admitted to Backus Hospital for psychological evaluation. In the month of October Officer Green approached an accused wanted on a warrant for not responding to a motor vehicle charge. In the process he found marijuana on the accused. Nine officers from Troop K investigated an incident at the Citgo station in which a man stole cigarettes. The suspect has not been caught. Officer Green and others assisted Federal Marshals with a warrant service on Skinner Road in which the accused was arrested for a home invasion from New Hampshire in which numerous firearms were stolen. Officer Watrous investigated a criminal mischief complaint of damage to an Obama sign in which the sign had been run over numerous times. There was a suspect that was later found to not be the culprit. Officers Girard and Watrous investigated an attempted suicide on River Road. The man survived the initial gun shot but later was pronounced at the hospital. Officer Watrous in currently doing his FTO program and is doing well. Recruit Regnere continues to do excellent academically and has positive feedback from instructors. Officer Green is attending Firearms Training. Officer Edwards continues to be on medical leave. Officer Owens received the SIM card which links the NEXGEN software to his car computer. The car computer has not been working properly however.

First Selectman Hodge will have Mark Tate contact NEXGEN to resolve computer issues.

(First Selectman Hodge left at this point. 7:50 p.m.)

#### 7. Old Business:

- a. **Status of Cruisers:** 5, 8, 1& 9 currently have issues as previously discussed.
- b. **Officer of the Year Criteria:** Commissioners will review the criteria for the next meeting.
- c. **Discuss Uniform:** Hats have not been ordered yet. There is a problem with the quality of the pants. A new kind is being "tested". These items need to be addressed before considering what will be done for a formal uniform or a road job uniform.
- d. **Equipment List for Cruisers:** The Department Supplied Cruiser Trunk Equipment list will be used when preparing the budget.
- e. **K-9 Discussion:** Officer Owens was not present. No discussion took place.
- f. **Safety Inspection Approval:** J. Jones motioned to that the Safety Inspection for cruisers (previously approved at past meeting) be implemented starting immediately, seconded by J. Stavola. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### 8. New Business

- a. **OFC Report from Officer Labonte:** No report. Officer Labonte was not present.
- B. Otfinoski said that the commission should discuss if they would like to keep the OFC as is. Officers do not appear to be doing it and are earning 3% for it.
- b. **Information on Statistics (J. Stavola):** J. Stavola will obtain statistics from Troop K.
  - c. **Discuss Lines of Communication:** Moved prior to Item 4 on the agenda.
9. **Citizens Comments:** S. Soby took this time to commend the officers on their increased visibility in town. J. Jones said he has been approached by some people concerned over the airline trail crossing on Rte 149. S. Soby told Sgt. Hassett to check with J. Cohen in Park and Rec Department on a grant that had once been discussed to install a traffic crossing light at that location.
10. **Additions to Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. The commission would like the discussion on a regional facility and department to be placed on next month's regularly scheduled meeting agenda. The numerous duties of the department's Administrative Assistant should also be discussed.
11. **Adjournment:** J. Jones motioned to adjourn, seconded by A. Standish. All members present voted in favor. **MOTION CARRIED.** Chairman Otfinoski adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.