



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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 7:30pm.

PRESENT: Brian Budd, James Viadero, Joel Faxon, and Paul Mangiafico.

ABSENT: Andrew Sachs

ALSO PRESENT: Police Captain Jose Rios, Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Land Use Director George Benson, Frederick P. Clark Associates Executive Vice-President and engineer Michael Galante, 1 member of the press, and 10 members of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Dan Shea, 44 Queen Street, inquired about the status of the speed tables on Queen Street. He recalled that the Police Chief had indicated that the traffic engineering had not been started yet. Mr. Shea questioned that if the current speed tables were temporary, when would they be removed. He stressed that this was all very disconcerting due to the gravity of the situation on Queen Street. Mr. Shea informed of a new danger, indicating that the Cross Country team was now running up and down the street. He asked why the Board's directives had not been carried out and why action had not been taken yet.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: none

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 AND SPECIAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 – Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of the special and regular meetings of September 4, 2012 as corrected and amended. Commissioner Faxon seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Correction suggested by Chairman Mangiafico: Special Meeting: Page 2, 4th line from bottom, Dr. McCabe "of" should be Dr. McCabe "if"; Page 2, 2nd lone before bottom, Board "nut" should be Board "but"; Page 3, 2nd line, the word "wonder" should be "wonderful".
Regular Meeting: Page 2, line 23, "staffing levels are" remove the word "are"; Page 2, line 26, "Dr. McCabe" should be "Mr. Galante"; Page 3, line 23, "750 vehicles nine" delete the word nine and substitute "over a"; Page 4, line 4, "As for none..." replace "none" with "some"; Page 6, line 5, "...he was involved on" replace "on" with "in an"; Page 6, line 14, "Chairman suggested here..." replace "here" with "there" and "Newtown is nit" should be "Newtown is not".

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (re-opened): To accommodate a few late arrivals to the meeting due to the lack of available parking, Chairman Mangiafico re-opened Public Participation.

Sherry Birmingham, Main Street, indicated that she, along with a lot of other residents, would like to have the Thanksgiving Day race somewhere else other than Main Street for the following reasons: the lack of parking, and the volume and speed of traffic. Additionally, she recommended that the faded no parking signs along the eastside of Main Street, across from the Town Hall, be replaced. She noted that people were parking there and crossing the busy road. Wayne Addressi, Lovells Lane, reminded the Board that he had written and called several times about the faded crosswalks throughout the Town, particularly on Queen Street, Church Hill Road and Main Street. He stated that he had notified the Highway Department, Town Hall and the Board of Police Commissioners but hadn't seen a change yet. Mr. Addressi suggested that it seems irresponsible nothing has been done and questioned why they couldn't imbed reflective elements in the road like he saw down in Florida.

Captain Rios assured Mr. Addressi that they will try to reach out to the State to get the crosswalks painted on Main Street and Church Hill Road and the Town for Queen Street as Queen Street is a Town road.

Mr. Addressi asked how long the temporary speed bumps would be on Queen Street and noted that some residents were concerned about the noise resulting from the vehicles braking, going over them and then accelerating again. He told the Board that he knows traffic has to be slowed down and questioned why there could not be additional stop signs.

Commissioner Budd explained that MUTC regulations wouldn't allow it and if the Town went against the MUTC regulations the liability would be significantly increased.

Mr. Hurley noted that it's a policy that the Town does try to get out there when they can and get safety markings in; but he suggested that they need to have enough work to justify having the contractor come out to do it. Mr. Hurley added that they can imbed reflective glass beads for better visibility.

As a number of individuals were present for the item regarding the proposed Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corps building, Chairman Mangiafico moved the item under Unfinished Business up on the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion and action on Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corps New Building Fairfield Hills Campus – Mr. Galante produced several graphs and charts; and indicated why a driveway for emergency vehicles only must exit onto Wasserman Way.

Mr. Galante referred to a letter he wrote to the Board on September 21, addressing the exhaustive study of the alternative access points to the site.

He suggested that the study determined it would take 1.5 to 2 minutes longer for an emergency vehicle to exit through the Fairfield Hills Campus to Trades lane to the traffic signal on Wasserman Way than if they exited directly onto Wasserman Way. He added that the times were based on the assumption that there was an emergency preemption device connected to the traffic light. The engineer added that the activity on the campus can be much busier than it was during the tests.

Mr. Galante reported that having an access road empty onto Mile Hill Road was not an option because the sight line at the intersection of Mile Hill Road and Wasserman Way was poor.

According to Mr. Galante, the State agreed with the concept to have the proposed access road exit directly onto Wasserman Way and indicated that it meets the State's standards. The engineer added that the State didn't require a preemption device unless the driveway was coming out at the traffic light at the intersection of Trades Lane and Wasserman Way. Additionally, he noted

that with the driveway exiting onto Wasserman Way at the proposed location, they felt there was no benefit to having a preemption device.

Mr. Galante indicated that the State does agree to construct a driveway and put a gate there preventing other vehicles from using it.

Commissioner Faxon stated that he thinks it's very important to have as much information as possible to make a decision and believes the safest course is to allow access on Wasserman Way.

Commissioner Faxon moved to approve the proposal to allow for an access driveway to Wasserman Way from the Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Corps New Building on Fairfield Hills Campus. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion unanimously carried at 7:56 pm. Following the motion the majority of the public in attendance left the meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: As Chief Michael Kehoe was attending a conference, Captain Rios presented the Chief's Report to the Board. **Personnel** – Captain Rios indicated that there was nothing really to report except that the one officer who was on light duty is back on regular duty now. **Budget** – The Captain informed Commissioners that the Budget Time Table for 2013/2014 was in their packets. He noted that all the Department heads were turning in their Budgets. Captain Rios told the board that typically the Chief sends the Board last year's budget and then Commissioners hold a special meeting to talk about the upcoming budget. Chairman Mangiafico requested that Captain Rios tell the Chief the Board wants those as soon as possible. The Captain said he would.

Fleet Report – Captain Rios reported that the first new black and white Chevy Impala police cruiser had arrived and he said he test drove it down Route 25 and was very impressed. He noted that Sgt. Bahamonde and the Traffic Unit did a fantastic job. The Captain added that the departments plan is to slowly replace the Ford cruisers with the Chevys. **Training** – Captain Rios informed Police Commissioners that Lt. Sinko recently graduated from the FBI Academy at Quantico, Virginia. He said it was a huge accomplishment for Lt. Sinko and the Department and added that a seat at the academy opens up only once every seven years. The Captain offered the Board his congratulations to Lt. Sinko. **Letters of Gratitude** – Captain Rios indicated that the Department had received letters of gratitude for the Honor Guard as well as Lt. Sinko and Sgt. Bahamonde. **Correspondences** - The Captain told Commissioners that a copy of the letter of thanks to Dr. McCabe for his study was in their packets. **Combined DUI Spot Check** – Captain Rios reported that they held their combined DUI Spot Check by Exit 11 on September 7, 2012 and had 5 DUI arrests. He noted that the State brought its BAT Mobile and added that the traffic that day was tremendous. The Captain said they had 15 officers participating and could have even used more. Commissioner Viadero stated that he had driven through there and that everyone looked good. **Chief – 2012 Class of First 100 Plus Recognition – CCADV** – Captain Rios reported that Chief Kehoe had received a Domestic Violence Award and congratulated him. **JAG Local Pass – Through Grant for Video Recording Technology** – The Captain informed the Board that the Department had received a \$31,000 grant from JAG to outfit an integration room with video recording equipment. According to the Captain, they don't have a dedicated room for interrogations yet, but they are in the process of selecting one. **ADC Awards Ceremony** – The Captain told the Board that the Awards and Decorations Committee will be holding its annual Awards Ceremony upstairs in the Edmond Town Hall, Thursday, October 25, at 7 pm. **Lobby Fix Up** – Captain Rios congratulated Officers McCarthy and Figol for the "awesome job" they did rearranging the Department's lobby. He noted that their attention to detail was incredible and added that the pride and professionalism that was instilled goes a long way. Chairman Mangiafico agreed with the Captain and told the Board that he recently came in to meet with the Chief and was stunned and he noted that it was "very impressive." The Chairman added that Mary Helen McCarthy deserved a real vote of confidence. **New Vest for Police Canine Baro** - Captain Rios reported that Baro now wears a new canine vest made

possible through V.I. Canine. He thanked the organization and noted that the vest is valued at \$1,200 to \$1,500.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Calls to Service Reports August 2011 through August 2012 – Captain Rios told Commissioners that the reports were in their meeting packets and there was nothing significant to report. Captain Rios reported that the **Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit Report written by Sgt. Bahamonde** and the **Monthly Detective Division Report written Report by Lt. Robinson** were in the packets, as well. **Underage Drinking Enforcement- Verbal Report** – The Captain stated that the program against underage drinking – the SUDs program - was held in the months of August and September went very well. He informed the Board that undercover officers went around checking establishments and parties. Captain Rios noted that the program was made possible with a SUDs grant. According to the Captain, 3 arrests were made in addition to uncovering one drug transaction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued):

Update and action on Queen Street traffic safety improvements – According to Mr. Hurley, the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been put out and they have already limited their scope of traffic engineers to proposals under \$10,000. He noted that they have identified one within that dollar range for immediate award and noted that part of the agreement is that they must have their findings ready by November 1, 2012.

Mr. Hurley assured the Board that they would have enough time to get the permanent Speed Tables done by the Holidays – before Thanksgiving.

He noted that the goal is to establish a sustained speed as opposed to stop and go which creates the noise.

Mr. Hurley commended the officers who did the RFPs and said kudos to the Department for having all the data done, noting that it would have delayed them for months if they had waited. Chairman Mangiafico asked why the cost of the permanent ones were less than the temporary ones and Mr. Hurley indicated that it was because the temporary ones are made to be moved from place to place where as the new ones are not. He added that the two temporary ones the Town owns were purchased 5 years old.

Commissioner Faxon urged Mr. Hurley to have the chosen traffic engineer at the Board's next meeting. Mr. Hurley agreed and said that was also part of the proposal.

Mr. Hurley noted that there are two parts to the RFP:

- 1) This specific project on Queen Street
- 2) The one that deals with the raised crosswalks up at the Fairfield Hills Campus

He noted that they are separate projects and separate dollar amounts.

Update and action on FHH (Town) roads safety improvements – Mr. Hurley told the Board that they needed to see what it costs, the proposals that come in, and address it next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and action on Traffic Access and Impact Study – 90 Mt. Pleasant Road – Mr. Galante showed Police Commissioners the various charts and plans outlining the project and fielding their questions.

According to the engineer, the current proposal calls for a 34,500 square foot office building with future plans for a 42,600 square foot self storage building on an approximately 33 acre site. He noted that the plan is to have a single driveway with one lane in and one lane out intersecting

off Mt. Pleasant Road. Mr. Galante noted that the road would accommodate traffic without any changes.

Captain Rios questioned how emergency vehicles would access the site in the event the driveway is blocked and asked if there was any other way out of there. Mr. Galante indicated that they had looked at some options but that the only way in and out was the proposed driveway and suggested that they could look at it.

The Captain told the engineer he had to plan for it now. Mr. Galante reassured Captain Rios that he would take it back and will make sure they look at it.

Chairman Mangiafico asked how many vehicles would be entering and exiting in the afternoon; and Mr. Galante said 40 or 50.

Commissioner Budd moved to accept the proposal regarding the Traffic Access and Impact Study at 90 Mt. Pleasant Road. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion and possible action on emergency access road – Reed Intermediate School and Wasserman Way – According to Chairman Mangiafico, First Selectman Pat Llodra informed Chief Kehoe of a letter that was brought to her attention by Ron Bienkowski, Director of School Facilities. The letter indicated that the delay of the buses to the Reed Intermediate School was due to the buses getting backed up attempting to make a left turn into the school at the traffic signal at the intersection of Wasserman Way and Trades Lane between the hours of 7:45 am and 8:10 am.

The suggestion was to open the emergency access road leading the school only during those hours, but Police Commissioners raised concerns that others would inevitably use it too. The Commissioners also noted that there was a curb at the entrance to the road making the transition very rough entering and exiting the access road.

Commissioner Budd noted that the parents often use the access road and its bad coming out.

Captain Rios noted that the backup can reach Route 25.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that this has never been a problem before with the owner operators and questioned why that it is now that they have switched over to All-Star.

Chairman Mangiafico noted that the recommendation by Officer Silver was that if a backup occurred at the Trades Lane to have the DOT look at the timing of the traffic light.

Chairman Mangiafico added that if the chain comes down even for that brief period of time, the access road will be used by everybody.

Commissioner Budd suggested that their recommendation should be to apply for the DOT to look at the timing of the light.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that he was not comfortable with the request and suggested that a letter be written to the DOT.

Commissioner Bud moved to deny the request to open the emergency access road to the Reed Intermediate School and moved to ask the DOT to alter the timing of the traffic signal.

Commissioner Faxon seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. Shea told the Board that he heard them talking about alternatives and said that he goes up to Fairfield Hills frequently to run and says that vehicles use the chained off emergency access road up there by just going around the posts to access Wasserman Way. He suggested that it's not good because something bad could happen there and something should be done.

Mr. Shea informed the Board that the speed indicator placed at the road going from the Newtown Youth Academy to Wasserman way seemed to be working; and that traffic was slowing down.

Mr. Shea concluded by stating that a traffic engineer should have been selected, but indicated he was reassured by Mr. Hurley who had reported that they were on track.

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session for personnel matters and action on personnel at 8:55 pm. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 9:21 pm, the Board left Executive Session entered back into public session and conducted no further business.

Commissioner Budd made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Ted Swigart, Clerk