



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

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 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 6:45 pm.

Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session for the purpose of strategy and negotiations concerning personnel matters at 6:46 pm and invited the First Selectman Mrs. Llodra to attend. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

The Board exited executive session at 7:30 pm.

At 7:33 pm, Chairman Mangiafico reconvened the evening's regular meeting.

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

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Police Captain Jose Rios, Police Union President Scott Ruszczyk, First Selectman Pat Llodra, 1 member of the press, and 5 members of the public

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE NEWTOWN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS:**

Chairman Mangiafico asked Commissioners if they wanted to address or discuss it and hearing no response the Chairman moved on to the next item on the agenda.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** John Buccuzzi, 61 Queen Street, thanked Police Commissioners for taking action on the speed tables on Queen Street, but suggested that they needed at least 2 or 3 more. According to Mr. Buccuzzi, people are still speeding and he urged the Board to do something about it soon.

Dan Shea, 44 Queen Street, stated that he has been coming to the meetings regularly and commended the Board for their perseverance and intelligence. Mr. Shea highlighted the fact the board brought in a traffic engineer to determine where the speed tables should go, when and how many. He said he thought it was a done deal, but was very disappointed when the engineer's recommendation which was approved by the Board was modified to only three speed tables. Mr. Shea suggested that what they have now is not as effective as what the engineer proposed, and he urged the Board to get the number of the speed tables in line with the engineer recommended.

Mr. Shea also expressed his concerns about the boy that was hit recently. He stated the Board was the first group to take “the bull by the horns” and do something about speeding traffic in Town. Mr. Shea suggested that he was only person who attended meeting after meeting and added that when the hammer dropped suddenly calls were made. Mr. Shea reminded Police Commissioners that they are all elected officials. He indicated that with all the effort they went through following the rules, there were people still in the background trying to undermine their efforts. Mr. Shea concluded my stressing that what The Board does is for the welfare of the Town.

Vicky Buccuzzi, 61 Queen Street, told the Board that she drives Queen Street every day. She noted that the temporary speed tables were tough on the car, but the permanent ones are good when you go the speed limit.

Chairman Mangiafico said that was the plan. He stated that Chief Kehoe wanted the speed tables designed to have people maintain a constant speed.

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 6, 2012:** Commissioner Viadero moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 6, 2012. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:** Union President Ruszczyk reported that things are good and the Union doesn’t have any issues. He noted that the Union did Toys for Tots last weekend and the weekend before shipped 76 packages to troops in Afghanistan.

**CHIEF’S REPORT: Personnel** Chief Kehoe stated that he had nothing to report regarding personnel. **Budget** – The Chief reported that the budget for the fiscal year is average to what they do every year and informed Commissioners that the **Fleet Report** and **Training Report** were in their packets. **Letters of Gratitude** – Chief Kehoe indicated there were no letters of gratitude for last month. **Correspondences** – the Chief reported there were three correspondences received: an email from residents regarding drug use, a thank you letters to the Lions Club and Trap Falls regarding the equipment for the departments Canine Officer Baro. **Written Report on Committees** – The Chief told commissioners that the written report on the Committees was in their packets.

Commissioner Faxon asked the Chief how the new vehicles were. The Chief replied that the reactions there have been a little mixed. Union President Ruszczyk stated the visibility out the front window is better but the visibility out the rear is not so good. He noted that other than that it’s a very capable car.

#### **CAPTAIN’S REPORT:**

**Calls to Service Reports November 2011 through November 2012** – Captain Rios informed the Board that going through the date regarding the Calls to Service there was nothing significant to report. Chairman Mangiafico said he recalled Commissioner Faxon asking for some history, but he questioned why there were so many pages. The Captain indicated that there were only 7 pages and Chairman Mangiafico said there should be less. The Chairman noted that the only need November’s data and the previous month’s data. The Captain indicated that the records management system doesn’t allow them to get that kind of data, only a monthly breakdown of all incidents. Chairman Mangiafico asked if he had checked with the IT people and Captain Rios said yes he had consulted them to modify it.

Commission Faxon questioned the substance of the reports noting he saw some inconsistencies such as the following: 2011 606 accidents and 2012 105 accidents, and 2011 4000 building checks and 2012 10,000 building checks. Commissioner Faxon stated that he would like to

understand the gross change in the numbers and suggested that it could be an error. Captain Rios agreed the Commissioner had good points and suggested that the department had increased the building checks but would have to look at the accident data.

The Chief noted that the Records Manager has been out and suggested he would need to be consulted. Commissioner Faxon noted that he just wants an explanation of the changes.

**Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit Report written by Sgt. Bahamonde** – Captain Rios noted that the Board had a copy of Sgt. Bahamonde’s written report in their packets which highlighted the number of stops they made and duties they performed for the month of November. **Monthly Detective Division Report written Report by Lt. Robinson** – Captain Rios indicated that Lt. Robinson’s report was also in their packets. He indicated that the Detective Division had made 8 arrests and issued 1 warrant. The Captain stated that they were doing a fine job in investigating and arresting those responsible. **DUI Grant** – Captain Rios informed Police Commissioners that the DUI Grant was received and that the department would be initiating various patrols on Christmas, New Year’s Eve, New Year’s Day, Super Bowl Sunday, Memorial Day, and Labor Day, as they had on Thanksgiving. The Captain also indicated that they would be performing DUI Check Points in December 2012, June 2013 and July 2013. Chief Kehoe noted the DUI Grant was \$55,000.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Discussion and review of Police Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget** – In an attempt to review the data in the report, Chairman Mangiafico questioned why there was no header or page numbers on the report and indicated that many of the figures in the budget were not correct.

Chief Kehoe said that for some reason the program was not allowing them to put the header on the page but he indicated that he hadn’t put numbers on the pages because it was going to be integrated into the Town’s budget report and the page numbers would change. In regards to the incorrect budget figures, the Chief expressed his frustration and explained he had plugged in the updated numbers but had trouble saving the information.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Mangiafico indicated that Board members could not make its decision based on the report handed to them that evening. He recommended the Chief get back to them with the right information and suggested the Board hold another meeting next week to go over the department’s 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget.

**Discussion and review of Police Department’s CIP needs** – Chief Kehoe indicated that the Board had talked last month about what they could do as a group and stated that he had pulled out some documents pertaining to the most recent study. The Chief recommended they address the department’s space needs, how to build a new facility, how to get funding for it, and look at how other facilities that were drawn up and built.

Chief Kehoe said he looked at all the documents and noted that the Department has a lot of things on the table and is looking for direction from the Board. The Chief suggested that the Town is going to be assessing all municipal space needs and wondered if Town would like theirs too.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that the Board has made the argument for a new police facility in conjunction with Town space needs and added that if they don’t lay plans out now it will never get done. The Chairman suggested they get their information together, present it to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance and sell it them as to why the department needs and new facility and where it should be. He recommended the Board show them the study from a few years ago done by architect Brian Humes.

Commissioner Budd noted that this process is about 20 years overdue.

Captain Rios indicated that there are still those who think that in a few years the Police Department will have the whole building and will be all set. He added that was a misconception

and Mr. Humes can talk about it The Captain noted that a vacated building doesn't make it functional.

Chairman Mangiafico noted that the data that Mr. Humes showed the Board suggested that even if they had the entire building and added onto it, it still wasn't adequate.

Commissioners and Union President Ruszczyk agreed to have Brian Humes come in and talk to the Board in March.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Acceptance of Schedule of Meeting Dates for 2013 - Commissioner Sachs moved to accept the schedule of meeting dates for 2013. Commissioner Budd seconded and motion was unanimously approved. The following is the schedule of dates for the 2013 regular meetings of the Board of Police Commissioners: January 8, February 5, March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 1, November 5, December 3, and January 7, 2014**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Andy Gorosko, reporter from the Newtown Bee, asked Chairman Mangiafico when the Board was going to elect its officers.

The Chairman indicated that the Board elects officers typically when new members are added to the Board or when old members leave. He suggested that since neither had occurred it was no necessary. He explained that earlier in the meeting he had asked Board members if they wanted to address or discuss it and no one said anything, so it stayed the same.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that there will be an election next December because there will be a Town vote next year. He added that Board members can decide they want an election of officers next week if they so choose.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION:**

Commissioner Sachs asked that the Board address the matter of "branding" on an upcoming agenda after the budget season is over He suggested that the Board of Police Commissioners make The Bee more aware of what it is doing to help The Board move toward getting a new police station. Commissioner Sachs stated that the Board needs to make sure the police force is something important to the community so that if the department needs something members of the community will know why.

Chairman Mangiafico agreed that the Department needs to become more visible to the community and the other agencies in Town. He suggested the Board put it on the agenda for March.

Commissioner Faxon stated that he had some questions regarding the three IA matters in their packets and suggested that they go into executive session to discuss them. Chairman Mangiafico agreed and called for a motion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session at 8:30 pm for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiation regarding a personnel matter and invited Chief Kehoe and Captain Rios to attend. With regard to the Chief's evaluation, the Board invited just the Chief. Commissioner Viadero seconded and motion was unanimously approved.**

At 9:32 pm, the Board left executive session.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Faxon to formally accept the formal evaluation of Chief Kehoe. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion unanimously carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Faxon made a motion to adjourn at 9:33 pm seconded by Commissioner Sachs. The motion unanimously passed.**

Ted Swigart, Clerk