



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 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.*

Chairman Duane Giannini called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

PRESENT: Bruce Walczak, Neil Randle, and Chairman Duane Giannini

ABSENT: Brian Budd and James Viadero

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Police Captain Jose Rios, 1 member of the press and 1 member of the public.

Chairman Giannini reported that Commissioners Viadero and Budd were able to attend the evenings meeting due to work related investigations

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

John Boccuzzi, Sr., 61 Queen Street, thanked the Police Department and Commissioners for the increased presence of police patrols on Queen Street. He stated that he expects high traffic volume, but suggests that there is a real issue with speeding on Queen Street.

Chairman Giannini suggested that Mr. Boccuzzi proceed with the traffic calming guidelines. He noted that they have already been looking into the issue and indicated that RFP was scheduled to go out in the next couple of months. The Chairman added that the Chief is aggressively pursuing the issue and will be addressed through enforcement and engineering.

Mr. Boccuzzi suggested that the Board needed to look at the whole downtown at the same time. Chairman Giannini noted that he walks on Great Hill on the weekends and can't believe the speed on it. He added that he can't believe they haven't been able to put a damper on the speed despite all the enforcement. The Chairman stressed that the Department and the Board are working hard on it.

Chairman Giannini asked that Mr. Boccuzzi's letter to the Board of Police Commissioners, dated July 15, 2011, be attached to the minutes for the record.

Commissioner Walczak agreed with Mr. Boccuzzi that the Department and the Board should address speed and not so much the volume.

Chairman Giannini noted that Mr. Boccuzzi was complementary of the ongoing effort. The Chairman said he echoed that and again stressed that the Department is working hard to resolver the issue of speeding.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 8, 2011 and JULY 28, 2011 – Commissioner Randle moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of June 8, 2011 as corrected and the special meeting of July 28, 2011.

Commissioner Walczak seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Corrections: Captain Rios noted that Chairman Giannini called the special meeting to order June 8, not Vice-Chairman Budd; and the Captain noted that Commissioner Randle was at the meeting and not former Commissioner, Keith Jacobs.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report – Chief reported that the three officers are doing well at the academy. He noted that the 1st trimester grades are in and they are in the top 20% of the class. The Chief informed the Board that the new hire went for pre-qualifications - physical and medical and is scheduled to start the academy next Friday. **Budget** – Chief told Commissioners that he had hoped to have the numbers for the Budget Report for Fiscal Year Fiscal Year 2011/2012 in their packets but he didn't receive the final numbers back yet. The Chief added that they should not be over budget. **Fleet** – Chief Kehoe reported that 2 new vehicles were in use now and indicated that one of the old decommissioned cars was being used up on the Fairfield Hills Campus by security. The Chief informed the Board that two of the department's cruisers were currently out of service and would be for the next week to 10 days. One of the cars he stated had a blown engine and the other a blown transmission, but both are covered under extended warranties. Chief Kehoe stressed that unfortunately this happens when the vehicles are not regularly replaced. **Training Report** – The Chief told Commissioners that he will be attending a conference in Seattle, Washington, on August 21, 2011 aimed against violence against women. He noted that he was 1 of 30 Chiefs selected to attend and indicated that it will be 4 days of intensive work. **Letters of Gratitude** – Chief Kehoe reported that the Department had received several letters of gratitude over the course of the last two months, June and July; and indicated that copies of the letters were in the Commissioner's packets. **Correspondences** – The Chief indicated that the Department had received several correspondences from various agencies. He noted that one was in regards to the planning of the new ambulance garage on the Fairfield Hills Campus. He explained that there was a meeting on the matter coming up next week and said they were looking at some type of approval from the Board regarding the safety of ambulances coming out on certain roads. **Accreditation** – Chief Kehoe indicated that he was pleased to announce the Department had passed their Tier 1 Accreditation and credited Sgt. Vanghele and Cindy Mazzucco for their efforts. **Traffic Accident Analysis 2010** – Chief Kehoe reported that the Commissioners have in their packets the most salient parts of the report. He noted that the report compares 2010 with 2008 and 2009. The Chief reported that Lt. Sinko did a great job. Chief Kehoe added that this report gives a blue print of where to put their officers in the field.

Regarding the various Communications, Commissioner Walczak addressed the letter regarding the animal control facility plans. He suggested that there was still some confusion of who reports to whom and who the supervisor reports to. Commissioner Walczak indicated that it was still his understanding that the Supervisor reported to First Selectman.

Chief Kehoe stated that Commissioner Walczak was correct, but indicated that once the facility opens the animal control facility will report directly to the Police Department. The Chief noted that he is working closely with the First Selectman's office on how that transition will go.

Chairman Giannini indicated that Commissioners Budd and Viadero have to meet with First Selectman Pat Llodra and the Board first. The Chairman recommended that no action be taken on the matter until the reporting of the pound comes before the Board of Police Commissioners. In regards to the facility, Chief Kehoe reported that he had agreed to become involved in the development of a Cat Ordinance and noted that he had met with the Ordinance Committee to discuss housing cats and dealing with the feral population in the Town.

Chairman Giannini addressed the letter Captain Rios sent to the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin regarding the efforts of Officers Hayes, McCarthy and McCluskey when they were involved in the search for a missing boy in town on June 26, 2011, and successfully located him stuck in a pond and rescued him. The Captain noted that the Commissioners will see the officers' recognition up and coming.

The Chairman also addressed the Traffic Analysis report. He noted that the report indicated the number of accidents on each road but questioned whether the Commission could be provided with what percent the accidents represent in terms of volume.

Finally, Chairman Giannini asked the Chief about the progress regarding the reconfiguration of the Commerce and Church Hill Roads intersection. Chief Kehoe stated that he had met with the State, elected officials and the First Selectman and discussed the importance of it. He told the Chairman that he recalled giving the Board a letter regarding the matter.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Incident Analysis Report for June and July 2011 – Captain Rios reported that for the months of June and July combined there were a total of 46 accidents, 8 Burglaries, 34 acts of vandalism, and 40 Larcenies. **Monthly Patrol Motor Vehicle Enforcement for June and July 2011 – Motor Vehicle Enforcement Reports** - The Captain informed Commissioners that motor vehicle enforcement reports for June were up 67% compared to June last year and that the MV enforcement reports for July were up 72% compared to the previous year. **Motor Vehicle Contacts** – Captain Rios reported that compared to the previous year, the contacts were up 88% for June 2011 and 110% for July 2011. **DUI enforcement** – The Captain indicated that there were 10 DUI arrests for the months of June and July 2011 combined. **Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) Report for June and July 2011** – Captain Rios report that there were 212 total stops for June and July 2011. **Detective Division Report for June and July 2011** – The Captain informed Commissioners that the Detective Division had been busy officiating alcohol compliance checks targeting liquor stores and party spots for underage drinking. He noted that the operation was funded with grant money. **DUI Checkpoint** – The Captain reported that the department headed two DUI check points one in June and 1 in July. He said they made two arrests and 7 motor vehicle violations. He noted that one was in Dodgingtown and the other as up on Church Hill Road. According to Captain Rios, the next check point is coming up the week of August 20. **Commercial Truck Enforcement** – Captain Rios reported that 10 trucks were inspected with a total of 82 violations. He added that several of the trucks were taken out of service and noted that Officer Jeff Silver still heads the effort. Chief Kehoe noted that 1 truck alone could have 12 or 13 violations, but only two of them might take it out of service. Captain Rios thanked DMV for their help, indicating this was a joint effort. He noted that the check was done on Wasserman Way at Route 25 and Route 34. The Captain noted that infractions were issued for 16 offenses and commended Officer Silver and the DMV for doing a nice job.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion and consideration on subcommittee reports of the Strategic Goals and Objectives for the Police Commissions – Crosswalk Safety (Commissioner Walczak and Chairman Giannini) – Commissioner Walczak noted that everything was up on Glover except the solar pedestrian activated crosswalk signs. Chairman Giannini also question where the signs were. Chief Kehoe noted that the staffing at the Department of Public Works was down and that they were mostly addressing the waterline in Sandy Hook Center before school starts. Chairman Giannini informed Commissioners that he had heard of a process where asphalt was stamped and colored just like concrete was stamped and colored. Commissioner Walczak thought that might be good to put where the crosswalk crosses the entrance form Queen Street into the shopping center where Big Y is located.

The Chief noted that the crossing is considered an extension of the sidewalk and not an actual crosswalk because it's private property

Chief Kehoe told Commissioners he needs to meet with the owner of the property regarding the upgrading of the light there and noted that they did a terrific job. The Chief added that they can talk about the extension of the crosswalk across the driveway at that time and discuss how they can make it safer.

Animal Control (Commissioners Budd and Viadero) – Chairman Giannini noted that since neither of them was present they would not discuss the matter any further at that time.

Labor (Commissioner Viadero and Dr. McCabe) – The Chairman again noted the topic would be discussed when Commissioner Viadero was present.

Discussion and consideration on Key Rock Road traffic calming– Chairman Giannini commended Officers Steve Ketchum and Jeff Silver for the very professional job they did with the report.

Chief Kehoe told Commissioners that some things may have material costs so he believes its prudent to get things back from DPW to put things into place.

Chairman Giannini suggests he will meet with the Director of Public Works and the Chief to get a sense of where the traffic control devices need to be located and then bring that information back to the Board.

Commissioner Walczak moved that the Board of Police Commissioners approves the Key Rock Road Traffic Calming Report and its recommendations subject to clarifications and whether they need an engineering sign off on it. Commissioner Randle seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and action on Application to Borough Zoning regarding Special Exception for Veterinary Hospital 52 Church Hill Road – Following a brief presentation by Chief Kehoe complete with a site map and a few questions and answers regarding access and egress from the proposed facility, Chairman Giannini indicated that no vote was necessary at this time. However, Chairman Giannini recommended that the Chief note the Veterinary Hospital needs adequate signage at the entrance so they don't have vehicles backing up.

Discussion and action on No Parking on access road to Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – Chief Kehoe told Commissioners that he wants “no parking” signs there. He indicated that a lot of people park there because it's near the athletic fields and he feels a “no parking” zone sign would be appropriate.

Commissioner Walczak suggested they ask the baseball league to provide some input in the matter.

Commissioner Randle indicated that there is inadequate parking there especially when there is a transition between two games where one ends and one begins.

Chairman Giannini agreed with Commissioner Walczak that they should reach out to the coaches. He also suggested they explore “load and unload only” for 15 minutes in addition. The Chairman suggested they table the matter until they have a chance to discuss it with the appropriate individuals.

Discussion on Safe Routes to School – Commissioner Walczak reported that there has been an ongoing development regarding the concept of Safe Roads to School. He indicated that he has met with the Director of Land Use George Benson twice. He noted that the application was submitted to regional planning association on Monday

Chief Kehoe indicated that he signed off on the letter and noted that it would be helpful to extend some of the sidewalks. He noted that the current design for the sidewalks is inadequate. Chairman Giannini noted that the Board of Police Commissioners was very clear in 2009 that they wanted the sidewalks on the East Side of Queen Street. Commissioner Walczak noted that a crosswalk crossing the end of Queen Street where it intersects with Mile Hill Road South is a recipe for disaster. Chief Kehoe noted that safety is all part of engineering design

Discussion on Chief's review, renewal/renegotiation of contract and goals –

Chairman Giannini informed the Board that somehow they had missed a review period for the Chief last year.

He suggested that there was two ways they could approach this. One was two different review periods or the other was to combine the review periods into one from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

The Chairman noted that tonight they needed to address the Chief's 3-year contract as it is coming to an end in the fall.

In terms of the review, Chairman Giannini indicated he has not integrated the First Selectman's comments into it yet. He asked for the Board to get their comments back to him so they can get them to Carole Ross so she can sign off on them.

Regarding the contract, Chairman Giannini asked for a motion to renew the Chief's for another 3 years.

Commissioner Walczak moved to enter into negotiations with Police Chief Michael Kehoe for another 3-year contract. Commissioner Randle seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and action on FY 11-12 transfer –

Commissioner Walczak moved to transfer \$4,000 from account 01310-1003, Sworn Personnel to account 01310-2015, Police Recruitment. Commissioner Randle seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

According to Chief Kehoe, the transfer is necessary because they went through the hiring process and have expenditures that must be covered. He added that the account was wiped clean during the budget cuts 6 or 8 months ago.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION:

Chairman Giannini indicated that sight line at the intersection of Beagle Trail and New Lebanon Road have become overgrown on either side and there have been several near misses. He suggested that the matter be addressed.

Media Policy-

Commissioner Walczak indicated that he had asked for a media/communications plan a while ago and the recently he saw in the Danbury News Times an article on "campaign" the Brookfield Police Department had.

Chairman Giannini remarked that some kind of slogan would be helpful and he told Commissioners he loves the one, "Drive like Your Kids live here." He suggested the Chief have a member of the department work with Commission Walczak on the policy.

The Chief indicated that its more than a police and Commissioner Walczak agreed suggesting that they need bumper stickers, posters, and signs in town.

Chairman Giannini agreed and urged that they should have a brainstorming session regarding what they want to accomplish.

Both the Chairman and Commissioner Giannini asked the Chief to commit to it within the next few weeks.

Chief Kehoe recommended Officer McCarthy as being perfect for the task.

EXECUTIVE SESSION for purpose of discussion and possible action upon strategy and negotiation with regard to pending employee grievances:

Chairman Giannini moved to go into executive session for the purpose of discussion and possible action upon strategy and negotiation with regard to pending employee grievances at 9:20 pm. He invited the Chief and the Captain to attend. Commissioner Randle seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

At this time, the clerk left the meeting.

Ted Swigart, Clerk

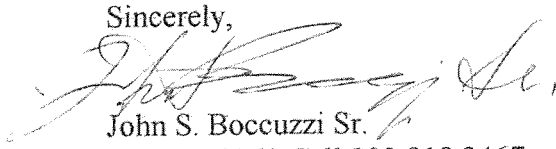
John S. Boccuzzi Sr
61 Queen Street
Newtown, CT 06470

Mr. Duane H. Giannini
Police Commission
Newtown Police Department
Town Hall South
3 main Street
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Mr. Giannini:

I would like to formally request an investigation of the need for traffic calming on Queen Street. I would very much appreciate it if this could be added to the agenda of the August meeting of the Police Commission. I would also appreciate any guidance that the commission can provide concerning compliance with all regulations, ordinances and provisions regarding the appropriate process for moving forward a request for traffic calming on Queen street. Thank you in advance for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,


John S. Boccuzzi Sr.
203 365 0360 Cell 203 918 3467

7/15/2011

3 MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

ADDENDUM TO
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF NEWTOWN BOARD OF POLICE
COMMISSIONERS HELD ON AUGUST 2, 2011

At 9:39 P. M., the Board left executive session.

At 9:39 P. M. Commissioner Randle moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Walczak, unanimously passed by the Board.

Submitted by: _____
Chief Michael K. Kehoe