



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES MEETING ROOM
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 pm.

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 Rusczyk, 8 members of the press, and 3 members of the public

Chairman Mangiafico informed those present that the evenings meeting would very short as the Chief, the Captain and the Union President were meeting with the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor at 7:30 pm. The Chairman indicated that the Board would go into executive session at 6:50 pm, exit the session at 7:10 pm, and adjourn the meeting. Chairman Mangiafico stated that 25 days ago the Town suffered an immensely destructive act that will probably be with them for the rest of their lives. He added that they lost 26 soles 20 of them children, whose lives were taken by a horrible insane act. The Chairman noted that this was the Board of Police Commissioners' first official meeting since the horrible incident. He asked that those in attendance stand and have a moment of silence for 26 seconds.

Once everyone was seated again following the moment of silence, the Chairman announced that he had received a letter from the officers of the Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut – addressed to the Board, the Department, and Town expressing their condolences in regards to the tragedy.

Chairman Mangiafico then asked that the order of events on the agenda be amended to accommodate the Union President Rusczyk who needed to leave early.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Rusczyk thanked all the Police Departments who helped them over the past three weeks through a difficult time. He then thanked everyone else for all their help.

The Union President noted that currently the department doesn't recognize PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) as a reason to go out on disability. He suggested that they would be working to change that and thanked the police commissioners for their time.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 4, 2012 AND THE SPECIAL MEETING DECEMBER 13, 2012:**

Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 4, 2012 and the special meeting December 13, 2012. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Kehoe told the Board that he had 5 issues he wanted to address.

- 1) Lateral Entries - The Chief said that lateral entries and how they affect small agencies like theirs was an item they had discussed before and needed to continue to discuss.
- 2) Edmond and Commerce Road Intersection - He reported that things were moving forwards regarding the Edmond Road and Commerce Road intersection and stressed that it is important they start that work as soon as possible
- 3) Overtime Snapshot- Chief Kehoe suggested that overtime will be problematic based upon the recent incident
- 4) Mutual Response - The Chief stated that the Mutual response was unprecedented and the Department can't say thank you enough. He noted that when they needed personnel, there were no hesitations. The Chief indicated that many times they can't use the personnel but suggested that this time it was necessary. Chief Kehoe said it was a monumental task. He noted they were overwhelmed by the support and the many emails and gifts they received from around the world. The Chief reassured the Board that the show of support was very important for the personnel who responded.
- 5) School Security – Chief Kehoe reported that they will be reviewing the best way to move forward with regard to the security at the schools, addressing the necessary short term and long term goals.

Chairman Mangiafico reported that the Board had submitted the Department's budget prior to the incident, but reminded those in attendance that that the budget is still open to being amended and can be changed if necessary.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT:

Captain Rios respectfully asked that given the nature of the situation, his report be tabled until next month's regular meeting. The Chairman agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Faxon agreed with the Union President and indicated that there was a void in compensation laws with regard to emotional injury. The Commissioner stated that he feels it's important the law is changed to address the police, first responders, teachers and staff. To address the issue, Commissioner Faxon moved that members the Town of Newtown Board of Police Commissioners hereby pass the following resolution to Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey and Senate Pro Tempore Donald Williams. "Given the extraordinary effort and bravery exhibited by members of the Newtown Police Department, first responders, teachers and staff of the Sandy Hook Elementary School, fairness and compensation dictates that the workers' compensation laws of Connecticut be amended to provide appropriate benefits for all those that sustained physical or emotional injury as a consequence of their heroic efforts within the scope of their employment on and after December 14, 2012." Commissioner Sachs seconded and the resolution was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Faxon added that the Board had recently received three emails and asked that they be published with the evening's minutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Abby Hill, 157 Boggs Hills Road, asked when the emails would be made available. She was reassured by Commissioner Faxon and Chairman Mangiafico that the emails would be attached to the evenings' minutes and made available within the next 48 hours.

Amy Roman, 58 Taunton Hill Road, told the Board they came to Newtown specifically for the school. She stated that they had two boys ages 6 and 3. Mrs. Ronen suggested that the reason many parents sent their children back to school was because of the police presence. She said that she thanks the police whenever she sees them and wants a continued police presence. Mrs. Ronen said that she will gather the names of other parents in support of the police presence to make sure it continues.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that Mrs. Ronen gather her information together and present it in person to the various Boards – the Board of Education, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Legislative Council and the Board of Police Commissioners. The Chairman noted that by presenting it in person allowed for people to ask questions.

Mrs. Ronen added that she wants her kids to continue to participate in the Newtown school system.

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION:

On behalf of the Bridgeport Police Department, Commissioner Viadero presented the Newtown Department of Police Services with a framed picture of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. bearing the inscription, "In Valor There Is Hope." Chief Kehoe accepted the award on behalf of the Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:24 pm, Commissioner Faxon moved pursuant to State General Statute 1-210B3 that the Commission move into executive session for the purpose of discussing an ongoing law enforcement investigation and invited Chief Kehoe and Captain Rios to attend. Commissioner Sachs seconded and motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

The Board exited executive session at 7:16 pm. No further business was conducted.

Commissioner Faxon motioned to adjourn at 7:17 pm. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Ted Swigart, Clerk

Joel Faxon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 2:37 PM
To: Joel Faxon; pjm215@aol.com
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Police Presence

Dear Police Commission,

We are respectfully requesting that the Newtown Police Department maintain an armed presence within the schools and outside, particularly during recess (for the RIS and elementary schools) for the remainder of the school year and going forward into future years. There is no price tag for safety and, quite frankly the police being in the school and at the entrance was one of the major reasons we even considered letting our children return.

All 3 of our children have remarked that the police make them feel safe. If they were to be removed we would find it very difficult to send them to school and feel confident that they would be protected. We also believe their presence allows teacher's to focus on teaching and student's on learning, rather than worrying about someone doing them harm. We understand that other security measures are being discussed and even implemented but the most visible and therefore most reassuring is to see someone in a uniform with a calm yet commanding presence.

Thank you for your time.
Bernard and Sarah Findley
9 Lovells Lane
[REDACTED]

Parents of: Sawyer/Grade 4 Hawley
Camryn and Madison/Grade 7 NMS

This email was scanned by BitDefender.

Joel Faxon

From: laura smith <laura.smith@cbmoves.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 5:51 PM
To: Joel Faxon; pjm215@aol.com; andy.sachs@cbmoves.com; jimvee1@aol.com

Dear Gentlemen,

Although my heart tells me that guns of any kind do not belong in our elementary schools, I do feel that we here in Newtown are still in a crisis situation and it is necessary for an armed Resource Officer to be present in each school for the remainder of the year. All of us, especially our children are still working through our tragedy and its aftermath and we do not yet know how that healing process will develop. I suspect that many of our children are only now beginning to sense the repercussions that are being felt as we begin to heal as a community, and I have personally experienced delayed questions and the efforts that my children are undertaking to make some sense of their changed world. It is my belief that the reassurance provided by the presence of a Resource Officer will be of immense assistance in their journey toward a renewed sense of peace and safety and will reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that our schools are a place where they can feel comfortable and safe.

Regards,
Patrick Smith
Hawley Parent

This email was scanned by BitDefender.

Joel Faxon

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Hawley PTA [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2013 3:50 PM
To: Joel Faxon; pjm215@aol.com; andy.sachs@cbmoves.com; jimvee1@aol.com
Subject: Resource Officers Needed at Newtown Schools

Dear Gentlemen,

I'm writing to you as a parent of three students who attend Newtown Public Schools. I currently have one at the High School, one at Newtown Middle School, and my youngest attends Hawley Elementary School. Additionally, I'm a staff member and PTA President at Hawley.

I have many concerns in light of the events of December 14th, but most prominent in my mind is security and the need for all students and staff members to feel safe while in the schools. Probably the easiest way to assure safety is to have Resource Officers remain as a presence for the foreseeable future. While I admit there are costs to consider, I feel it would be a serious mistake to factor cost above the safety and security of our staff, our students, and their families.

Should you find a way to keep the officers in place, I would also suggest keeping those officers consistent so that relationships can be built between them and the families they will be protecting.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please know that I feel very strongly about this, as does the rest of the Hawley PTA Executive Board. This was brought up at our meeting last week and we were all in agreement that this is something on which we (and the town) should focus and make a priority.

Sincerely,
Marabeth Pereira
Hawley PTA President
33 Pocono Rd
Newtown, CT 6470

Hawley PTA
29 Church Hill Rd.
Newtown, CT 06470
(203) 426-7666



POLICE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT, INC.

December 18, 2012

OFFICERS

President

Peter Torrano
Norwalk

December 18, 2012

1st Vice President

Willie Pabon
New Britain

2nd Vice President

Christopher Cozzi
North Branford

Commissioner Paul Mangiafico

15 Kent Road

Secretary

Eugene P. O'Neill
Bridgeport

Newtown, Connecticut 06470

Treasurer

Marvin B. Gelfand
Easton

Dear Commissioner Mangiafico

Assistant Treasurer

Thomas Heavren
Avon

On behalf of the Officers, Directors and Members of the Police
Commissioner's Association of Connecticut, we collectively express X
Our deepest sympathy for the tragedy that occurred last Friday.

Sergeant at Arms

John Landolfi
North Branford

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Jill Marcus
Branford

To an extent, what happened was not only horrific, but also a wakeup
Call. We must do whatever we can to insure that this never occurs again. X
The PCAC will actively support legislation that will require enhanced gun
Safety and increased school security.

Scott Bates - '14
Stonington

Carol Sturges Bryan - '12
Branford

We must in increasingly vigilant in a society where too many people X
Appear to have lost any sense of a moral compass.

Paul V. Ciochetti - '13
Waterbury

Arthur Hersh - '14
Fairfield

Again, our heartfelt condolences. X

Daniel O'Conner - '12
Norwalk

Marty Ruff - '12
Hamden

Jill Marcus
Jill Marcus
Chairman of the Board

P. Torrano
Peter Torrano
President

Milton Thomas - '13
Stamford

Sandy Wright - '13
East Haven

Lisa Yarbor - '14
West Haven

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Karlin Perry
dream-in@juno.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

David Jacobs

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TEL. (203) 270-4360
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Paul Mangiafico
Brian Budd
James Viadero
Joel Faxon
Andrew Sachs

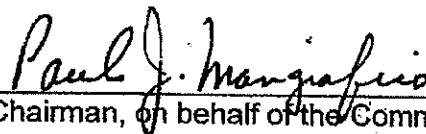
TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

To: Governor Dannel P. Malloy, Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey and Senate *Pro Tempore* Donald Williams,

We, the duly elected members of the Town of Newtown Board of Police Commissioners, hereby declare the following resolution, published after a vote of the Commission, on January 8, 2013:

Given the extraordinary effort and bravery exhibited by members of the Newtown Police Department, first responders, teachers and staff of the Sandy Hook Elementary School, fairness and compassion dictates that the workers' compensation laws of Connecticut be amended to provide appropriate benefits for all those that sustained physical or emotional injury as a consequence of their heroic efforts within the scope of their employment on and after December 14, 2012.

We are available to provide whatever additional testimony or input you all desire as these issues are considered within the legislative process.


Chairman, on behalf of the Commission