



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, November 4, 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, Virgil Procaccini, and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT: Andrew Sachs

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, and 1 member of the press. 3 members of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Scott Cicciari, 15 Winton Farm Road, told the Board he was there to give an update on the Newtown Police Department Building Fund. According to Mr. Cicciari he had an opportunity to reach out to First Selectman Pat Llodra the night before the meeting. He said they spoke about donations to the organization and conveyed that he wanted to launch a direct marketing campaign to all businesses before Thanksgiving. Regarding the rendering by the engineer, Mr. Cicciari indicated that he had asked the First Selectman her desire to release the information in the Newtown Bee and Mrs. Llodra said she was in favor of that. Mr. Cicciari stated that he was asked by the First Selectman to sit on the Space Needs Committee and he indicated he would.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that the Chairman of the Space Needs Committee had spoken to him and asked if was willing to come to the meeting regarding the need for a new police headquarters. Chairman Mangiafico thanked Mr. Cicciari for all his work.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: None

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting October 7, 2014: Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting October 7, 2014. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on Partnership Opportunity – Cyclist 3-Foot Rule – Steve Tramposch, Little Brook Lane, of the Sound Cyclists Bicyclists Club addressed the Connecticut 3-Foot Law which requires motorists passing cyclists or other vehicles to give them three feet of space. According to Mr. Tramposch, the 3-Foot Law was passed October 1, 2008 as Public Act 08-101 of the Connecticut State Statutes. He held up a copy of the yellow sign for Commissioners to see. “3-Foot Please - It’s the Law.” To help educate motorists and bicyclists alike, Mr. Tramposch said the Club is offering signs to hang up around Town free of charge. He noted that Norwalk

was the first to post the signs and suggested that Brookfield was participating also. Mr. Tramposch added that a third of the states have a similar law.

Chairman Mangiafico asked Mr. Tramposch how well known the law was and Mr. Tramposch said not well that is why the club is offering the signs.

Commissioner Budd suggested that the club provide the Board of Police Commissioners with a list of the most popular routes.

Chief Kehoe said he thought it was a great idea to post the signs on local roads but indicated that they could not post the signs on State roads without the State's approval.

Commissioner Faxon indicated that violating the passing law was an infraction and read 2005 Connecticut Code - Sec. 14-232. Passing. **Sec. 14-232. Passing.** *Except as provided in sections 14-233 and 14-234, (1) the driver of a vehicle overtaking another vehicle proceeding in the same direction shall pass to the left thereof at a safe distance and shall not again drive to the right side of the highway until safely clear of the overtaken vehicle; and (2) the driver of an overtaken vehicle shall give way to the right in favor of the overtaking vehicle and shall not increase the speed of his vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle. No vehicle shall be driven to the left side of the center of the highway in overtaking and passing another vehicle proceeding in the same direction unless the left side is clearly visible and is free of oncoming traffic for a sufficient distance ahead to permit such overtaking and passing to be completely made without interfering with the safe operation of any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction or any vehicle overtaken. Violation of any provision of this section shall be an infraction.*

Mr. Tramposch suggested the following roads as the most popular routes: Poverty Hollow, Hattertown, Toddy Hill, Currituck, Hanover, Botsford Hill, High Bridge, Hammertown, Huntingtown, Brushy Hill, Castle Hill and Plumbtrees.

Chairman Mangiafico asked Mr. Tramposch to prepare a list and prioritize the roads.

Commissioner Faxon asked Chief Kehoe what his thoughts were regarding the sign. The Chief noted that the sign was informational and was not compliant with State regulations because of its color and the fact it had not been approved by the State.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report – Lt. Exam - Chief Kehoe reported that the Lieutenant's exam process was finished and said a vendor would be in to review the examinations with the two candidates. New Hires – The Chief told the Board that the three probationary officers all passed their field training and are all police officers out on individual patrols. As far as the three candidates in the academy, the Chief said he has heard nothing about them and believes the reason may be that the clerk at the academy who provides them with the grades is away. Chief Kehoe suggested that now the 3 new officers were on patrol the Department would be looking to fill assignments with promotions. **Budget** – Budget 2014/2015 - Chief Kehoe reported that the Budget update was in Police Commissioners' packets. He said the Over-Time for salaries and wages was what really stuck out. The Chief reassured the Board that December through March things really slow down and they will keep an eye on the Over-Time. Budget 2015/2016 – Chief Kehoe informed Police Commissioners that they were working on a time table for the 2015/2016 Budget and hope to have a Budget for them to review by December 5. **Fleet** – The Chief reported that the three new cars from the 2014/2015 fiscal budget had arrived and said they were working on a plan to implement them. **Letters of Gratitude** – the Chief stated there were none. **Chief's Challenge** – Chief Kehoe stated that the Department participated in the Chief's Challenge and placed third in their category. For placing third, the Chief said the Department was gifted a Speed Alert/Message sign valued at over \$15,000. **Key Rock Road Update** – According to Chief Kehoe, the Department of Public Works is a reviewing the RFP and once they have signed off on it, the matter can move forwards.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Calls for Service Reports for September 2013 to September 2014 - Captain Rios informed Police Commissioners that they had in their packets the written report for Motor Vehicle Stops and Calls for Service and noted that for September 2014 there were 989

MV Stops and 1 DUI arrest. The Captain stated that they reviewed the overall MV Stops from this year over last year and the stops were up 136%. He added that the cell phone violations for September 2014 were also listed in their packets – 24 infractions and 34 written warnings were issued. **Detective Division Report for October 2014 – Written report by Lt. Robinson** – Captain Rios informed the Board that there were 3 arrests made and the following incident statistics were reported: 4 – Burglaries, 9 – Larcenies, 1- Narcotics, and 3 – Sex Offenses. **Calls For Service** – Captain Rios reported that alarms were down 37%. **Additions to Report – DUI Grant** - According to the Captain, the department received the State DUI Grant for 2014/2015. He noted that the grant would be utilized from Thanksgiving, through Christmas and New Years. **5-Year Plan** – Captain Rios suggested they start documenting where the Department wants to go for the next 5-Year Plan and wants input from other agencies as well as input from the Board. **Transition to New Uniforms** – The Captain announced that the Department has already begun the transition over to the New Uniforms. He thanked all the officers for their collaboration and hopes everyone will be in the new uniforms by January 2016. According to Captain Rios, the new uniform has a soft embroidered top, black BDU pant and new 8- point hats. Chief Kehoe indicated that the last time the uniform was changed was in 1999 but those very minor changes. He added that the key here is functionality.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and comments on amendments for 12 Queen Street – Chief Kehoe reported he has a minor addendum for 12 Queen Street. According to the Chief, the owners want to use the 3rd floor for a lavatory for Dr. Beck. He said the change won't add to the traffic on Queen Street. Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the proposal and approve it within accordance of the law. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION:

Commissioner Budd asked if they had ever finished the Chief and Captains reviews. The Chairman stated that Police Commissioners had gotten most of what they were looking for with regard to salary increases and said he didn't think they needed anything else.

Commissioner Faxon stated that he went to Traffic Seminar last week in Southbury and learned quite a bit. According to the Commissioner, he came away knowing that you can't put a speed limit sign on a dirt road in Connecticut because it's not enforceable and a golf cart can be used on roads if it has a horn and a massive flag hanging off it.

Chairman Mangiafico suggests that they make it known at the Borough's next meeting that the Board does not see the need for constables in Town.

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 at 908 pm.

Commissioner Faxon made the motion to adjourn at 908 pm. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ted Swigart, Clerk