



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2012**  
**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 Paul Mangiafico called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**PRESENT:** Brian Budd, Joel Faxon, Paul Mangiafico, Andrew Sachs and James Viadero

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Police Lieutenant George Sinko, Police Union President Scott Ruszczyk, Public Works Director Fred Hurley, 1 member of the press, and 6 members of the public

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Edwin Miklaszewski, 4 Chimney Swift Drive – asked the Board if the State had been contacted since the sub-committee was formed to look the traffic situation up at the flag pole on Route 25. Chairman Mangiafico indicated that he didn't think so. Mr. Miklaszewski asked if Newtown could get a copy of the regulations about what can and can't be done at the flag pole. Chairman Mangiafico indicated that recalled that the Board had a discussion about the options – on particular putting an officer there and noted that Chief Kehoe had been opposed to that for safety reasons. The Chairman indicated that he had a meeting with the First Selectman about it and agreed that there is no simple way noting that there are many involved in the decision process including the State, the Borough and the Board of Police Commissioners. He added that the subject a traffic light there is heavily opposed. Chairman Mangiafico stated that in recent historical information given to the Board by Land-Use Director George Benson regarding the flag pole a round-about was discussed. The Chairman noted that whether or not it can be done remains a question.

Mr. Miklaszewski asked if there was any plan in place to ease the passage of emergency vehicles in the event there is an incident on I-84 and the highway is closed down diverting traffic through Town.

Chief Kehoe indicated that several years ago the Town along with HVCEO came up with diversionary plans for such a situation and put them in place as part of protocol.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Miklaszewski thanked Police Commissioners and Chief Kehoe; and indicated that if the Chief says there is a plan than he appreciates that.

## **POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:**

Union President Scott Ruszczyk indicated that everything is going well with the Union.

## **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING MARCH 6, 2012 – Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of March 6, 2012. Commissioner Faxon seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

Chairman Mangiafico moved the Board's conversation with Public Works Director Fred Hurley up on the agenda so as not to make him wait unnecessarily.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Discussion, consideration and action on strategies for Queen Street area traffic concerns - Speed Tables** - Public Works Director Fred Hurley told Police Commissioners that he had received "a lot" of calls about people concerned about the speed tables on Key Rock Road.. He noted that after reminding them of the frustration of trying to control the speed they realized that the town was doing the speed tables because there was nothing else they could do. Additionally, Mr. Hurley suggested to the concerned residents that if people were more civil drivers they would not need this. The Public Works Director said they would take a good hard look at the table for the next couple of months and noted that emergency personnel indicated they didn't have any problems getting over them. He told Commissioners that as time has gone on the calls have stopped completely and believes this is because they understand why the Town is doing it. Regarding design standards, Mr. Hurley indicated that they had come up with their own design for the permanent speed tables which cost \$2500 each – considerably less than the temporary ones at \$8500 each. He explained that the design of their speed tables was not an engineered system with a standard but it works for Newtown. The Public Works Director also said he talked to the plow drivers and said they had no problems getting on and over them.

Mr. Hurley said of they follow that recommendation for speed tables on Queen Street they do have a method. He suggested that like Key Rock Road the speed tables have to be visible from both sides to have an effect to be successful.

Queen Street – The Public Works Director indicated that they discussed putting 2 or 3 temporary speed tables on Queen Street, but noted Queen Street is a little different. Mr. Hurley suggested that it would take a minimum of 3 to as many as 5 to control the speed on Queen Street.

Additionally, he believed that they would still need to do something on Glover.

Mr. Hurley informed the Board that he has gone up and down Queen Street and there are four or five areas where the speed tables can be placed. He stated that the cost is an issue and they don't have the money they use to have in Public Works for such a project. Mr. Hurley suggests that Public Works does have the "patch budget" and indicated that is probably where they could get the extra money from.

According to Mangiafico, he met with the First Selectman and discussed with her how she was going to elevate this concern given there were no funds in the police budget; and she said she would find a way to get it done.

Mr. Hurley indicated that there were two concerns when installing speed tables:

- 1) Several cross roads on Queen street that could become diversionary
- 2) The impact on homes themselves

Mr. Hurley indicated that the temporary speed tables could go up fairly soon.

Commissioner Faxon asked the Chief Kehoe how much time it would take to do the study with the two temporary speed tables and the Chief indicated approximately two weeks as they would need information on Glover and Queen Street

Chairman Mangiafico told Commissioners he had a different outlook and questions why put speed bumps on Queen Street. He noted that the Chief put police with radars on Queen Street

every day and the result was 40% less traffic. The Chairman believes that speed bumps will ultimately reduce traffic and suggests that they should have the speed tables for speeding not traffic.

Chief Kehoe noted that they needed to know where traffic will go.

Mr. Hurley added that the speeding is driving this and indicated that the diversionary issue is not the primary reason but it is still a secondary concern.

Chairman Mangiafico reminded the Board that that it needed to recognize that the HVCEO recommended extending Commerce Drive out to Wasserman Way to relieve volume of traffic off Queen Street. Mr. Hurley said this was a solution he was familiar with but it won't happen quickly and suggested that there were a lot of issues getting Commerce Drive over there.

Chairman Mangiafico asked the Chief Kehoe if he thought Mr. Hurley's suggestion of 4 or 5 speed tables was necessary and the Chief said absolutely because Queen Street is a straightaway and if they do 2 or 3 they might not get the desired effect.

The Chief noted that for the study they can use the two temporary speed tables and indicated that they are looking for the diversion with the two temps not speed.

T-Intersection – Mr. Hurley recommended that the intersection of Glover and Queen Street should be a "T". He supported his recommendation, noting that the same one was made in every study. The Public Works Director said that the Town's number one priority was to get that intersection changed and added that he doesn't think a roundabout will work. He believes that they would start with this and then if the sidewalk system does get developed that could possibly use a raised crosswalk- near for example Elizabeth Street - to double as a speed table. He added that an ideal place for a raised sidewalk would be a controlled spot such as the proposed "T" intersection of Glover and Queen Street.

Commissioner Faxon asked what the status of the Safe Routes to School grant was, and whether it had been refused. Mr. Hurley painted a bleak picture suggesting the status of funding for such projects is in limbo or all but eliminated. He noted that the Town officials need to look to themselves to solve the problem and do the projects piece by piece like the Town's bridges.

Chairman Mangiafico asked how much it would cost to make the Glover and Queen Street "T" intersection and Mr. Hurley estimated \$30,000 or \$40,000 at least, indicating that the biggest expense is the milling and paving.

Commissioners thanked the Mr. Hurley for his time and the Public Works Director left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

**CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report** – Chief Kehoe noted that there was really nothing to report. **Budget – Fiscal Year 2011-2012** – The Chief told Commissioners that they have in their packets the current figures as of March 2, 2012. He noted that they are monitoring the Over-Time to make sure they have enough money at the end of the year. **Fleet** – The Chief reported they are still looking for new cars for 2011-2012 and thinks they are getting closer to making a selection. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe indicated that they had an elaborate training report for the month of February. He noted that they are continuing the Supervisor Training Program with Bill Riley on Thursday. FTO Training – The Chief reported that they have one officer on independent duty and another officer in Phase II of his training. **Letters of Gratitude** – Chief Kehoe informed Commissioners the department received a letter which was not in their packets, as it talked to the guilt of person who was arrested and was now part of the individual's investigative file. He added that the letter was written by a person who was arrested. **Correspondences** – the Chief informed Commissioners that he had a letter from Dr. Evans which would be discussed during Commissioners Participation. **License Plate Reader (LPR)** – Chief Kehoe told the Board that the LPRs have been around for a while and they have been using one on a cruiser for the last three months. He noted that the LPRs which have recently been the subject of controversy are another tool that helps law enforcement. According to the Chief, the

LPR scans license plates and marks the date and time the scan occurred, determining in seconds anything that needs to be known about the plate. Chief Kehoe said that they have found it a useful tool.

According to Sgt. Bahamonde, Newtown's LPR was obtained through an \$18,000 grant from the Federal Government. The Sergeant indicated that The LPR was fitted to one of the traffic enforcement cruisers and is used to read the license plates if parked cars and cars heading towards them. He reported that the plates are matched against information that currently comes from the Redding Police Department where there is an IT Officer who gathers the info. The updated information is loaded weekly onto a thumb drive and loaded into the cruisers computer. Commissioner Viadero who is familiar with the LPR indicated that when a plate is scanned the LPR gives the GPS location along with the time.

Chairman Mangiafico asked where the information was stored and the Chief indicated it is stored in the police department's CPU. The Chairman asked why they keep it, and Commissioner Budd indicated that it's a Public Record. Chairman Mangiafico asked if it was FOI-able and the Chief said yes it is.

Chief Kehoe stated that there is a move to collaborate this information all in one place and indicated that the capturing server will likely be in the Danbury Police Department.

Sgt. Bahamonde indicated that Newtown Police Department has already made several stops for suspended registrations.

Commissioner Viadero noted that originally the LPR was used by a company for tax stops – people who owed back taxes.

Commissioner Faxon asked if there was any statute that governs this at all and Chief Kehoe said no.

Chairman Mangiafico asked the Chief that if there was no cost would they put one on every cruiser, and Chief Kehoe indicated that they were still evaluating it as a tool.

Commissioner Budd noted that devices like these are in use on all the bridges and tolls in New York.

Commissioner Faxon stated that the FOI thing bothers him and stressed that there needs to be a legislative effort to put a cap on that information so it doesn't fall into the wrong hands. He added that if its stored and kept in perpetuity there needs to be safeguards.

Sgt. Bahamonde noted that using the LPR is not dissimilar to the cameras in the vehicles which are running daily.

**Citizens Police Academy** – Chief Kehoe announced that the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Citizens Police Academy is starting on March 15, 2012 at 6 pm. The Chief indicated that he had invited Chairman Mangiafico to attend that evening to address the group that first night, but as the Chairman was going to be away he extended the invitation to the Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Budd.

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT:** As Captain Rios was away, Lt. Sinko addressed the Board calling their attention to the Captain's Report in their packets. **Independent Analysis Report February 2012** - Lt. Sinko noted the following items in the report: Burglaries - 1, Larcenies - 12, Motor Vehicle Accidents - 47, Sex Offenses – 1, Trespassing – 7, and Vandalism 19. **Written Motor Vehicle Reports** – According to Lt. Sinko, there were 894 vehicle contacts for February 2012 up 68% from February 2011. **DUI Written Report** – The Lieutenant reported there were 2 DUI arrests for February 2012. **Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit (TEU) Report by Sgt Bahamonde February 2012** – Lt. Sinko indicated there were 188 stops and that the unit completed work orders for warning signs and lighting, car seat inspections, as well as commercial vehicle enforcement by Officer Silver. **Traffic Report** – According to Lt. Sinko, due to the complaints on Queen Street the department stepped up enforcement and 369 motor vehicle stops were made in February 2012 for various violations – primarily speeding. He noted that the breakdown was

as follows: 3- summons, 166 infractions, 155 written warnings, and 45 verbal warnings.

**Monthly Detective Division Report by Lt. Robinson February 2011** – Lt. Sinko reviewed Lt. Robinson’s report with Commissioners noting that the Citizens Police academy was on March 8; the Ct. Open Carry Law was the subject of debate by a group pushing the effort at Starbucks; and the SRO was working with the K-9 operation doing sniffs up at the parking lot at the high school yielding one infraction for possession of marijuana.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued):**

**Further Discussion on Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)** – Chairman Mangiafico reported that he had read through the whole thing and said he agrees with some, and disagrees with some because he doesn’t really know what they are talking about. He suggested that they could take on some items and get a start with them, but admitted that originally he thought there were 17 or 18 items they needed to address when in fact there are more like 30 or 31.

Chief Kehoe suggests sending the POCD back to the professionals at HVCEO to get their recommendation and have them send it back to the Board. The Chief indicated this may take about a year.

**Discussion, Consideration and Action on Strategies for Queen Street Area Traffic Concerns (continued)** – Chairman Mangiafico stated that they had heard from Mr. Hurley that evening and suggested they pick a date for the installation of the two temporary speed bumps. The Chairman recommended April 15.

After a brief discussion, Police Commissioners agreed with the Chairman’s suggestion that the two temporary speed tables should be put down for two months, the data should be collected before and after the tables are put down, and then they can look at when to proceed and where to place the speed tables.

Chief Kehoe stated that he would work with Fred Hurley regarding the placement.

**Further discussion on Glenmor Drive & Taunton Ridge Road intersection** - Chief Kehoe indicated that last September there was an accident at the intersection of Taunton Ridge and Glenmor Drive and it was believed that the configuration of the roadway had an effect on that accident.

The Chief noted that the traffic unit had recommended changing the location of the stop sign to Taunton Ridge. Commissioner Faxon reminded Commissioners that they had voted on this in December 2011.

As there were two area residents in the audience, Chairman Mangiafico asked them to come up. Kerry McKinley, 34 Taunton Ridge, questioned why the stop sign was moved and indicated that it was the residents desire to have two stop signs – one where it was originally and the other in the spot where the original had been relocated to.

He noted that the intersection is also a bus stop for 10 or 11 elementary school children.

Chief Kehoe suggested that the answer to the problem is a three-way stop at the intersection.

John Bello, 12 Glenmor Drive, suggested they needed more than one sign because he had gone to where they put the stop sign, looked to the left and couldn’t see that well.

Commissioner Faxon stated that if the intersection complies with MUTCD standards than they should go with the three signs.

Commissioner Viadero moved to add two more stop signs at the intersection of Taunton Ridge Road and Glenmor Drive for a total of 3 stop signs. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and consideration on improvements to Wasserman Way** - Chief Kehoe informed Police Commissioners that there had been some discussion about moving the ambulance garage to Wasserman Way on Fairfield Hills Campus and noted they don't want to add to the dangers of the corridor. According to the Chief, they looked at two different studies and two looks at the accidents occurring and the history. He noted that the recommendation that evening was to look at that area to reduce the accidents. Chief Kehoe reported that there were 12 accidents over the last five year period; and noted that most were in the westerly direction on Wasserman Way where the double lane goes up the hill. The Chief noted that based on the studies they came up with the following recommendations: reduce the speed on Wasserman Way from 30 to 25 (from just before the gateway after coming up the hill from I-84 down Mile Hill South to Route 25) and post "school zone" warning signs. He informed Commissioners that they can't reengineer the road way, but suggested that signs and enforcement will go a long way.

Chairman Mangiafico agreed with posting the signs and reducing the speed limit as it is in the vicinity of the school.

Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the recommendation in the 6-year traffic study regarding Wasserman Way and Mile Hill South. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** none

**COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION:** Chairman Mangiafico told the Chief he was interested in joining the Police Commissioners organization.

Commissioner Viadero reported that he met with Commissioner Faxon and Dr. McCabe and have come up with a rough draft of the exit questionnaire but indicated that they need comments from the command staff. Commissioner Viadero asked the Chief if he wanted the recommendations included and the Chief said yes.

Commissioner Faxon said this was great tool to use, learning about the past a present condition of the police department to collectively move forward.

Chairman Mangiafico indicated that they had received a letter from Dr. Evans and would give everyone a copy. According to the Chairman, Dr. Evans wrote a letter Mrs. Llodra in early February offered some of the following suggestions: give the police station a new coat of paint as it is unsightly; the junction of Main Street and Currituck should have a trip light, the State should widen Route 34; and tell the school superintendent to stop having the students run on Route 34, and stop sign should be eliminated at School House Hill Road. The Chairman informed the Board that Mrs. Llodra wrote a letter to Dr. Evans thanking him and gave a copy to him.

Chairman Mangiafico indicated that he read both the First Selectman's letter and Dr. Evans's letter and also wrote a letter to Dr. Evans thanking him for his suggestions telling him they would address numbers two and five of his recommendations in particular and would get back to him.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chairman Faxon made the motion to go into executive session at 10:03 pm to discuss the Hyde case including the legal strategy, as well as the Hull case; and that the public portion of the meeting be closed. Chief Kehoe and Lt. Sinko were invited to attend. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

At this time, the clerk left the meeting.



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Paul Mangiafico  
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Joel Faxon  
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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 MARCH 6, 2012

At 10:40 P. M., the Board left executive session.

**At 10:40 P. M. Commissioner Faxon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Viadero, unanimously carried.**

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Michael K. Kehoe**