



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2013
TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE 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, Joel Faxon, Andy Sachs and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT: none

ALSO PARTICIPATION: Police Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, Union President Scott Ruszczyk and 1 member of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting August 6, 2013 and the Regular Meeting September 3, 2013:

Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting August 6, 2013 as corrected and the minutes from the regular meeting September 3, 2013 as presented.

Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Corrections to the August 6, 2013 minutes: Page 1, the meetings date was August 6, 2013 not July 6, 2013; and Page 1, under Public Participation, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence, should read, "She added that there was a person in Town and they knew who it was trying to rile people up."

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Ruszczyk indicated he had nothing to report.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report – Hiring - Chief Kehoe reported that everything was status quo and that the department had jumped started the hiring process anticipating an opening in the future. He added that the list from the written exams was on hold for now. **Temporary Data-Clerk** – The Chief informed commissioners that he request that the First Selectman add money for a temporary data clerk as the Police Department was backlogged in administrative work due to the absence of an employee and the department being inundated by pistol permits. He noted that resumes were currently being reviewed. **Budget- FY 12/13** – Chief Kehoe reported that the Department is quickly going through its overtime and indicated that he had asked the staff to estimate what is spent on school security. The Chief added that the average daily cost for school security alone was \$1400 which wasn't really budgeted. He suggested that the department would be completely through its budgeted overtime by late December or early

January. Chief Kehoe suggested that before making a formal request for a specific dollar amount for overtime, the department should hold off for a month to see where it will be. **Fleet Report** - Chief Kehoe reported that the fleet is status quo. **Training Report** - Chief Kehoe informed Police Commissioners that the report was in their packets and that the Department hadn't received any **Letters of Gratitude** for last month. **Correspondences** – The Chief Kehoe informed Commissioners that he received two correspondences one from the OSTA regarding the posted speed limits in Town and which ones will be changed; and the other pertaining to the new Traffic Signal with a preemptive device for intersection of Church Hill Road and the Boulevard. **K-9 Baro / Program Update** - Chief Kehoe reported that the presentation of the new canine program and the memorial ceremony honoring Canine Baro went very well. Chairman Mangiafico noted that Commissioners Sachs and Faxon had attended but that he could not as he had been out of the country. He added that he had no less than 7 people who were there say it was one of the most moving memorial ceremonies they had ever attended. **On-going Projects Update** – The Chief informed the Board that the Department was building the Interrogation Room and said it was making a lot of progress. **Annual Report Draft** – Chief Kehoe told Police Commissioners a copy of the annual report draft was in their packets and will be going to the Town Clerks Office. The Board discussed the reduction in revenue earned through side jobs last year. Commissioner Faxon questioned what percent of the private duties Newtown handles in their area and the Chief said he would have to look. Commissioner Faxon said he would be interested to know the decline and corresponding decline in revenue to the Town. Chief Kehoe noted that the annual report gets published in the Town book. **Department of Justice Security Grant** – Chief Kehoe was pleased to report that the Department of Justice had earmarked a \$150,000 grant for security in Newtown, but indicated he was not sure when they would get it as the government was currently shut down.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Incident Analysis Reports for September 2012 – September 2013- Captain Rios stated that there was nothing significant to report back to the Board. He indicated they were closely monitoring traffic stops. The Captain stated that from August to October the traffic stops were up 47 percent, but compared to a year ago they were down. Captain Rios assured the Board that he expects the increase to fully continue. **Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit Report for September 2013 - Written Report by Officer Silver** – Captain Rios told the board that the unit is currently being headed by Officer Silver who was busy putting out speed display signs at the various locations around Town as well as performing other duties. Chairman Mangiafico expressed his concern that recently there have been many references by people to the speeding and use of cell phones in Town and said it appears they are worse off than they were 2 or 3 years ago. The Chairman question why there were only 27 infractions issued for cell phone violations last month and the Captain Rios indicated that those were only infractions and did not include verbal and written warnings that were issued. The Captain said he wished they could totally focus on motor vehicles but they can't. Chairman Mangiafico stressed that this (speeding and cell phone use by drivers) is a problem in the town they live in and suggested that if he can see it all the time then why can't their officers. Chief Kehoe believed that if they could look at the infractions together with the written and verbal warnings there may be a discrepancy here. The Chief said that is why they need a part-time data clerk to enter the infractions into the criteria. He also stated that they can make an initiative towards distracted driving but they are running short staffed. Commissioner Faxon suggested that its time they sit down with Mrs. Llodra and advocate for proper staffing. Chairman Mangiafico stated that this issue was not going to go away and the Chief agreed. The Chairman said they should continue analyzing the data and not drop it. Chief Kehoe added that they have the diversionary traffic data related to Queen Street and should have it for the next meeting. Chairman Mangiafico said he thinks they should compare it to what they had before. **Monthly Detective Division Report for September**

2013 - Written Report - Lt. Robinson – Captain Rios reported that the missing person is still missing; and added that the Heath Trial has started regarding the murder on Poverty Hollow Road and testimony has begun. The Captain informed the Board that Lt. Robinson participated in the Table Top exercise at the High School and said they exercised a lock-in drill and will soon be holding some announced and some unannounced lock-in drills in the future. **September 2013 – Cell Phone Violations** – Captain Rios told Police Commissioners that the Department issued 27 infractions for cell phone violations for September 2013. **Regional Texting Enforcement** - The Captain reported that there will be a Regional Texting Enforcement effort in Town October 17, 2013. He noted that officers from State and other local agencies will be working together for 4 to 8 hours with zero tolerance for violations. **Committee Updates** – Captain Rios indicated that the Performance Management and Labor Management Committee meetings were currently put on hold. Chief Kehoe indicated that they had talked off line about starting them up and agreed that maybe they need someone else to come in and facilitate the meetings. The Captain indicated that Union President Ruszczyk and Chief Kehoe will meet with a person to facilitate the meetings and then the Committees will meet with the person over the next couple of weeks. Captain Rios noted that the Union President had asked to postpone the meetings because there was concern they might not be fruitful. According to Union President Ruszczyk, personnel came to him and said they were not ready to do this. **Citizens Complaints – Speeding on Currituck Road** – Captain Rios informed the Board that traffic tubes and speed control devices had been set up on Currituck Road to collect speed data; and added that accident data was also collected. According to the Captain, the posted speed limit on the road is 35 mph. He noted that the data collected suggests that 70% of the traffic was traveling between 35 mph and 44 mph and that there very few accidents. Captain Rios addressed additional complaints stating that they had checked for wide load vehicles from September 14 through September 20 and didn't observe any; and that there are "Alternate Route signs posted on Route 84 for vehicles to get off at exit 11 to bypass the center of Newtown. Captain Rios reported that Lt. Sinko indicated that radar was run at peak hours on the Currituck Road near Sunset Hill along with speed display signs; and he noted that the curve is an engineering problem. The Captain stated that they had done some due diligence there and yes there was speeding but it wasn't over the top. Chairman Mangiafico asked if they considered reducing the speed limit. The Chief said he thought they suggested reducing it to 30 mph or even 25 mph. Union President Ruszczyk stated that the speed limit was 30 mph before it was raised. Commissioner Sachs suggested they see what the State's reason for raising it was and take a look at it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Police Commission Performance Feedback – Chairman Mangiafico asked Board members if they had drawn any conclusions from the feedback they had received. Commissioners for the most part said no. Commissioner Faxon said he was happy with the Speed Tables on Queen Street because they made it safer.

The Chairman said he didn't get a feeling one way or another about the comments written to the Board or the public present at the last meeting but said that the one thing that they did get was there was a speeding problem and traffic volume problem in the Town.

Chairman Mangiafico extended his thanks to everyone who did comment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Traffic Control Signal, Highland Plaza, 125 South Main Street – Chief Kehoe informed the Board that he had received the letter requesting a traffic control signal at Highland Plaza about a week ago. The Chief held up the document and suggested that the Board review it the entirely as it was background for the report they had in their packets.

He noted that this will be controversial as it is a private industry and it is a State road.

Chief Kehoe suggested that they have the engineers come in and ask them.
Commissioner Budd noted that the final decision is made by the State.
Chief Kehoe indicated that in the request the private industry indicated they will pay for the traffic signal but the Chief informed the Board that the Town must keep it up after that.
Chief Kehoe stated that there is money in the budget for an engineering study and he suggested they use that to have a traffic engineer review the information and see what they think.
Chairman Mangiafico tabled the matter until the Board's next meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session at 10 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 but request that the board meet alone for a short period of time first. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

The Board left executive session at 9:53 pm. Commissioner Faxon moved to adjourn at 9:53 pm. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion passed.

Ted Swigart, Clerk