



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, MAY 7, 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 Viadero, Andrew Sachs, Joel Faxon, and Paul Mangiafico.

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Michael Kehoe and Police Captain Jose Rios. No members of the press or public were in attendance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: none

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION OF THE MINUTES FOR: REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 2, 2013 - Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of
April 2, 2013. Commissioner Budd seconded and motion was unanimously approved.**

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel – Chief Kehoe reminded commissioners that the department had started the hiring process last month and indicated that there was now an ad on the web site of the Connecticut Post. He indicated that they were starting to accept applications and said that June 1 was the tentative date for the written exam for non-certified officers. The Chief informed police commissioners that at the last budget meeting the Legislative Council cut about \$125,000 from the Contingency Fund; and an additional \$20,000, which he said was discretionary where the First Selectman could take it from. Chief Kehoe stated that part of the money out of the Contingency Fund was for an officer to replace Youth Officer Gladys Pisani and give her support up at the Reed Intermediate School. The Chief indicated that the First Selectman had asked if Officer Pisani could manage and the Chief said they would manage the best they can and assign an officer to the school when she was not there. Chief Kehoe noted that was the result on the Town side and told Commissioners that \$750,000 was cut on the Board of Education side. He suggested that there is still some question as to whether the budget will pass. Chairman Mangiafico reminded police commissioners that they had submitted budget with no additional personnel but after the incident on December 14 there was discussion about adding one officer to each of the elementary schools including one for the Chalk Hill School in Monroe

which was housing Sandy Hook students. He added that Monroe indicated that they would fill the position at the Chalk Hill School so they need only 3.

The Chief stated that the contingency money would be used if they don't get grants or other funds for officers – almost like insurance

Chief Kehoe indicated that the First Selectman had said it was ok to start the hiring process. Chairman Mangiafico asked the Chief that assuming the May 14 budget passes and they receive no grants can they still get three officers using the contingency fund. Chief Kehoe said yes

The Chairman asked what percentage of the time Officer Pisani was not working at the school.

The Chief estimated around 30% of the time, but added that typically Officer Pisani was not away from the school the whole day.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that Monroe was paying for an officer at the Chalk Hill School – the new Sandy Hook Elementary School. Chief Kehoe suggested that there were actually two assigned officers at the school sometimes three.

Commissioner Sachs asked the Chief if they knew where they were in the grant process and the Chief indicated they had applied for an application. Chief Kehoe said that they need to define how to do the job as an SRO.

The Chief suggested that if the department can't find someone to cover the SRO positions internally they may interview certified/veteran officers with that in mind.

Chief Kehoe reminded the Police Commissioners that before the Board of Selectmen can use the contingency money it must go to Legislative Council first.

Year to date Budget Report - Chief Kehoe reported that they were addressing the two accounts that were over – Over-Time and Miscellaneous. He suggested that the department was reclassifying the monies in the Miscellaneous Account to rectify the overage. **Fleet** – Chief Kehoe told the Board that he expects in 2 weeks the department will have the new cars which have been at Fleet Auto. He added that they are considering holding the older cars for the SROs. The Chief added that one of the new cars is being fitted as a new K-9 vehicle. **Training** – no report. **Letters of Gratitude** – none. **Correspondences** – Chief Kehoe reported he had received one correspondence from the National Center for Missing Exploited Children commending Detective Jason Frank for his exceptional work. **Planning for Replacement of K-9 Baro** – the Chief indicated that K-9 Officer Figol was reaching out to all sources. **Memorial Service for Slain MIT Officer – NPD Honor Guard** – The Chief indicated that the NPD Honor Guard had participated in the Service for the Slain MIT Officer. **Resilience Night - April 28** – Chief Kehoe reported that on April 28 they held a Resilience Night for members of Newtown's Police, Fire, and Ambulance as well as Sandy Hook teachers. The Chief said the Department had about 20 officers and their spouses that attended. Chief Kehoe told the Board that he wanted to give a shout out recognizing Chief Doug Fuchs and Officer Maryhelen McCarthy for the great job they did organizing the event. The Chief said it was a great night. Chief Kehoe noted that the theme was "Organizational Resiliency". He noted that they had a diverse group of people there and recognized that there will be differences of views in the agencies.

Chairman Mangiafico asked how many officers were still out and the Chief said two.

Guest Readers at Hawley School – The Chief informed the board he would be one of the guest readers.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Calls for Service – March 2012/2023- Captain Rios reported that He had received a memo from Lt. Sinko talking about areas of decline - particularly Motor Vehicle Stops and Building Checks. The Captain said he believes that traffic enforcement is a very important part of their job. He indicated that looking at the stats – Traffic Stops were down from last year but there was improvement from the prior month. Captain Rios said he spoke to supervisors and indicated the need to set a goal to get back to what we believe is department standards. The Captain stated that there was a lot of good police work going on by the officers,

but a lot of room for improvement to get the Department to where it needs to be. Captain Rios said they will continue to look at the stats month to month.

Chairman Mangiafico asked what Captain Rios meant by Department standards. Captain Rios indicated that there was a standing memo indicating that two stops a day per officer is still a standing order.

Captain Rios noted that quality is more important than quantity but the drop (in stops) is significant.

Chairman Mangiafico responded suggesting that the Board had an issue with the two stop rule and the agency had issues with this as well; and he asked why go back to this.

Captain Rios said he thinks the ability and opportunity is there but said he can't say there won't be resistance. He suggests the officers be motivated to understand the reasons why.

Chairman Mangiafico indicated that he understood that the department hasn't pushed this for the past four or five months because of the situation but appeared to question why they were starting to push it again.

Captain Rios said that he doesn't want to focus on the number but rather have a goal to measure their performance.

He added that complaints were still coming in of drunk drivers, distracted drivers and speeders and the department still needs to address that.

In regards to labor management, Chief Kehoe suggests that they all have a general concern about a defined normalcy but suggests that they are looking at other opinions. The Chief said that they have to do something and come up with a plan that has meaning and accountability and is measurable.

Chief Kehoe stressed that the department needs to go back to its mission, but posed the question "how do we return to our mission?"

Chairman Mangiafico told fellow commissioners that he makes it a point to observe how many are on cell phones. Commissioner Faxon suggested maybe 50% of the drivers are on cell phones. The Chairman said that troubles him.

Captain Rios said that they need to look at service time and case load. He added that he believes that showing that are out there is the best prevention and "keeps the bad guys out."

Commissioner Faxon asked how over worked the officers are given the significant amount of overtime.

Chief Kehoe said that still need to do patrols but said he thinks they are an exhausted group.

Commissioner Faxon asked how they are doing on private duty jobs and if the road jobs were being handled by other jurisdictions.

Chief Kehoe said yes there were 5 or 6 officers a day for school security work plus private duty jobs and he suggested that very rarely does the department cover it all with its officers.

Commissioner Faxon said that before the incident (12-14) it was rare to see other officers but now you see them all the time. Chief Kehoe agreed but said that there was also an increase in projects like upgrading the electrical grid. He added that there was also thought of upgrading the gas line.

The Chief indicate the even prior to Sandy Hook there has been significant activity for tree trimming around power lines which was in its self a significant load to take on.

Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit Report for April 2013 - Written Report by Sgt.

Bahamonde - Captain Rios reported that speed century boxes were out more often on such roads as Queen Street and Elm Drive where there are a lot of walkers and joggers.

Monthly Detective Division Report for April 2013 - Written Report - Lt. Robinson - Captain

Rios indicated that there was nothing significant to report. The Captain said they attended the awards presentation at the FBI office in New Haven with special recognition to those who worked on the incident in Sandy Hook. He told commissioners that the forensic people including

the detectives, medical examiner and FBI officials were recognized. The Captain applauded the FBI for their work.

MADD Awards - Captain Rios reported that Officers Matt Wood and Steven Siecienski will be recognized for the number of DUI arrests they each made last year. Officer Wood had 9 and Officer Siecienski had 5. The Captain indicated the ceremony will be held June 19 at 11:30 am and he invited police commissioners to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Mangiafico stated he had sent a reminder to the Director of Public Works Fred Hurley regarding the installation of the 4th and 5th speed tables. The Chairman said that Mr. Hurley told him he would let them know when it would be scheduled but that was a month ago. Chairman Mangiafico said he will contact Mr. Hurley again to get the other two speed tables in. Commission Faxon indicated that the 10 mph signs by the speed tables need to be removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Transfer of \$3000 from account 01310-2035 Services to account 01310-2026 miscellaneous and the transfer of \$15,600 from account 01310-5080 Capital to account 01310-5002 Patrol Cars - According to Chief, Kehoe the money in the Capital account was originally for cameras for the patrol cars; but following the incident on 12-14 a company offered to give the Town cameras for all the cars allowing the money in Capital to be used elsewhere.

The Chief told the Board that since the retrofitting of the new cars came in more expensive than originally known, they proposed transferring the money to the car account.

According to Chief Kehoe, the \$3000 transfer will pay for the services of three individuals who will be designing a system to manage the "Offers of Assistance" that have been received since the incident.

Commissioner Faxon moved to approve the transfers as presented. The transfer of \$3000 from account 01310-2035 Services to account 01310-2026 miscellaneous and the transfer of \$15,600 from account 01310-5080 Capital to account 01310-5002 Patrol Cars. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

Secondary Employment Request - Chief Kehoe informed the Board that he had received a secondary employment request from Sgt. Dave Kullgren for Underwater Maintenance.

Commissioner asked how many hours this would be and the Chief did not know.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that Sgt. Kullgren needs to provide them with more information.

Chief Kehoe informed the Board that Sgt. Kullgren has been doing this and made his first secondary employment request 4 years ago.

Commissioners maintained that they still need more information about his secondary employment and asked to table the matter until next month.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none.

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION:

Commissioner Faxon thanked the Chief on behalf of the librarian and the Hawley School for coming to read at the "Mystery Reader Program".

He told the Chief that the kids are really looking forward to it.

Chairman Mangiafico asked Chief Kehoe if he had ever done anything like this before and the Chief said yes he did it for the Sandy Hook Elementary School kindergartners a year ago.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Faxon made a motion to move into executive session at 8:52 pm under General Statutes 1-210-B3 to discuss an ongoing police investigation and General Statute 1-210-B8 to discuss strategy and negotiation of personnel matters and collective bargaining. He invited Chief Kehoe and Captain Rios to attend. Commissioner Budd seconded and motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

Ted Swigart, Clerk