



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

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, September 2, 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, Joel Faxon, Andrew Sachs, and Paul Mangiafico

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, 1 member of the press, and 7 members of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Frances Moore, Jet Brook Road, informed the Board of Police Commissioners that the "No Parking" signs at the intersection of Jet Brook Road and Castle Meadow Road have been gone since last Saturday. The resident appeared stunned when Chief Kehoe replied that there was no need to thank them as the signs were reportedly stolen. Another resident chimed in stating that she saw a white pick-up truck at the location. Karen Banks, West Street, supported the comments Mrs. Bermingham had made at the Board's meeting last month with regards to her concerns about the increase in traffic and over-sized loads coming down Main Street. She believed that it was especially dangerous when there were events occurring around the area of the flag pole. Mrs. Banks wondered if the Town is addressing the State with regard to the over-sized load trucks using Main Street.

Commissioner Budd told Mrs. Banks that the State has assisted the Town with this issue yet the fact remains that Route 25 is a State road. He added that the State did put up a sign suggesting thru trucks use Exit 11 but the Town can't regulate it as it is merely a suggestion. The Commissioner added the trucks are allowed to go on I-84 and Route 25 per State regulations. Commissioner Budd indicated that the Chief has aggressive enforcement with regards to the truck regulations and can have unsafe trucks taken off the road.

Chief Kehoe agreed and added that they have an officer in place that is able to pull trucks over, check paper work, check the weight, do a full inspection and even take them off the road. He stated that the officer is one of only a few in the State. The Chief was quick to note that as far as regulating the path of travel of the trucks on State roads, the Department legally can't do that. Mrs. Banks indicated that she was asking the Town to work with the State to see what can be done.

Corrine Coon, Key Rock Road, told Police Commissioners that traffic was getting worse and that people were getting rude when asked to slow down. She indicated that although speed bumps were put in there were none at the end of the road where they live close to the intersection of Route 302. Ms. Coon told the Board they want the speed limit enforced and asked if a speed

bump could be put in the area where they live. She stated that she has observed large trucks, big horse trailers and even double-decker buses driving down the road also.

Chairman Mangiafico reassured the concerned resident that the matter would be discussed as it was on the evening's agenda.

**POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:** Chairman Mangiafico indicated there would be no Police Union participation that evening as the Union President was not in attendance.

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting August 5, 2014:** Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting August 5, 2014. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report – SSOs-** Chief Kehoe reported that 10 School Security Officers (SSOs) were hired plus 1 spare. He praised all those who helped accomplish it in time for the opening of the schools. **Officers Positions** - The Chief stated that the Department was still down two officers' positions but suggested that they have a seat for POST in early October and 1 for late in October as well. Chairman Mangiafico asked Chief Kehoe if the SSOs were paid for through the police department budget and the Chief said yes with the help of a grant. The Chairman asked who assigns the SSOs to the facility they cover and Chief Kehoe stated that it was a collaborative effort by the Board of Education and the Police Department. **Budget** - The Chief reported that they had ordered three new cruisers and were awaiting their arrival. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe noted the training report was in the Commissioners' packets.

**Correspondence** – The Chief stated the department had received a correspondence regarding Golden Pond Road. He indicated that they were in contact with numerous residents regarding the noise problems. **Lieutenant Exam** – The Chief announced the department was giving a Lieutenant Exam in late October early November and he was working on that with the Union and potential vendors.

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Calls for Service Reports for July 2013 to July 2014** – Captain Rios reported that although he didn't see anything significant he noted that traffic stops and alarms were up this month over last. In addition he stated that there were 7 DUI arrests for the month of July as well as 31 cell phone infractions issued and 27 cell phone warnings. **Monthly Detective Division Report for August 2014 – Written report by Lt. Robinson** – The Captain indicated that the detective division has been investigating numerous copper thefts and had already arrested 1 person and was serving a warrant to another for several of those thefts. He also noted that detectives are still actively investigating a missing person case as well. **Grants Update** – Captain Rios reported that the department was reimbursed \$5000 in grant money for the Texting Ban enforcement in June 5 – 1; \$5,000 for the Click-It or Ticket Campaign Wave Number 46 this past May; and \$35,000 for the DUI Enforcement Program. The Captain indicated that the Department had applied for the new DUI grant starting Thanksgiving and going through Christmas, New Years, and Super Bowl Weekend until this time in 2015. Additionally, the Captain indicated that the Department was utilizing over \$7000 in money from the Prevention Council Grant training officers in advanced roadside impairment driving enforcement in June of this past year and was currently involved in the High Risk Rural Roads Speeding Enforcement Grant. Finally Captain Rios reported that the Department had received 9 free E-Ticket Printers and were outfitting carts with those printers at savings cost of approximately \$20,000. **SSO Update** – The Captain suggested that the SSO program should be very successful if handled properly.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

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

– Chief Kehoe presented Police Commissioners with a poster-sized aerial photograph of the intersection and reminded them that the last time they talked about the matter they didn't have a great view of the area. He pointed to the island where the "No Parking Signs" had been located and indicated that the entire area is Town property.

Captain Rios suggested that even though the signs were missing the bus company had indicated that there was no impact on the safety of the stop.

After a brief discussion with the Chief and Captain, Chairman Mangiafico concluded that they were going to leave things the way they are. However, he reminded residents that if they see anything that disturbs them to contact the Department.

**Update on Regionalization of Dispatch Center** – Chairman Mangiafico recalled that they had looked at two of the facilities, asked a lot of questions, met with the ADHOC Committee and looked at the cost analysis regarding the regionalization of the dispatch center. Ultimately, he stated, the Board decided it was not worthwhile for Newtown at this time. The Chairman indicated that the report submitted by the ADHOC Committee to the Town suggested that it was a real benefit and cost savings and should be pursued. Chairman Mangiafico reported that he wrote the Board of Selectman and both members of the ADHOC Committee stating simply that Police Commissioners did not see it as a benefit to Newtown.

**Request for No Parking Signs on Glen Road** – Chief Kehoe presented Police Commissioners with a poster sized aerial photograph of the intersection of Glen Road and Church Hill in Sandy Hook Center. He addressed the minor changes to curve in the north/east corner of the intersection as well as the parking itself. The Chief noted that moving north of the intersection on Glen Road, the parking on the East side of the road was limited by the narrowing fog line. Chief Kehoe stated that there is 75 feet of roadway where the cars can park but they can't park where the fog line narrows less than 6 feet or within 25 feet of the crosswalk. He said they had talked with the State and the State is willing to work with them utilizing the existing laws. In conclusion, Chief Kehoe recommended "No Parking" signs in that area to indicate where people can't park and where they can park safely.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Request for Traffic Control Measures by Residents of Key Rock Road** – Chief Kehoe noted that he sees the issues with having the speed tables in the middle of Key Rock Road. According to the Chief, the vehicles traveling west off Route 302 making a left onto Key Rock Road are maintaining that speed until they get to the speed tables. He suggested that it might be worthwhile to put another two in, do another study, go through the process and make sure the neighbors want it.

Having driven the road frequently, Commissioner Faxon believes that many people may speed up to get off Route 302 to avoid an accident.

Commissioner Budd questioned that if the Board approved 5 speed tables for the road already why not steam line to the next study to get it done.

Commissioner Faxon suggested that a speed bump can't be too early on Key Rock coming off Route 302. The Chief agreed.

Chairman Mangiafico agreed with Commissioner Budd about streamlining the process and indicated speed tables aren't that expensive.

Chief Kehoe said he would look into it.

**Upgrade to Signs with Flashers at Three Locations by DOT** – Captain Rios reported that he had received an email from DOT regarding the upgrade of flashing traffic signals throughout the State with larger flashers and a smaller high-visibility sign. He indicated that the state will be upgrading three such flashing signals in Newtown including the intersection of Academy Lane and Route 6.

**COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION:** none

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** none

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Faxon moved to go into executive session at 8:43 pm under General Statute 1-200 Subsection 6 for discussion concerning the employment oversight and collective bargaining. Chief Kehoe and Captain Rios were invited to attend. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

The Board exited executive session and adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.

Ted Swigart, Clerk