



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, June 3, 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: James Viadero, Andrew Sachs, and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT: Brian Budd and Joel Faxon

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, Union President Scott Ruszczuk, 1 member of the press, and 4 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Joe Borst, Beechwood Drive, Sandy Hook, told the Police Commissioners that he had comments to make regarding two problems he has noticed in Sandy Hook center. The first problem, he said was that “No Right On Red” sign between the hanging lights on Church Hill Road at the intersection of Glen Road. He stated that it was not visible at night because the LED lights of the traffic signal were so bright. As a possible solution to the problem, Mr. Borst suggested that the sign be relocated onto the free standing pole where the other traffic signal was located. The second problem, he said was the dangerous parking situation developing on Glen Road across the street from the Foundry Kitchen and Tavern. Mr. Borst indicated that the majority of the cars were parked out in the road itself. As a solution he suggested putting up “No Parking” signs there.

Chief Kehoe assured Mr. Borst that Sgt Bahamonde was looking into where to safely put the “No Turn On Red” sign as well as looking at “No Parking” signs on Glen Road. The Chief added that he was working very closely with the State DOT. Chief Kehoe indicated that they hoped to have some kind of an idea about the “No Turn On Red” sign by June because it is a matter of adding or moving an already approved sign. However, the Chief stated that the No Parking signs were more extensive because they are a regulatory sign and have not been approved for that location yet.

Chairman Mangiafico asked if there was a concern as to where the No Turn On Red signs should be and the Chief said that most of the time the signs are by the hanging light because drivers are looking up. The Chairman said he is familiar with what Mr. Borst was talking about and stated that he has noticed the same problem in other Towns with the location of the No Turn On Red signs. Chief Kehoe noted that sometimes they have used supplemental signs rather than moving one.

Dick Simmons, a former resident and Board of Police Commissioners member, said it was nice to be in Town again. He noted that he saw the Speed Tables on Queen Street while he was riding around town and commended the Board on an “excellent job.”

Bill Vayan, Fleetwood Drive, Sandy Hook, agreed with Mr. Borst about the dangerous parking situation in that location on Glen Road. He added that there was only room for two maybe three cars to park on the outside of the fog line but that the rest were encroaching too much into the road.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Rusczyk reported that the Union has been working with the Chief and the Captain on new uniforms. He added that contract negotiations are proceeding as per usual with the Town.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting May 6, 2014 and Special Meeting May 13, 2014: Commissioner Viadero moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting May 6, 2014. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Viadero moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting May 13, 2014. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report - Chief Kehoe reported that he has had a chance to look at the candidates most recent records at the academy and all seemed well. He added that graduation would be in June. Hiring – The Chief said that the Board would be interviewing two candidates that evening. The Chief added that the Department has three positions open they are trying to fill. SSO – Chief Kehoe stated that they are currently accepting applications for School Security Officers (SSO). Chairman Mangiafico asked who the SSOs would report to and the Chief said they would report to the Police Department. **Budget Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Summary** – The Chief stated that the Police Commissioners had the summary in their packets as to where they were at as of May 28, 2014. He reminded the Commissioners that as mention last month, the funds in the OT account were increased by \$175,000 so the department was no longer in the rears for Fiscal Year 2013/2014. **Fleet Report** – The Chief reported that all of the cars ordered were in and if they weren't on the road yet they were close. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe told the Board the training report by Sgt Vanghele was in the packets. A-Ride Training – The Chief stated that all the Department's patrol officers will be given training in "drugged driving" (drivers under the influence of drugs) which he noted was just as dangerous as drunk drivers. He said that *A-Ride Training* was new to the State of Connecticut and that Newtown was one of the first in the State to have all of its officers trained in that. **Letters of Gratitude** – The Chief stated that they had received a letter of gratitude for Officer Chapman. **Correspondences** – Chief Kehoe reported that they had received the Texting Ban Grant of \$7,000 for the final phase of the initiative. He also said they had received a request from the Finance Director Bob Tait regarding the CIP worksheets. Chairman Mangiafico told the Board that he had asked Mr. Tait to do it thoroughly because it's a chance to make an argument for a new police department.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Calls for Service Reports for April 2013 to April 2014 – Captain Rios reported that there were 8 DUI arrests and 33 Cell Phone Violations. He added that the total number of cell phone violations was made up of infractions and written warnings. **Monthly Detective Division Report – Written report by Lt. Robinson** - Captain Rios informed Police Commissioners that the Detective Division was steadily making progress on their investigation of the recent burglaries especially with regard to the copper thefts and he added that they hope to have positive results in the next month or two. The Captain stated that the detective division had developed some very good leads. Captain Rios also reported that three arrest warrants were collected for April 2014 – 1 granted, 1 denied and 1 served. **Click-It or Ticket** – The Captain

stated that they were still gathering data from the Click-It or Ticket Campaign and hoped to have statistics for the Board by the next meeting. **Texting Grant** – Captain Rios said the grant was funding the last phase of their initiative which would take place June 5 to June 11 and specifically in Newtown June 7 to June 11. **DUI Grant** – The Captain said the DUI Grant was for Friday, June 12, at an undisclosed location in Town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Alarm Ordinance Discussion – Chairman Mangiafico informed Chief Kehoe that he had read through the ordinance. The Chairman told the Chief that the Board was given a lot to look at and he asked the Chief what his general sense was of the alarm ordinance. The Chief responded stating that the Alarm Ordinance was inadequate at this point in time.

Chief Kehoe indicated that the current ordinance was approved in 2002 or 2003. He told Commissioners that 99.3% of alarms were false alarms – roughly 33% are commercial and 67% are residential. The Chief stated that the aim of revising the alarm ordinance was not to be punitive but was rather a matter of public safety and the education of alarm owners.

Chief Kehoe called the Police Commissioners attention to Glastonbury's alarm ordinance indicating that it had a lot more substance to it than Newtown's.

The Chief noted that there are two areas where Newtown's alarm ordinance is deficient.

- 1) The Alarms aren't reviewed every year with a fee
- 2) The fee structure isn't strong and should be altered.

According to Chief Kehoe, Newtown waits until the fourth alarm before charging the owner a fee of \$25. He said that is inadequate and he recommended the Town go to an outside vendor who would do this for them. Chairman Mangiafico suggested that they need to go through the ordinance with a fine tooth comb.

Chief Kehoe stated that the Department currently has one person assigned to alarms and it is literally a full-time job. He suggested that once they bolster up their alarm ordinance with the fees contracted out, it will free up the staff and officers to take care of other business.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that they schedule a special session just for the Alarm Ordinance.

Chief Kehoe stated that he would reach out to other agencies similar to Newtown's and look at their alarm ordinances. He added that there has been a big push state-wide to adopt model ordinances because the others are a huge financial drain.

Commissioners Viadero and Sachs agreed that a separate meeting should be held.

NEW BUSINESS: Request for Retirement – Chief Kehoe informed the Board that he had received a request for retirement from Lt. George Sinko effective May 14, 2014.

Commissioner Sachs moved that the Board accept the retirement of Lt. George Sinko effective May 14, 2014. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION: Chairman Mangiafico informed the Board that last week he attended a Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut meeting in Meriden with Commissioner Viadero and honoree Chief Kehoe. He told Commissioners Chief Kehoe was selected as the Distinguished Chief of the Year.

Commissioner Viadero said it was a very nice honor bestowed on the Chief and the Chairman agreed.

INTERVIEW OF PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER APPLICANTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Sachs moved to go into executive session at 8:32 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 as well as the candidates. Commissioner Viadero seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

The Board came out of executive session at 10:20 pm.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER APPLICANTS:

Commissioner Sachs made a motion to hire two probationary officers with an established rank list: 1) Michael Caramadrie and 2) Fernando Pereira. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Viadero and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Sachs made a motion that the effective start date for probationary Officer Caramadrie be June 26, 2014 and the effective start date of probationary Officer Pereira be June 16, 2014. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Viadero. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Sachs moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:23 pm. Commissioner Viadero seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Ted Swigart, Clerk