



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, August 5, 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, Joel Faxon, Andrew Sachs, and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Kehoe, 2 member of the press, and 9 members of the public.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Frances Moore, Jet Brook Road, presented the Board with a map she drew of the intersection of Jet Brook Road and Castle Meadow as well as several photographs. She suggested that Board could refer to the map and pictures when they addressed the issue of Traffic Control Measures at the intersection later in the meeting. She added that there has been a bus stop there for over 30 years and it has been fine.

Linda Drap, Castle Meadow, said the island median is right in front of her house. She said everyone stops and uses the bathroom there. She noted that the Town put up No Parking signs about a year ago. She said she understands people are concerned about the bus stop but added that was not why she was there. Ms. Drap indicated that it only takes a second for the bus to go through. She said she is tired of seeing people there – from kids parking there at night to strange vehicles.

Kathy Devitiero, Jet Brook Road, told Police Commissioners that there is no place to push back the snow now that the new (No Parking) signs were put in. She indicated that the island was the only place to for the snow to be pushed and so the snow will make the road narrower with no place for the bus to stop. Mrs. Devitiero added that her biggest concern is getting the kids on the bus.

Alex Rankin, 93 Castle Meadow, stated that he would like to address the Board but would wait until the item is brought up later that evening.

Sherry Bermingham, Main Street, told Police Commissioners that Main Street could use some police help. She indicated that police were doing very well before but now it seems like Main Street has fallen off the radar. Mrs. Bermingham noted that there are complaints of people not stopping at the crosswalks for pedestrians and suggests that still needs to be addressed. She also stated that there is more and more traffic, speeding and an increase of over-sized loads trucks coming through the center of Town. Mrs. Bermingham added that she hopes the Board will help with some of these issues on Main Street.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: As Union President Scott Rusczyk was not present, Chairman Mangiafico recommended the Board skip the police union participation until next month.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting June 3, 2014: Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting June 3, 2014 as corrected. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Corrections: Page 1, under Public Participation, 3rd Paragraph, 2nd sentence, “No Torn On Red” should be “No Turn On Red”; Page 2, under Unfinished Business Alarm Ordinance Discussion, 3rd Paragraph, “The Alarms aren’t reviewed every year with a fee.” should be “The Alarms aren’t renewed every year with a fee.”

POLICE COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE: Chairman Mangiafico announced that Commissioner Viadero had been hired as Middlebury Police Chief and was stepping down from the Newtown Board of Police Commissioners. The Chairman said that it was sad to see him leave the Board but congratulated Commissioner Viadero with his new position as Middlebury Chief.

Commissioner Viadero informed the Board that he had accepted the position as Chief of Police in Middlebury. He indicated that to avoid any foreseeable conflict he was resigning from the Board. Commissioner Viadero thanked everyone and said he will miss attending the meetings every month.

In turn, each of his fellow Police Commissioners expressed how much they enjoyed working with him and what a valuable asset he had been with his vast knowledge of police management and field experience.

Chairman Mangiafico agreed with his fellow commissioners and indicated that a seat on the board would become available as of midnight that evening. He suggested that anyone who is interested in “throwing their hat into the ring” is welcome to.

CHIEF’S REPORT: Personnel Report – Field Training - Chief Kehoe reported that the three new officers were working toward phase two of the Department’s Field Training Program and indicated that the officers’ final grades from the Academy were in their packets. Letter – The Chief indicated that they were bringing back the Statewide Narcotics Officer due to a vacated position. New Hires – Chief Kehoe informed the Board that the department was still short two officer positions which they intended to fill. He added that they have been short staffed for too long. SSOs – The Chief stated that they were just about complete with the process and have narrowed down to 14 or 15 candidates. Promotions - Chief Kehoe informed the Board that the Department was putting together a list for Lieutenants in October or November. **Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015** – The Chief reported that the 2014/2015 Budget was now in play. He added that he still doesn’t have the final numbers for 2013/2014 as there are bills that are still coming in. **Fleet Report** – Chief Kehoe stated that they fitted the three new cars with the 2014/2015 money. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe told Police Commissioners the training report was in their packets. **Letters of Gratitude** – The Chief stated that they had received a letter of gratitude for Officer Figol and the Departments canine. **Correspondences** – Chief Kehoe indicated that they had received correspondences regarding the Traffic Circle, the Proposed Sandy Hook Elementary School, and the relocation of Edmond Town Road with regards to Route 6. **Other Items** – Highway Safety Grant - The Chief reported that they had applied for a Highway Safety Grant for Speeding Enforcement in Town. He added that Main Street would be part of that. Regionalization of Dispatch – Chief Kehoe stated that their reviewing their contract with CAD RMS vendor to see if the Department is getting the best bang for the buck then they will decide

if they are moving with them or another vendor. He added that there needs to be a little more investigation and review of those findings.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: As Captain Rios had the evening off, Chief Kehoe gave the Captain's Report. **Calls for Service Reports for May 2014 to June 2014** – The Chief reported that there were 24 DUI arrests from May 2014 to June 2014 some of which were grant related. He added that there were 46 Cell Phone Infractions and 39 Warnings and suggested that averaged out to over one a day for the two month period. **Monthly Detective Division Report – Written report by Lt. Robinson** - Chief Kehoe informed the Board that the Department would be utilizing a grant to combat Underage Drinking from August through September.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Request for Traffic Control Signal, Highland Plaza, 125 South Main Street – The Chief indicated the Department had received a letter on July 25 from the executive director of POSTOP with a number of requests regarding the traffic control signal at the Highland Plaza. According to Attorney Tony Gioffre of Cuddy & Feder Attorneys at Law of White Plains, NY, representing the owners of Highland Plaza, he recently received the correspondence and the design changes are being looked at by their engineer.

Commissioner Faxon asked Attorney Gioffre whether he thought they could meet those requests and Attorney Gioffre indicated they are evaluating them at this point as there are a significant number of requests. The Attorney added that they just received the correspondence less than two weeks ago.

Attorney Gioffre noted that his client is anxious to move this forward.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested that all of what the State had recommended seemed like a good idea.

Chairman Mangiafico asked for a motion to add the discussion and action on the School Security Officers Policy and Procedure.

Commissioner Faxon moved to add the proposed policy and procedure concerning School Security Officers to the agenda. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Discussion and Action on proposed School Security Officers (SSO) Policy and Procedure – Commissioner Faxon stated that he had reviewed the Policy and Procedure and said there seemed to be inconsistency with regard to ultimate supervision – the school or police department.

He suggested they tweak the language stating that he doesn't want to see tension between people as to who can give orders and direction, either by both sides or by one.

Chief Kehoe noted that there was a delicate balance.

Commissioner Faxon suggested the following amendments before approving the proposed policy and procedure.

Page 1, under IV Procedures and Responsibilities, Scope of Duties, 1st sentence, insert “under the direction of the Chief of Police or his designee” after School Security Officer.

Page 2, #12 and #13, after the word administration, insert “in conjunction with the supervisors of the bureau”

Page 2, #16, delete “professionally challenge” and replace with “stop”

Page 2, #20, after the word assigned, insert “in conjunction with the supervisors of the bureau”

Page 2, #21 and #22 put “;” at the end

Page 2, under Firearms, #2 replace “department” with “Technical Service Bureau”

Chairman Mangiafico indicated that Commissioner Faxon's recommendations were with the way they are inserted.

Commissioner Faxon made the motion to approve the Policy and Procedure for School Security Officers submitted by Chief Kehoe as amended that evening. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Update on Regionalization of Dispatch Center – Chairman Mangiafico invited ADHOC committee Neil Chaudhary, assistant Chair of the Legislative Council and former Chairman of the Legislative Council Jeff Capeci, forward to discuss their findings with regard to regionalization of the dispatch center.

Mr. Capeci indicated that based on LCD's assessment it would cost the Town \$400,000 to regionalize its dispatch center.

Chairman Mangiafico questioned how LCD came up with the number suggesting that they were told LCD would need to 6 to 8 additional people and 1 additional supervisor to accommodate Newtown's dispatch. He suggested that would be more like \$700,000.

Mr. Chaudhary indicated that it was not their role to say what LCD charges. He noted that LCD would get the Town's \$400,000 and would also be getting additional money from the E-911 Grants.

He noted that these weren't exactly State grants but rather came out of all phone bills and the funds are protected so the money is used for what it is intended.

Chairman Mangiafico expressed his continued concern regarding the dark window issue. He noted that Torrington lost all their dispatchers when they regionalized but didn't want a "dark window" so they have a uniformed police officer man in the departments dispatch center.

After discussing what it would cost to have one individual man the dispatch center 24/7 and the value of having an experienced professional to do so, Chairman Mangiafico suggested that he didn't see the savings as a compelling reason given the risks.

Mr. Capeci suggested that there were a lot of reasons for regionalization. He stated that the Kimball Report gave a lot of reasons for regionalization the least of which was financial.

Mr. Capeci suggests that it's worth discussing or investigating. He added that he was not saying do it at this point in time. Mr. Capeci indicated their role was to report their findings to the selectman, but not to give their recommendation one way or another.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that the idea of regionalization was a good idea to avoid all the duplicating costs.

Chief Kehoe suggested that regionalizing is a leap of faith.

Commissioner Mangiafico told Mr. Capeci and Mr. Chaudhary that none of the Police Commissioners feel this is a worthwhile venture at this time.

Commissioner Faxon added that as a group they have researched it well. He added that given their options they haven't found a good vendor yet and wouldn't be comfortable with either of the two choices taking over for the Town.

Chairman Mangiafico thanked Mr. Capeci and Mr. Chaudhary for all their help.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Traffic Control Measures at intersection of Jet Brook Road and Castle Meadow

– Chief Kehoe indicated that the Traffic Unit had prepared a report with ideas and recommendations to make it a better intersection in December 2012, but the report was shelved after the incident on 12/14.

The Chief noted that when the problems occurred they pulled the report out. According to Chief Kehoe, the Department of Public Works put up the "No Parking" signs but the signs hadn't been approved yet by the Board.

Chief Kehoe said he would look into the signs but they wouldn't stop suspicious activity.

Commissioner Faxon recommended that if residents had any concerns regarding suspicious vehicles to report it.

Chairman Mangiafico asked the Chief to look into it and give the Board his recommendation next month.

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION: Chief Kehoe indicated that they had received a letter from concerned residents on Key Rock Road regarding the speed of traffic coming off Route 302. He suggested that the Chairman put the matter on the agenda for the Board's next meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session at 9:47 pm under General Statute 1-200 Subsection 6 for discussion concerning the employment and performance of public officers and employees. Chief Kehoe was invited to attend as well as the candidates. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

The Board of Police Commissioners exited executive session at 10:13 pm and the meeting was adjourned.

Ted Swigart, Clerk