



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, May 6, 2014**  
**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 regular meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

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

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** First Selectman Patricia Llodra, Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, Union President Scott Ruszczky, 1 member of the press, and 10 members of the public.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that there was a full agenda and they would need to change the order of the agenda, specifically items 2a Committee Report – Facilities Upgrade and 2b Consolidation of Emergency Dispatch Update which were related to the discussion with the First Selectman. He noted that she would be delayed until 8:15 pm or 8:30 pm and the Board would address those items on the agenda when she arrives.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Kelly Martinez, a staff rep for AFSME representing the dispatchers in Newtown, indicated that she was disappointed the agenda had been shuffled. She pointed out that it was hardly a secret that the Town was entertaining the notion of regionalizing dispatch. Ms. Martinez noted that they were not aware of any cost analysis that would justify regionalization. She stated that the citizens in Town deserve no less and neither do the First Responders and concluded that it may sound good on paper but that the devil is in the details. Chairman Mangiafico stated that they would be holding a special meeting one week from that evening at 7 pm Tuesday, May 1, 2014, in location to be announced.

**POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:** Union President Ruszczky indicated that all was quiet with the Union.

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting April 1, 2014 and Special Meeting April 8, 2014:** Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting April 1, 2014 as corrected and the special meeting April 8, 2014. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Corrections: Page 1, under Also Present, the Chief's name should be spelled "Kehoe" and Page 2, first paragraph, 3rd sentence, the Chairman's name should be spelled "Mangiafico".

**CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report** - Chief Kehoe reported that the Department was still in the process of hiring and indicated they were looking at several viable candidates. He added that the Officers currently in the academy would be done in June. **Budget 2014/2015** - The Chief indicated that they needed to address a transfer that evening that was not on the agenda. Chairman Mangiafico asked for a motion to add the transfer to the agenda. Commissioner Faxon moved to add to the agenda the transfer of \$30,000 from Salaries and Wages Fulltime to Salaries and Wages Overtime. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Chief Kehoe said that the funds up to May 1 were all status quo and he noted that the Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget did pass. **Fleet Report** – The Chief reported that two new cruisers arrived and would be changed over within the next month. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe told Police Commissioners that the report was in their packets. **Letters of Gratitude** – The Chief stated that they had received a letter for two officers and two civilians. **Correspondences** – Chief Kehoe said that they had received several correspondences between last month and now and told Commissioners those correspondences were in their packets for their review. The Chief noted that one correspondence was in regards to the speed signs and another was in regards to the traffic light at Highland Plaza. **Event over the Weekend** – Chief Kehoe reported that for first time our Explorers represented Newtown Police Department at Connecticut Police Academy Station's Day. The Chief said the event drew 200 Explorers Posts from across New England. He added that there was a competition and overall Newtown's Explorers did very well.

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Calls for Service Reports for March 2013 to March 2014** – Captain Rios reported that with regard to the Cell Phone Violations for March 2014 there were 20 infractions and 32 written warnings issued.

**Monthly Traffic Enforcement Unit Report for April 2014** - Captain Rios indicated there was no report due to personnel shortages. He noted that although the Traffic Unit was not operating their functions were being handled by the patrol division. **Monthly Detective Division Report for April 2014 – Written report by Lt. Robinson** - Captain Rios informed Police Commissioners that the Detective Division was investigating several burglaries and narcotics offences as well as assisting with the hiring phase. The Captain noted that the Division was busy investigating a recent rash of Copper thefts from unoccupied residences. **DUI Update** – Captain Rios stated that there would be roving DUI patrols from May 22 through the Memorial Day and added that there was a DUI Check Point scheduled for May 23, 2014. The Captain reminded the Board that 75% of the funding for these comes from a State DOT grant.

Chairman Mangiafico asked how much the money the Town receives out of the money from the infraction they issue and the Captain said very, very little. Chief Kehoe said the Town receives only 5% of certain violations and for others nothing. The Chief noted that prior to a public act that went into effect about three years ago the Town wasn't receiving any of the money.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Alarm Ordinance Discussion** – Chief Kehoe asked that the discussion be tabled as the Department was having a problem with the systems module. He noted that New World was coming in to help the Department with that. Chairman Mangiafico asked if the Chief would have the information at the next meeting and the Chief said he hoped to have it in the next couple of weeks. The Chairman said hopefully they will have it at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS: Request for Retirement** – Chief Kehoe informed the Board that he had received a request for retirement from Officer Steve Ketchum. The Chief said he would like to recognize Officer Ketchum's valuable years of service and told the Board it was regret he had to submit this to them. Chief Kehoe added that Officer Ketchum's retirement would be effective June 1, 2014.

Commissioner Faxon moved that the Board accept the retirement of Officer Steve Ketchum effective June 1, 2014. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**COPS Hiring Grant** – Chief Kehoe reported that COPS was accepting grant applications for new applicants – 5% of which are actual sworn police officers. The Chief said that the Grant covers 2 new hires entry level salaries up to 75% for hired or rehired officers over a three year period at up to \$125,000 per officer. Chief Kehoe said he thinks many agencies will be applying for it. He indicated that COPS was an arm of the DOJ.

Commissioner Faxon moved that the Chief assign someone to seek out the COPS Grant. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

**Transfer to OT** – Chief Kehoe informed Police Commissioners that the line item for Over-Time (OT) is in the rears. He indicated that the Director of Finance Bob Tait had put \$145,000 into the OT account but it will not be enough to cover all the money needed. The Chief stated that they need to add another \$30,000 to make that account solvent.

According to Chief Kehoe, \$135,000 was originally budgeted for OT but they need the additional \$175,000 (\$145,000 + \$30,000) to cover it.

Commissioner Faxon moved to transfer \$30,000 from account 5100 Salaries and Wages Full Time to account 5130 Salaries and Wages Overtime. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS (continued):**

**Consolidation of Emergency Dispatch Update** - First Selectman Llodra arrived at the meeting at 8:10 pm and immediately addressed the issue of consolidating emergency dispatch.

She noted that the purpose that evening was to have an informal conversation about the concept. The First Selectman stated that there were a couple of things the Board of Selectman was doing to find ways to partner with neighboring communities. She said one was a research project to regionalize dispatch but added that no decision had been made yet.

According to Mrs. Llodra, the Town looked into consolidation of emergency services dispatch approximately four years ago with the City of Danbury. She indicated that the idea did not continue past a couple of months of conversations when two of the towns looking into the concept opted out.

First Selectman Llodra indicated that there is a legislative initiative spear headed by the Municipal Opportunities & Regional Efficiencies Commission (MORE) that encourages municipalities to regionalize to save money. She noted that MORE was behind the consolidation of the State Police Dispatch Services. The First Selectman told the Board that MORE recognized that there are 169 towns in the state with duplicative services. She noted that the Legislature said the towns can't afford to do this. First Selectman Llodra stated that the towns have the obligation to exercise their due diligence performing at the highest and best level.

To begin fact finding with the idea of regionalization, First Selectman Llodra stated that the Board of Selectman appointed two volunteers to head an ADHOC committee Neil Chaudhary, assistant Chair of the Legislative Council and former Chairman of the Legislative Council Jeff Capeci. The First Selectman suggested that the Committee will look into the questions of whether to regionalize and if so why and if not why not.

First Selectman Llodra stated that they will continue to discuss opportunity to regionalize with neighboring municipalities. She said she understood that a change of this magnitude can be very threatening but stated that if any public safety is compromised they won't do it.

Chairman Mangiafico asked why regionalization did not come about in Danbury.

First Selectman Llodra stated that with Ridgefield it was a union issue and Brookfield was committed to another vendor.

**Committee Report – Facilities Report** – First Selectman Llodra stated that about a year or two ago the Board of Selectman did a strategic plan for facilities. Consequently she said it had to be set aside. Now, the First Selectman said they are committed to pursue that. She said that first and foremost they must address the building itself and all the services such as Park and Rec and Social Services that are currently in the building.

First Selectman Llodra stated that GE donated the Town \$10 million to build a Community Center and \$1 million a year after that to operate it. She said that would take care of Park and Rec removing them from the building and also provide a dedicated space for the seniors allowing them to move out of the Senior Center. The First Selectman suggested that the vacated Senior Center would be a good place for Social Services to relocate to.

First Selectman Llodra emphasized that they need to find what is right and what the best way is to serve the Police Department either by building a new facility or by using the current one. She recalled the study that was done in 2008 but indicated that needs have changed since then and the population is decreasing. The First Selectman recommended that once they get things going they should layer in the 2008 study but for now they need to determine what would be nice to have and they need to have. She suggested that they must look at all the options available and that might include using a vacated facility.

First Selectman Llodra outlined the following steps necessary to move the process along:

- 1) Analyze the needs from a building perspective and a building use perspective
- 2) Draft a Strategic Plan
- 3) Develop a Plan
- 4) Execute the Plan

She noted that if the current building is proved to be inadequate then there needs to be a solution. Commissioner Sachs asked when the needs analysis would be done and First Selectman Llodra indicated that it was a very complicated process and suggested that the last time it was done was in 1999. She said that at the next Board of Selectmen meeting they will bring in a consultant from Diversified Management to discuss how to design RFP and the cost associated with it. The First Selectman said that it was her goal that by the spring of next year they will have an answer to all the questions.

Chairman Mangiafico asked how they can help the Board of Selectmen accelerate a resolution of those questions. He stated that the building currently housing the Police Department is too small and inadequate as it is and suggested they can't go another year as it is.

First Selectman Llodra reassured the Chairman stating that she didn't think they were looking at another decade and said she didn't think it was that far out. She noted that the building was the most problematic of the ones the Town owns.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION:** None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session at 8:46 pm under General Statute 1-200 Subsection 6 for discussion concerning the employment and performance of public officers and employees. Chief Kehoe and Captain Rios were invited to attend with the Chief only at first and the Captain to be called in. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

Ted Swigart, Clerk