



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2011
IN THE MEETING ROOM OF TOWN HALL SOUTH
3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN

**These minutes are not finalized until approved
At the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

Vice-Chairman Brian Budd called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

PRESENT: Brian Budd, Keith Jacobs, and James Viadero, and Chairman Duane Giannini

ABSENT: Bruce Walczak

ALSO PRESENT: Captain Jose Rios, 1 member of the press and 1 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

James Walsh, 3 North Branch Road, told the Board that he's been following the process for the past 20 months. He indicated that he wished to speak, but would save his thoughts until after Commissioners reviewed the data that evening.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING MARCH 1, 2011 – Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting on May 3, 2011 and the addendum. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S REPORT: In Police Chief Michael Kehoe's absence, Captain Rios read the Chief's report. **Personnel Report** – Captain Rios reported that a seat at the Police Academy had been confirmed for August 12, 2011. He announced that they had restarted hiring and background checks of prospective candidates. According to the Captain, the Chief is looking to hold a special meeting at the end of July because they were trying to make the Academy by August 12. He added that making that date would be contingent upon all the tests. Captain Rios suggested that the start time be at 6:30 pm. **Budget** – The Captain told Commissioners that the Budget Report for Fiscal Year Fiscal Year 2011/2012 in their packets. **Fleet** – Captain Rios reported that everything was status quo. **Training Report** – The Captain told Commissioners that Lt. Vanghele's Report was in their packet. The Chairman asked how K-9 Officer Figol was doing with the dog and Captain Rios said excellent and noted that she had recently been up at the High School. **Letters of Gratitude** – Captain Rios reported that the Department had received several letters of gratitude – 2 letters for Officer Figol, 1 for Officer Guernsey, and 1 for Officer Greco. **Correspondences** – The Captain indicated that the Department had received several correspondences. 1) Church Hill, Commerce, and Edmond Roads - One was from the State Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding Church Hill, Commerce and Edmond Hill

Roads. He added that there was not enough funding for preferred option. **2) School Signing Project** - Captain Rios noted that another correspondence from the DOT was in regards to the School Signing Project. The Project calls for the replacement of existing school related warning signs on state-mandated roadways with “high visibility” signs with a fluorescent yellow-green background with black legend and border. Chairman Giannini noted that the letter dated May 6 said they had to report back to the State in 30 days after being reviewed by the local traffic authority and other Town officials. The Chairman expressed his concern that he did not want this to fall through the cracks and asked Captain Rios to talk to the Chief and the traffic unit. Chairman Giannini made it known that he is expecting a report back to Police Commissioners on the school signing project as to whether they responded in a timely manner to the State. **3) Traffic Light at Intersection of Route 302 and Wasserman Way** - Captain Rios reported that a third correspondence a letter from Chief Kehoe to the DOT regarding the malfunctioning traffic light at the intersection of Route 302 and Wasserman Way. He indicated that the Chief had asked that the maintenance priority be upgraded from a Level 5 to a more urgent Level 2 priority and noted that the recent malfunctions of the light had resulted in assigning an officer to direct traffic to relieve the backup on the exit ramp. **4) Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** – Captain Rios reported Chief Kehoe had an email correspondence with Kenneth Lerman regarding the cost of a defibrillator. In the correspondence, Mr. Lerman referred to literature which suggests that access to early defibrillation is a major determinant in successful resuscitation after sudden cardiac arrest. The Captain reported that Officers are currently trained to use defibrillators and the department looks toward having them in the cruisers. Regarding his experience with what they do in their work place and the training they have had using the AED, Commissioner Randle suggested that awareness has increased and it’s seen very positively. **Chief’s Goals Update** – Captain Rios noted that everything was status quo. **Citizen Police Academy (CPA)** – The Captain announced that the CPA graduation was a success. According to Captain Rios, many people were impressed with the efficiency of the Police Department. **Accreditation** – Regarding accreditation, the Captain reported that the department had attained the Post of Tier 1. He stated that the Department had gotten a good verbal report and was waiting for the written report. The Captain told Commissioners the Police Department is in good standing. **UCR Report 2010** – Captain Rios indicated that a copy of the report was in their packets. **DOT Meeting June 9, 2011, Silver Bridge Project** – The Captain reported that the DOT is holding a meeting tomorrow night at the Municipal Center at 7 pm. He informed Commissioners that DOT would be working on Silver Bridge on Glen Road and that traffic would be affected while the work was being done. **Polish National Police (PNP) Delegation Visit** – Captain Rios was pleased to announce that the Newtown Police Department was visited by the PNP. The Captain told Commissioners that the Delegation visited the academy and had lunch with Lt. Vanghele and his self. He said that they communicated through an interpreter, exchanged gifts, and had a philosophical discussion about law enforcement on a local level. Captain Rios commended Officer Greco for bringing the PNP to their attention

CAPTAIN’S REPORT:

Incident Analysis Report for May 2011 – Captain Rios reported that there had been a significant increase from motor vehicle contact to narcotics arrests. **Monthly Patrol Motor Vehicle Enforcement for May 2011** – Motor Vehicle activity - The Captain informed Commissioners that motor vehicle enforcement activity was up 63% compared to May the previous year. In regards to the increase, he commended the Department saying they’re out doing a fine job. DUI activity – Captain Rios indicated that there were 8 DUI arrests for May 2011. **Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) Report for May 2011 and Detective Division Report for May 2011** – Captain Rios indicated that the TEU and the Detective Division Reports for May 2011 were in the Commissioners’ meeting packets. **Memorial Day Weekend** – The

Captain reported that over Memorial Day Weekend there were 95 Motor Vehicle Stops, 2 DUI Arrests, 7 Accident Investigations, and no Fatalities.

Chairman Giannini asked Captain Rios about the seatbelt awareness program “Click-it or Ticket” and the Captain said they already participated in that and he will bring the results back to the Board for the next meeting.

DUI Checkpoint – The Captain announced that the department would have a DUI Checkpoint Friday night, June 17, 2011.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion and consideration on subcommittee reports of the Strategic Goals and Objectives for the Police Commissions – Chairman Giannini suggested they skip this item.

Discussion and comments on final review/studies of Key rock Road – Chairman Giannini told Commissioners that they had received a document in their packets from Officer Stephen Ketchum of the NDPS Traffic Unit entitled Key Rock Road Traffic Study 05/11. The Chairman indicated that the report compared data between 05/10 and 05/11.

Chairman Giannini said he couldn’t believe the incremental speeds on the road posted at 25 mph without the tables from 05/01/11 to 05/08/11 the average southbound was 36.34 mph and the average speed northbound was 36.49 mph; the 85th% speed southbound was 42.94 mph. He said its’ obvious drivers using the road haven’t got it.

The Chairman said the traffic calming process was completed and told fellow Police Commissioners that he would like to get a motion to move ahead with the permanent installation of a calming table or multiple tables on Key Rock Road. He added that they need to make sure the speed tables are put in an optimal location.

Commissioner Randle made a motion that the Board move the to the next step with the permanent installation of speed calming tables on Key Rock Road with the location to be determined. Commissioner Viadero seconded.

Commissioner Budd questioned whether they look at 2 or 3 sets of calming devices.

Chairman Giannini noted that the budget was approved and indicated that funds were set aside for Queen Street issue. He added that for this they might get a traffic engineer to help, but suggested that between Steve and Jeff they should be able to get it done.

Commissioner Budd suggested that for the next meeting he wants 2 or 3 options given to them by the traffic unit.

Chairman Giannini added that its critical they use the speed calming tables in the right location and emphasized that its critical at the intersection of North Branch.

Captain Rios told the Board that the Department will come back next month with some options.

The Chairman added that they need to talk to Public Works Director Fred Hurley as well.

Commissioner Budd pointed out that they definitely need two or three options where the optimum slowing down and speeding up is; and he asked the Captain to tell the Traffic Unit to concentrate on the straightaway section.

Chairman Giannini called the vote and the motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and comments on assessing a Professional Traffic Study firm – Chairman Giannini told Commissioners that he had asked Chief Kehoe to put this on the agenda and said he was pleased to see the money for the traffic study stayed in the budget. He said it was specifically earmarked for the Queen Street area He noted that he had spoken to First Selectman Pat Llodra that morning to put the project out to bid and develop the RFP.

The Chairman said he would like to present to the Board a timeline of activities such as: the RFP will go out on this date, get it back on this date; and the providers would make a selection by a

given date. He suggested that he would like to make a recommendation for a traffic calming solution in the Greater Queen Street area before 2012.

Chairman Giannini suggested that the critical piece is, what do you want them to study? He noted that he went through the Vollmer Study again and said they did a great job, but they didn't address the whole picture. The Chairman said they know speed is the issue.

Commissioner Budd expressed his concern that he didn't know whether the turnaround time of a vendor can be done in 60 days.

Commissioner Randle added that if they don't they'll lose a year.

Commissioner Budd added that he doesn't want to push it to satisfy the time frame of a contract.

Captain Rios indicated that Chief Kehoe is looking to discuss a strategy, RFQ and put it out to bid and figure out who they will select as consultant for whatever traffic study they are going to do.

Commissioner Randle suggested the report be done in two steps: one which gives the Board the top line to guess what will be in the budget; and, the second to get the final details. Chairman Giannini noted that he has observed a steady stream of traffic coming off Elizabeth Street onto Queen Street and suggested that drivers were using this as a short cut to avoid the light.

Adoption of Policy and Procedure: Automated External Defibrillator (AED), Social Media, and Wrecker Service:

Social Media Policy – Captain Rios indicated that the Department drafted this policy to keep up with the times, look for accountability and give the officers something to work with.

Commissioner Budd asked where the policy was developed from and the Captain indicated that the Chief used IACP.

Commissioner Viadero noted that the policy isn't saying you can't use social media. It's saying how you can use it.

Chairman Giannini stated that it was a great policy and well written.

Commissioner Randle indicated that a policy is only as good as the enforcement of it and questioned whether the enforcement should be mentioned.

Captain Rios replied that the Police Department has a progressive discipline policy.

Commissioner Viadero made a motion to accept the social media policy. Commissioner Randle seconded and the motion was unanimously carried.

Wrecker-Towing Service Rotation Policy – Captain Rios told Commissioners that the Chief asked that this be tabled so he can have a meeting to obtain further information. Chairman Giannini recommended the adoption of the policy be put off until next month.

Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Policy -

According to Captain Rios, the department has the training, and he suggests its time they codified the training and deployment of the AED devices.

Commissioner Randle told the Captain that he didn't explicit mention of refresher training. He suggested that there should be training every 12-months.

Chairman Giannini agreed and said he thinks that should be added to this.

Commissioner Budd moved to accept the AED Policy with the stipulation that a specific section be added on recertification in compliance with Connecticut State requirements. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Budd indicated that the only other question was that the extreme heat and cold could deplete the battery. Chairman Giannini suggested that the AED battery be added to a list to be checked prior to patrol.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr. Walsh told Commissioners that on October 10, 2009, 20 months ago, he came to then Sgt, Vanghele (now Lt. Vanghele) explaining the situation.

According to Mr. Walsh, he first met Mrs. Llodra when she was on the campaign trail for First Selectman. He said that she told him what to do and said he would be treated with the utmost respect – and he was.

Mr. Walsh said that he had his first meeting with the Board on December 1, 2009. He told Board that when he goes to the First Selectman's office he will tell her how proud he is of the Commissioners.

Mr. Walsh added that there is no doubt in his mind that all of them are the right men for the job and said he is proud to be a tax payer. He said he was really excited about the fact that they could take care of the issue in the meeting room.

Chairman Giannini thanked Mr. Walsh for his kind words.

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION:

Chairman Giannini told fellow Commissioners that he had received an email once again from Kendra Bobowick who lives on Great Quarter Road. The Chairman indicated that the speed of motorists is still an issue; and said he would be calling Ms. Bobowick tomorrow and asking her to call the Captain.

Commissioner Randle said that he had a positive discussion the other night with Officer Greco when he brought the packet around. He said that Officer Greco indicated he would like to know the Commissioners better. Commissioner Randle noted that the more the people, police and Commissioners get to know each other the better.

Chairman Giannini suggested that the Board has a special meeting where each one of the Commissioners talks a little about their background. He asked Captain Rios to talk to the Chief about inviting the officers to have a social with the commissioners.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: none

ADJOURN THE MEETING:

Commissioner Budd moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Commissioner Randall seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ted Swigart, Clerk