

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE POLICE COMMISSION

The Police Commission held their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 in the conference room at Town Hall South, 3 Main Street, Newtown, CT. Chairman John Mangiafico called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Present: Paul Mangiafico, Brian Budd, Joel Faxon, James Viadero

Absent: Andrew Sachs

Also Present: Chief Michael Keheo, Captain Jose Rios, Union President Scott Rusczyk, 2 members of the public and 1 member of the press

Public Participation – None

Police Union Participation – Mr. Rusczyk asked that the commission follow past practice and grant the requested leave of absence.

Consideration and action on the minutes for 3/4/14 – Mr. Faxon moved to approve the 3/4/14 minutes with the correction on Page 2, the 14th line down in the CHIEF'S REPORT should read "Commissioner Faxon asked when the hiring would begin". Mr. Budd seconded, motion unanimously accepted.

Chief's Report – Personnel report – The first grades for the recruits have come in and they are all passing and doing well. They are continuing with the recruiting and hiring. **Budget FY 13-14** - The year to date budget was handed out. Everything other than the police OT looks like it is on target. **Fleet Report** – New cars are to be delivered in April or Early May. **Training Reports** - are in the packets provided to the commissioners. **Letters of Gratitude** – Officer Maryhelen McCarthy was given a proclamation from the Town of Surfside, Florida, for her exceptional leadership she provided to the community of Newtown, CT after the tragic event that took place on December 14, 2012. The Police Explorers received a thank you for volunteering at the Home Show from the Newtown Winter Guard.

Captain's Report – Incident Analysis Written Reports for February 2013-2014: The report includes that there were 8 DUI arrests, 15 infractions and 39 written warnings for cell phone violations. The DOT has designated this area for a distracted driving initiative. They are currently on phase 2. Phase 3 will begin in a few months. This is being paid for by the state. Traffic report from Sgt. Bahamonde is also included in the commissioner's packets along with the Monthly Detective Division Report from Lt. Robinson.

UNFINISHED BUISINESS

Committee Report-Facilities Upgrade – Mr. Viadero reported that in the first week in March they met with Chief Fuchs and found out how much money they have raised so far. They are

going to meeting with Scott Cicciari during the month. He has made contacts with corporations in the area and looking for larger contributions. They are going to set a portion of the funds initially obtained for site acquisitions and plans and move forward to getting a strategic plan in place. Mr. Mangefico explained that he sees this as a two phase project. There are activities primarily handled by Scott Cicciari for the solicitation of private and public moneys. The activity that should be the primary activity of the sub-committee representing the commission is non-financial such as where would it be and what it would look like. Mr. Mangiafico suggested getting help from other people such as Bob Geckle or Walter Moytika who are very knowledgeable and can be very helpful.

Alarm Ordinance Discussion – This is a complex issue. The original ordinance is very long and very ineffective. Mr. Mangiafico asked to see the detailed breakdown for the alarm responses for 2013. 99.85% are false alarms. If they can get that to 50%, it will be an enormous savings. A third party vendor will not come and do the registration and collections because the ordinance is too weak. A reasonable enforcement mechanism is required. Darien charges \$75 for the first false call. This money stays within the PD and offsets other costs. There has to be an incentive for the resident or business to take responsibility. A breakdown of the percentage of residential and commercial as well as how many repeat offenders was requested. The current ordinance doesn't have any fines until the 4th false alarm. It is almost the equivalent as dialing 911 and having no emergency or pulling a fire alarm. A serial violator needs to be punished. There is a way to make it an effective ordinance and it can make people responsible however the requested data is needed before the ordinance can be updated.

Consolidation of Emergency Dispatch Update – Mr. Mangiafico reported that he, Chief Kehoe and Mr. Faxon attended a meeting with Neil Chaudhary and Jeff Capeci. Mr. Chaudhary and Mr. Capeci have been charged to identify the pros and cons of consolidating dispatch. A cost analyst was received from the Financial Director which shows a \$140,000 savings to the town. They will visit the location that is the proposed with a few officers as well. The state of CT is looking to do the regional centers. They have had this on their agenda for many years. There may be some efficiency but they have not come to fruition. It is important to understand that the idea of consolidating functions is fundamentally a good idea. Mr. Mangiafico personally doesn't feel it is a good idea but they are still looking at it. They are looking at losing 9 personnel and hire back 5 to handle the additional workload. Mr. Budd doesn't understand why this is even being discussed after 12/14.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Leave of Absence – Request from officer Michaels for a year's leave of absence. It is non renewable and not to exceed one year. It is unpaid and they can replace him immediately. If in a year he wants to come back, a position would need to be open for him to do so. Chief Kehoe explained that each and every request has been granted before this. Scott Ruszczuk explained that the position has never been held for anyone. They have had an officer leave and go to Danbury and then come back to Newtown with no issues. Once they are on the

leave of absence, the union no longer represents them. In the past 20 years, this is how it has works.

Mr. Faxon moved to approve the leave of absence solely under the condition that they can immediately replace the office. Absent approval from the First Selectman, in writing indicating that they can replace the office seeking leave of absence, Joseph Michaels immediately, the leave of absence is not granted. Mr. Budd seconded. Motion passed 3 to 1 (NO - Mangiafico).

Policy and Procedure- Employee systems program – They are changing EAP providers as of April 1st. They are in the process of getting everyone up to date as to who the providers are. The next policy is the Crisis Intervention Team. They have been working on this for a year. There are 9 officers that are CIT trained. Mr. Faxon moved to approve both the Policy and Procedure for the Employee Assistance Program and the Policy and Program for the Crisis Intervention Team. Mr. Viadero second, motion unanimously accepted.

Commissioner's Participation – Mr. Faxon and Mr. Mangiafico attended the March 26th Police Commissioners Associates of CT. They had a nice dinner, where officers were honored and it was a very informative meeting. In May, Chief Kehoe will be honored.

Public Participation – Jason Chickos has been a dispatcher for 12 years and asked that the dispatch consolidation be looked at deeply. The main concern of the town is the safety. If he got a 911 call for an event in prospect, there would be a delay because he is not familiar with roads in Prospect. With a one or two minute delay at Sandy Hook School, the consequences would have been worse. There are a lot of people that will lose jobs. It is a major concern, it is not an easy transition and people want service.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk Pro-Tem