



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 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 7:30 pm.

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

ABSENT: James Viadero

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Police Captain Jose Rios, Police Union President Scott Ruszczyk, 3 members of the press, and 6 members of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 5, 2013 AND SPECIAL MEETING FEBRUARY 7, 2013 - Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 5, 2013 as corrected and the special meeting February 7, 2013. Commissioner Sachs seconded and motion was unanimously approved.

Corrections: Regular Meeting - page1, under Chief's Report, 2nd sentence, should read "5 officers out"

Page 2, under Annual Report, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence, should read, "How should we strategize to make America safer?"

Page 3, Commissioner Budd moved to adjourn. Commissioner Faxon seconded and the motion was unanimously approved at 9:45 pm.

Special Meeting - page 1, Special Meeting was held on Thursday, February 7, 2013

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel - Chief Kehoe reported that the department had 2 officers out. He suggested that one would be back next week and that the other may be a long term issue.

Budget - Regarding the 2012/2013 Budget, Chief Kehoe told the Board that the overtime was the issue. He conveyed that he would have more information for them next month as his executive assistant has been out for 5 weeks. The Chief suggested that the issue of overtime will be handled by grants and other funds.

Chairman Mangiafico reminded his fellow Police Commissioners that prior to the incident on December 14, 2012, the Department was averaging \$9,000 to \$12,000 per month in overtime. But following the incident, the overtime for the month of January 2013 was roughly \$75,000 and approximately \$67,000 for the month of February 2013.

Chief Kehoe added that much of the overtime reflected in the January 2013 numbers occurred in December following the incident in Sandy Hook.

Commissioner Faxon expressed his concern that the workman's comp issue regarding PTSD had not passed. Chief Kehoe noted that the Legislature will establish a fund tomorrow. He indicated that some of their officers and emergency first responders will be there.

The Chief indicated that corporate donors will fill the use needs going forward. He added that the Sandy Hook Fund is prepared to help officers out who are in need and would address whatever needs the officers had.

Commissioner Faxon stated that he was hopeful that in the end the Legislature would come up with a unique method to take care of them in the future. He added that it was their obligation to take care of people.

Fleet - The Chief stated that he had nothing new to report. **Training** - Chief Kehoe told Commissioners they had three reports in their packets for December 2012, January 2013, and February 2013. He indicated that things were returning to normal with regards to the submission of timely reports. **Letters of Gratitude** - The Chief reported that he had one letter of gratitude to Lt. Sinko and Officer Flynn for the work they did in Newtown. **Correspondences** - Chief Kehoe reported that one correspondence was received from the Connecticut General Assembly. **Update** - The Chief told Police Commissioners that had a meeting with the First Selectman last week discussing School Security planning and how it effects the 2013/2014 Budget. He told the Board that they worked on crafting a plan for the next fiscal year. He indicated that the First Selectman had come up with a 5 option plan.

- 1) SROs (School Resource Officers) being assigned to each of the schools
- 2) Crafting a new position of School Security Officer (SSO). The SSO would work 183 days and have the rest of the time off.

The Chief suggested that this unique position would be perfect for a retired officer who could be re-certified. Commissioner Faxon asked if the proposed position would be unique, and the Chief said he hadn't heard of it anywhere.

Chairman Mangiafico asked if this sworn part-time position, which would be effective only during the school year, would have to be negotiated with the Union, and the Chief said yes.

- 3) Add 4 regular officers to the Department and send them into the field.
- 4) Hire and train 4 SROs
- 5) Armed Private Security

Chief Kehoe told the Board that money would be put into contingency planning for this. He suggested that a determination needs to be made about how much money is needed going forward and how much is acceptable.

Commissioner Sachs questioned whether the First Selectman was saying they were not getting the 11 officers they asked for, but rather getting 4 instead. The Chief said yes he thinks that is what she is saying.

Captain Rios informed Commissioners that the Board of Education had hired 12 security guards which would augment police services.

The Captain said they could use this plan as a starting point. He noted that he knows they are under certain time lines and added that the Security Committee is working diligently addressing each of the 7 different schools.

Chief Kehoe stated that this would be a work in progress and informed the Board that the next meeting regarding this with the Board of Finance will be March 11, 2013.

Chairman Mangiafico asked the Board to think about who could attend and stressed that the Board needs to be represented.

Chief Kehoe stated that money for security would come from the Town's side from contingency and from the Board of Education.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: none

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Calls for Service - January 2012/2023- Captain Rios reported that there was nothing remarkable.

Chairman Mangiafico noted that traffic stops dropped from several hundred down to 25, and questioned why.

Captain Rios indicated that they were still getting a handle on things caused by the event on December 14, 2012, and all of the additional responsibilities since then.

Commissioner Faxon asked if that was because they are under staffed and if it means that it will require additional personnel to perform those duties. The Commissioner Faxon recalled that the Board had voted to add 11 officers because they needed to meet minimum levels. He noted that traffic is important because it requires a certain level of safety.

Chief Kehoe stated that it was a difficult question to address right now. He suggested that the department was trying to return back to normal traffic responsibilities since December 14 but its just a question of when. The Chief concluded by indicating they would have a better answer in a month or two.

Commissioner Budd noted that the Town still requires the need of outside agencies to fill the additional side jobs which is far more costly than if Newtown had its own officers fill those duties.

Chairman Mangiafico agreed and stated that obviously the agency was completely overloaded. Chief Kehoe agreed.

Commissioner Faxon reminded the Board that before Sandy Hook there had been a lot of activity on the street and officers were very visible. He added that visibility is an important crime deterrent. The Commissioner stated that he has a manpower concern and this bolsters the opinion of the Board. He added that they need what is necessary to protect their schools and streets.

In response to the Chairman's concern about the overwhelming decrease in traffic stops, Captain Rios noted that in addition to officers performing other duties traffic enforcement goes down during severe winters.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that further analysis is needed.

Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit Report written by Sgt. Bahamonde – Captain Rios informed Police Commissioners that the stops were down but the other activities they are involved in are up –security details, events, etc. - based upon the events that took place December 14. He reminded the Board that Fleet and Maintenance Repairs are always ongoing.

Monthly Detective Division Report written Report by Lt. Robinson – Captain Rios indicated that activity has been affected because personnel were out as everyone is aware of. **School Security** – The Captain reported that there were several upcoming planning meetings. He hoped a recommendation would be finalized and given to the Board of Finance so a decision can be made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: St. Rose Church CCD & Rectory Additions, Church Hill Road - Chief Kehoe told the Board that St. Rose wants to raise the existing three-car garage and add a one-story building for CCD and 4-car garage. He noted that this will not impact traffic. The Chief added that the additions will be for cosmetics and comfort.

Commissioner Faxon made a motion to approve the St. Rose Church CCD and Rectory Additions plan as presented. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Policy and Procedure – Eyewitness ID Procedures (#5-11) Revised – Chief Kehoe informed the Board that the Department had thrown out the old policy and gone with the new one. He added that the changes were made to keep in tune with the requirements of P.O.S.T. Chairman Mangiafico asked the Chief if there was anything in the new policy and procedure the Board should pay attention to. Chief Kehoe said the whole thing. He explained that the policy was revised to sanitize the process and make sure no mistakes are made; and there is no influence by law enforcement by using a double blind procedure.

Commissioner Faxon moved the Board approve as presented the Policy and Procedure – Eye Witness ID Procedures (#5-11) as revised. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Secondary Employment Request – Chief Kehoe informed the Board that he was requesting secondary employment to become an online coarse instructor for Post. He indicated that this was something that interested him.

Chairman Mangiafico told the Chief that this was a nice idea putting his talents to work on a broader scale.

Commissioner Faxon said he thought it was an excellent idea and fully supports the Chief.

Commissioner Faxon made a motion to approve Chief Kehoe’s request for regular off-duty employment. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

COMMISSIONER’S PARTICIPATION: According to Chairman Mangiafico, Captain Rios, Commissioner Viadero and he met with the Board of Finance last week for the purpose of discussing the budget, the Board of Education and Board of Selectmen carryover, and school security.

He told police commissioners that the Chairman of the Board of Education made a presentation requesting monies and indicated that they were asking for a 6.2% increase year over year.

The Chairman indicated that the Board of Finance wanted to talk to them regarding the salary recommendation made to the Board of Selectman. He noted that the selectman was looking for one officer per school and the Board of Police Commissioners came up with a minimum of 11 more officers needed to get up to adequate staffing levels with an additional need for 4 more vehicles and 2 civilian positions for a total of \$1,288,000.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that they did not agree with the Board of Police Commissioners’ proposed budget. He said they had a lengthy discussion about the additional police officers, discussing whether they should have armed officers in the schools to security to armed security and whether they should include the private schools.

Chairman Mangiafico said that a representative from the Security Committee spoke and there were a lot of questions as to when they would finish their work. He said that Mrs. Llodra indicated that the needed to be cautious and she suggested that maybe what they need is a part-time officer when school is in session. The net result, the Chairman noted, was that this has to be bid into the budgets because they are under a deadline and need to submit it to the Legislative Council by March 14, 2013.

Chairman Mangiafico said he doesn’t think the Board will see 11 new officers but is sure they will see 4.

Commissioner Sachs asked if there was any nod to all the emails the Board of Police Commissioners received saying people will pay for it.

Chief Kehoe reminded the Board that prior to December 14 there was always a quiet group of concerned about the taxes. He noted that even though there was a large vocal group wanting the changes the other would say no because the taxes were going up.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that this year's budget season is unique not only because of what happened in Sandy Hook but it's also the first year the town will have a bifurcated budget. He added that a lot want the schools more secure and are willing to pay for it but that doesn't mean we have an open check book. The Chairman indicated that there isn't much the Board can do now except wait for the decisions to be made by the Board of Education, the Town, the Board of Finance and the Legislative Council. He added that one can't expect officers to work countless hours of overtime with no end in sight.

Commissioner Faxon suggests that goes back to staffing levels.

Chairman Mangiafico indicated that the Department is not doing nearly the same amount of private duty jobs as it was which is costing the town money.

Captain Rios informed the Board that they had a representative from a private school there that evening and said they have an obligation to the private schools in Town just as much as the public schools.

Chief Kehoe recommended that the Board go into executive session and Chairman Mangiafico called for a motion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 8:43 pm, Commissioner Faxon made a motion to move into executive session under General Statutes 1-210B3 to discuss an ongoing police investigation and General Statute 1210B8 to discuss strategy and negotiation of personnel matters and collective bargaining. He invited Chief Kehoe and Captain Rios to attend for a portion of the executive session. Commissioner Budd seconded and motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

The Board exited executive session at 9:48 pm and conducted no further business.

Commissioner Faxon motioned to adjourn at 9:49 pm seconded by Commissioner Budd and passed unanimously.