

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012
IN THE MEETING ROOM OF THE 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, Paul Mangiafico, Andrew Sachs.

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief of Police Michael Kehoe, Police Captain Jose Rios, Director of Public Works Fred Hurley, Bill Carboni from Spath and Bjorklund, Michael Galante from Frederick P. Clark Associates, 4 members of the public and one member of the press

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: K9 Officer Figol brought Baro with her to show the commissioners the Kevlar vest that was donated. This gives him the same advantage as the officer. If they are going in looking for an armed suspect, Baro is the first to go in. Also, the Lyons club donated a climate control system for the K9 vehicle. If the heat rises into a dangerous situation, the lights will flash, the horn will go off and the pager system will go off alerting the officer that there is a problem.

Kathy Geckle 35 Queen Street – Expressed her thanks for the work that the commission has done. The two speed tables on Queen Street are helping but she thinks they need more. After people drive over one speed table, speed to the next and then lay on the horn.

Dan Shea, 44 Queen Street – Handed out a statement, a copy is attached.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: None

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 2, 2012: Commissioner Viadero moved to accept the minutes of the October 2, 2012 meeting as presented. Commissioner Budd seconded, motion unanimously accepted.

CHIEF'S REPORT: There are two new vehicles in service. There are also two letters of gratitude for two different officers. There is a plan to move around some equipment to make room for an interrogation room. A camera interrogation room is mandated. A grant will cover the cost of the electronics, but not the remodeling for the room. They have received \$4,500 in donated vests.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Captain Rios provided the calls for service. The request was for 13 months but because of the record management system, they had to report for 2011 and 2012

up to date. The Detective division report submitted by LT. Robinson shows that Newtown and Monroe worked together and there are now three burglary suspects in custody. The Cross walks and signage on Main Street has been done. DPW is working on the other cross walks and signs on East Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update and action on Queen Street Traffic safety and traffic calming recommendation:

Bill Carboni from Spath and Bjorklund and Michael Galante from Frederick P. Clark Associates presented plans for speed tables on Queen Street. Mr. Galante explained that when you put 2 speed tables in, the speed tends to go up between humps. They observed traffic as well as measured Queen Street. They identified 5 speed tables with 400 feet between tables, avoiding driveways and the grade change. The existing locations are not recommended sights and there is a potential sixth location if that is desired in the future. It is their opinion that it will bring the speed of the road down to 25 MPH. The speed table is 22' in width 6' up on either side, 3 to 4" high and a table that is 10' long. A 10' table is recommended because the entire car will go on the table and then come off. They can also be used as a crosswalk at a future time. The studies that Mr. Galante had reviewed indicate that emergency vehicles, other the police vehicles, speed will be reduced by 1 to 2 mph, however he believes it will be more. It will be likely that they will probably avoid Queen Street all together.

Mr. Hurley explained that Queen Street will be milled and paved in a few years so if they decide where they are positioned are not quite right, at that point, they can be moved. Tilcon is ready to get three in right away, the signs can be put up tomorrow and the painting can be done next week. Doing two phases would be ideal.

Commissioner Faxon moved to approve the plan as presented with 5 speed tables installed now which would be 1,2,3,4,5 and consider speed table number 6 in the future. With the understanding that they would like to get all of these installed unless conditions do not permit. Commission Sachs seconded. Commissioner Faxon modified his motion that if all 5 could not be installed that 2,3,4,5 be installed. If that cannot be completed than speed tables 2,3,and 4 would be installed. Motion unanimously accepted.

Update and action on FFH (Town) roads safety improvements: Tabled

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible action on Site Development Plan, 46 Church Hill Road; St. Rose Church Corp:

There is a request from Borough Zoning for the approval of an addition at 46 Church Hill Road. They have had multiple modifications to their site. They want to install a 2100 square foot, one story office building to the rectory, and replace the three car garage with a four car garage. Chief Kehoe does not have any issues with the proposed addition.

Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the proposed Site Development Plan for 46 Church Hill Road. Commissioner Sachs seconded motion unanimously accepted.

Discussion and review of Police FY 13-14 Budget: The budget information provided is very preliminary. Right now it is a 2.1% increased but the budget is not finalized. The cost of a car is 2 to 3 thousand more than what was projected. Capital added \$10,000 and that is for construction of the interrogation room. When Chief Kehoe has hard numbers he will send them out to the Commissioners. The budget is due by November 30th but will ask for an extension so this can be discussed at the next meeting.

Discussion and review of Police Department's CIP needs: Commissioner Mangiafico wanted this on the agenda because he feels that size of the police headquarters is inadequate. It is in the CIP in year 5 and that is for \$500,000 in architectural work. He believes that this board needs to come to some conclusion that they are either going to push this hard or it will be removed. Commissioner Sachs questioned if what they need to push this forward, is to find a new location. Commissioner Budd explained that they have had a preliminary space needs study and presentation to the Board of Selectman but it was still shot down. The building was a tractor barn converted for 20 employees, there are now 50 employees plus civilians. This building has outlived its useful life. The build out study projects the population to grow to 38,000+ which would require 65 officers. The study also indicated it would need a substantially larger headquarters.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION: Commissioner Viadero asked if there were future k9 plans. Baro is 9.5 years old and that is getting up there for a canine. Kehoe replied that they are looking at other options.

Commissioner Mangiafico said he and Commissioner Faxon attended the Awards and Decorations Ceremony at the Senior Center which was a great event.

Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session at 9:02pm for the discussion and deliberation for strategy and personnel issues. Chief Kehoe was invited to stay. Commissioner Budd seconded, motion unanimously approved. At that time, the clerk left.

The Police Commission came out of executive session and into public session at 10:22 PM with no further business conducted. Then a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Faxon, seconded by Commissioner Sachs and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk Pro-Tem

November 6, 2012

Daniel Shea
44 Queen Street
Newtown, Conn. 06470

Dear Newtown Police Commission members:

Upon voting to install speed tables on Queen Street, you will have confirmed your elected mandate to sustain a peaceful, safe, and civil environment for all of Newtown's citizens, including those who live and walk on Queen Street.

The Newtown police are confronted today with speeding motorists who rationalize the validity of their unlawful actions and expect others to live with their aberrant behavior. Indeed, they view speeding as an acceptable action and the posted speed limits as unrealistic and meaningless, especially when they are behind schedule.

Speeding motorists are, of course, ubiquitous, and Queen Street is certainly a microcosm of what is occurring in varying degrees nationally. Queen Street is, however, a very dangerous microcosm that warrants prompt action if we wish to avoid a tragic occurrence that could have been prevented had we acted in time. If we do not efficiently and effectively respond to this flouting of our laws, we will never have a safe and civil community in which to live, a community where laws are not only enacted but are also respected, obeyed, and firmly enforced.

I encourage you, the members of the Newtown Police Commission, to vote in favor of this proposed installation of speed tables on Queen Street. These speed tables will compel recalcitrant motorists to abide by the posted speed limit and thus allow the residents of Queen Street to live once again on a residential street in every meaning of that phrase and not a highway fraught with danger.

Respectfully,

Dan Shea