



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, October 6, 2015
TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM
3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN

**These minutes are not finalized until approved
At the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

Chairman Mangiafico called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Brian Budd, Joel Faxon, Andy Sachs, Virgil Procaccini and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, Union President Scott Ruszczyk; Frederick P. Clark Associates Traffic Engineer Steve Cipolla; 1 member of the press, Police Explorers and their Advisors, and 3 members of the public.

Chairman Mangiafico announced that the Board was going to deviate from the regular agenda to pay recognition to those in Uniform present in the meeting that evening.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: Regular Meeting September 1, 2015 - Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting September 1, 2015 as corrected. Commissioner Procaccini seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Corrections: Above Public Participation, page 1, delete entire paragraph beginning with "Chairman Mangiafico informed. . ." and ending with "...regarding Oakview Drive."

Under New Business, Discussion on Oakview Drive, Page 4, last line, delete "... pleased with the Board's decision." It is an opinion and should not be a part of the minutes.

Under Old Business (continued), Page 4, the last line should read "...selecting the new Chief is November 15 or sooner."

Under Public Participation, Page 5, line 11, "tee" should be "tree".

Under Executive Session, Page 5, line 2 should read "... discussing litigations against the Town and to interview candidates for promotion to Sergeant."

Chief Kehoe stood and welcomed members of the Police Explorers Post 823 from Easton, Fairfield and Newtown as well as their advisors. The Chief said he felt it necessary to invite the Explorers and their advisors to the meeting to recognize them for all they are involved in from competitions and helping out at events to training and events outside the community. Chief Kehoe called up members of the Fairfield, Easton and Newtown Police Explorers and their advisors, presenting each of the three Towns with a glass plaque.

In turn, the Police Explorers presented the Chief with a glass plaque “for letting them do what they do” – from the new uniforms to the training; and they thanked Chief Kehoe and his officers for all of their help and support.

Chairman Mangiafico advanced the discussion on the Application for Grace Christian Church, Hawleyville Road and Discussion on Application for Covered Bridge so Clark Associates didn't have to wait around.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion on Application for Grace Christian Church, Hawleyville Road and Discussion on Application for Covered Bridge Newtown LLC 13 Hawleyville Road and 9 Covered Bridge Road – Mr. Cipolla informed the Board that they had done traffic surveys of the three developments – the 396 seat church, 160 seat diner and the 180 unit residential housing.

Chairman Mangiafico asked if the three things he was proposing are separate and distinct. Mr. Cipolla indicated that the diner and the residential were one client and Grace Church was the other. He stated that he presented the applications together because they have an impact on each other

Mr. Cipolla went over the various traffic counts of the three projects which address four separate peak times of the day.

According to Mr. Cipolla, they came up with a mitigation plan after discovering unfavorable cueing (wait) times. He indicated that they proposed three solutions.

- 1) A bi-pass lane along Route 25 (Hawleyville Road) at the intersection of Covered Bridge Road and access to the proposed diner. A breakdown lane exists there already.
- 2) 100' right turn pocket on Covered Bridge Road onto Route 25 (Hawleyville Road)
- 3) One way entrance into the diner off Covered Bridge Road.

In addition, Mr. Cipolla said they were asked by Planning and Zoning to discuss with the State DOT the possibility of installing a traffic signal at the intersection of Covered Bridge Road and Route 25. He said that the DOT likely wouldn't approve it because he believes it doesn't meet the warrant criteria for a traffic signal.

Chairman Mangiafico said that when he first read the material he was overwhelmed with the increase of traffic that would occur. He said he thinks Route 25 (Hawleyville Road) should be a 4 lane road from Route 6 to Interstate 84.

The Chairman said he looked at the type of apartments that were being proposed and became concerned as to what kind of criteria they considered when estimating the traffic volumes.

Mr. Cipolla said their estimates were based on the number of units rather than the type of unit. Commissioner Budd asked if an additional access to the Church or apartment complex was being considered and Mr. Cipolla said not that he was aware.

Commissioner Budd recommended that another access be considered for emergency purposes. He said that realistically this (all three projects/ both applications) are one massive complex and stated that he wants the 2017 As Built number.

Commissioner Budd said that as for the bi-pass lane, if it was not approved by the DOT it would look bad.

He added that he was not ready to approve it based on what was presented so far.

Mr. Cipolla added that there was enough room in the breakdown lane and Commissioner Budd said what if there is a breakdown then what do you do.

Commissioner Sachs questioned what the impact was to Covered Bridge Road.

Chairman Mangiafico said he had a few positive comments regarding the applications. He suggested that Hawleyville Road had a lot of acreage and noted that the Town had taken actions for it to be developed; and that Newtown is in need of housing. The Chairman also indicated that the Church wanting to move was positive for the church and the Town. Chairman Mangiafico

suggested that a bi-pass lane was step in the right direction, and that additional access to the diner was great; but he recommended that area of Hawleyville Road be 4-lanes.

The Chairman expressed his concerns about the bi-pass lane taking the place of the breakdown lane and questioned what would happen if a truck needed to make a wide turn there. He also noted that there was a traffic issue with people exiting westbound on I-84 and turning onto Hawleyville Road without the project and suggesting that adding to it was not a good situation. Chairman Mangiafico indicated that he was not comfortable with the situation but would be if a traffic signal was there and the roadway was expanded to 4-lanes.

Commissioner Faxon stated that he had been discussing the applications with Commissioner Sachs and remarked that since the proposed apartments are considered an affordable housing development it would only need to meet the bottom line standards for development. He suggested that it doesn't really matter what the Board says.

Commissioner Faxon said he agrees with Chairman Mangiafico that there would be a significant increase in traffic which needs to be dealt with more effectively than a left turn lane. He added that the intersection needs a traffic signal.

Commissioner Sachs suggested that he doesn't like the plan based on the traffic flow.

Commissioner Budd stated that his major concern was that there was no secondary emergency access.

Commissioner Procaccini indicated that they were all in agreement and that he agreed with what each and every commissioner has said.

Commissioner Faxon summarized the Boards concerns as follows: signalization, 4-lane road from Route 6 to the highway, and alternate feasible egress and ingress for emergency access. Mr. Cipolla nodded and suggested that they were in the process of talking to the DOT about signalization as it was brought up by Planning and Zoning.

Chairman Mangiafico thanked Mr. Cipolla for his presentation.

UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Ruszczyk reported that everything was going smoothly.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report – Chief Kehoe reported that because time had passed they had lost the seat in the academy and all their applicants had been picked up by other agencies. He suggested that they were currently looking at a brand new list of candidates for the January class. **Fiscal 2016/2017 Budget** – The Chief stated that he just had the Fiscal 2016/2017 Budget sent to him finally and suggested that they need to pick a date in December to tackle it. He added that there was nothing significant to note in the Board of Selectmen's Budget Summery. **Fleet Report** – none. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe noted that a copy of Sgt. Kullgren's Training Report for the last two months was in their packets. **Letters of Gratitude** - The Chief indicated that there was a couple in the packets. **Correspondences** – Chief Kehoe remarked that the correspondence they had been waiting for had arrived, noting that State had approved the speed limit change from 30 mph to 40 mph on Wasserman Way. The Chief suggested that he expects all the signs to be changed out to the 40 mph signs in the next couple of months, and noted that until the road is posted with the 40 mph signs the speed limit remains 30 mph as posted. **Crime Stats** – Chief Kehoe reported that there was nothing to really report other than Newtown saw a little increase in burglaries. **Grant Funding for DUIs** – The Chief announced that they had secured \$58,000 for DUI enforcement for the next year. **Key Rock Road and Queen Street Updates** – Chief Kehoe stated that Key Rock Road is finished. He suggested that the Commissioners would be surprised at how clean it is and how well it works. Commissioner Faxon stated he had been on it and commended the Highway Director Fred Hurley. The Chief indicated that the mill work on Queen Street from Wasserman Way to Glover was underway and would be followed by paving and the installation of the speed tables. He

added that Mr. Hurley assured him it will all be done before the snow flies. **Drug Policy Update** – Chief Kehoe reported that he would get back to Board next month. Union President Rusczyk stated that they would be meeting next Wednesday to present the Town’s proposal to the Union. Commissioner Faxon asked him if they had a draft they would look at and Union President Rusczyk suggested they would incorporate Bridgeport’s model.

CAPTAIN’S REPORT: Calls for Service August 2014 to August 2015 – Captain Rios suggested that there was nothing remarkable to report. **Traffic Unit Report** – the Captain stated that the report highlight the various activities they were performing through enforcement and speed control. **Detective Division’s Report** – Captain Rios indicated that the report highlights the crimes over the last month. **DUI Grant 2015-2016** – The Captain suggests the grant will aid DUI enforcement activities from Thanksgiving through Labor Day of next year.

NEW BUSINESS (continued):

Discussion on No Parking along Oakview Road – Chief Kehoe reminded Police Commissioners that they heard from the residents and their concerns about the parking. The Chief stated that there were no parking signs posted but when he had the traffic unit look into it they discovered it didn’t meet the State’s standards. He said that the traffic unit recommended more signage be put up that articulates that there is no parking there. Chief Kehoe informed Police Commissioners that there is no indication the Board ever approved the No Parking on the entire roadway and he recommended they do so. Commissioner Faxon moved to prohibit parking on Oakview Road and erect proper signage. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Discussion on Speed Limits for various roads in Newtown – Chief Kehoe reminded the Board that the Department had taken inventory of all the roadways in Town and that they were continuing their review of what signs were on the roads and which ones were authorized. The Chief noted that some of the signs go back to the 70’s and earlier. Chief Kehoe suggested they would go with the recommendation of the Traffic Unit on the next round of roadways and signs they want posted. Commissioner Faxon made the motion to approve, for submission, the application for speed limits, both sides. Commissioner Procaccini seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION: Commissioner Mangiafico suggested holding a special meeting solely for the purpose of open dialogue with the public. Receiving a general agreement to proceed, he recommended they pick a date at the end of the month. The Board agreed to hold the Special Open Dialogue Meeting at 7 pm on Monday, October 26, 2015. In addition, the Chairman recommended that instead of having a Public Participation at the very beginning of the meeting and one at the very end, he suggested the Board hold the first Public Participation after a presentation is made and one at the very end.

OLD BUSINESS: Update on Police Chief Search – Chairman Mangiafico reported that the search was going along very well and was on schedule. He added that they may make an announcement the first Tuesday of November rather than November 15 as originally anticipated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

ADJOURN MEETING: Commissioner Faxon moved to adjourn at 8:25 pm. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Ted Swigart, Clerk