



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

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, November 3, 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, Union President Scott Ruszczyk; 2 members of the press, and 18 members of the public.

Chairman Mangiafico informed the public that the meeting would be rather interesting and short as it was Election Day and 80 percent of the Board of Police Commissioner's seats were up for grabs.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

**POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:** Union President Ruszczyk announced that there was nothing pressing and everything was good.

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: Regular Meeting September 1, 2015 - Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting October 6, 2015 and the minutes of the Special Meeting October 26, 2015. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**OLD BUSINESS: Update on Police Chief Search** – Chairman Mangiafico informed those in attendance that exactly 5 months and 2 days ago the Board received a letter from Chief Kehoe about his intention to retire on January 6, 2016. The Chairman stated that there have been 4 chiefs since 1971 serving an average of 11.5 years each. He said the Board wanted to appoint an Executive Search Committee and decided to appoint themselves as the Committee as well First Selectman Pat Llodra. He noted that members of the Search Committee decided not to hire a consulting firm as they felt they could do it better. He added that this also saved the town the \$40,000 cost of hiring a consulting firm. Chairman Mangiafico said the Committee initiated the search for a new Police Chief on July 3, 2015, worked up a position description, and posted it. He added that on August 14 the application process was closed. According to the Chairman, the Executive Search Committee received 10 applications – all of which were superb. He said the Committee looked at all the applications in depth and picked 3 of the 10 for the interview process. Chairman Mangiafico said the Search Committee deliberated again and arrived at a conclusion. He noted that hiring a Police Chief was like nothing else and that the State of Connecticut takes the filling of the position very seriously.

Commissioner Faxon stated that he was very impressed with all the candidates who they received applications from and added that it was a difficult decision for him because of the quality of the applicants. He indicated that the Search Committee came to the right decision. Commissioner Budd suggested that the process was a bitter sweet one. He noted that Chief Kehoe served the town with distinction and said he always found the Chief's knowledge very valuable. Commissioner Budd said the Town was losing someone with a vast amount of knowledge but felt they had chosen the best candidate to replace him as the selection process was very competitive and fair.

Commissioner Procaccini said that all the candidates were very impressive. After they narrowed it down to three, he believes the candidate they chose was second to none given that his experience and management skills were very impressive.

Commissioner Faxon made a motion pursuant to General Statutes 65 7-276 and 2-110 (a) of the Charter to appoint James Viadero of Newtown as the Police Chief of the Town of Newtown with an effective date of appointment of January 7, 2016. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The Board congratulated former fellow Police Commissioner Viadero; and then the Chief-To-Be and current Chief had their pictures taken by the press.

Chief-To-Be Viadero thanked the Commissioners and the Chairman stating that he thought the process was very fair. He stated that he has lived in Newtown for 23 years and was honored to be chosen to lead the agency. The Chief-to-be thanked First Selectman Llodra and Chief Kehoe, as well as everyone else for their vote of confidence.

**CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report** – Chief Kehoe reported they were moving ahead with the hiring process for the January 3 seat at the academy. **Fiscal 2016/2017 Budget** – The Chief stated that the Fiscal 2016/2017 Budget was just about completed and that he needed another half hour to look over it with a fine tooth comb. He told Commissioners that within the next week or so he will have at least the draft of the Budget for them. Chairman Mangiafico stated that for the past several years the Board has not had a problem presenting the budget to the Town. He said that the Chief and he have always met with the First Selectman and Finance Director to discuss the Budget and recommended the next Chairman do that as well. **Fleet Report** – none. **Training Report** – Chief Kehoe noted that a copy of the report was enclosed in their packets. **Letters of Gratitude** - none. **Correspondences** – The Chief stated that the Highland Plaza traffic light was given the go-ahead by OSTA. **Alarm Ordinance Update** – Chief Kehoe indicated that the Legislative Council held a Public Hearing and ultimately passed the Alarm Ordinance with only a few minor changes. The Chief said he hopes to have it up and running in January and see a significant drop in false alarms. **Queen Street Project** – Chief Kehoe announced that the Project was completed and the Speed Tables are exactly the same.

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT:** In lieu of Captain Rios absence, Chief Kehoe gave the report for him. **Calls for Service September 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015** – The Chief stated that a copy of the report was in their packets. He stated that there were 4 DUI arrests and 33 written contacts for cell phone violations. Chief Kehoe advised Commissioners that copies of the **Traffic Unit Report** and **Detective Division's Report** were in their packets, adding that there was nothing remarkable to report. Chairman Mangiafico asked Chief Kehoe what the latest new was on the Body Cameras. The Chief indicated that POST will come up with regulations in December and pass it on to them and to each agency after that. He said they will look at it and how it applies to the Department, adopt it, determine what kind of body cameras they want, and look into grants.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Herman Valentoni, 9 Pearl Street, told the Board he was a former New York City Police Officer and expressed his concerns about the traffic on Pearl Street. He indicates it is very dangerous and traffic coming down the hill on Pearl Street is going at speeds of up to 60 mph in a 25mph zone. He said the road from Washington to Pearl is like NASCAR. The resident said he watched one speeding car skid onto his lawn trying to stop for a school bus with its lights on. He suggested that their block needs speed bumps – at least three. Mr. Valentoni stated that a development was being put in on Washington; and he suggested that the “cops do their best” but it’s a band aid and speed bumps are needed.

Chan Pamulapati, 20 Pearl Street, echoed Mr. Valentoni’s concerns and said they need a remedy.

Mr. Valentoni concluded that Pearl Street is posted 25 mph but no one does 25 mph.

Chief Kehoe told Police Commissioners they have received complaints on Pearl Street but doesn’t think they have any data. The Chief said he would like to do something before the snow flies and suggested putting tubes and a speed unit up there. He recommended that Mr. Valentoni go online and familiarize himself with the Town’s Traffic Calming Ordinance, follow the procedures, and get the signatures of all the residents.

Commissioner Budd recommended Mr. Valentoni print up the Traffic Calming procedure and Mr. Valentoni said he had read it all and was familiar with it.

Commissioner Faxon reassured Mr. Valentoni that his observations were important.

Chairman Mangiafico thanked the two Pearl Street residents for coming in.

#### **COMMISSIONER’S PARTICIPATION:**

Commissioner Faxon said he was very indebted to the Chief and that coming onto the Board there was a great learning curve to be a Commissioner. He indicated that he had no reservations with regard to Jim Viadero and added that hopefully the transition will be seamless.

Commissioner Procaccini stated that the Chief has done a tremendous job under extraordinary circumstances. He reassured Chief Kehoe that he is highly respected.

Commissioner Budd reminded the Board that 4 years ago a new member came onto the Board. He said that when the chairmanship was discussed with the new member he humbly said he shouldn’t be. Commissioner Budd said that he had a vast experience as a former member of the Board of Ed and Board of Selectman and they needed to take advantage of that knowledge. He said that new member, Chairman Mangiafico, reluctantly accepted the Chairmanship and that was four years ago. Commissioner Budd said he tried to convince Chairman Mangiafico to run again but he decided not to run. He added that he learned a lot and told the Chairman that his leadership style would be carried on. Commissioner Budd presented the Chairman with an engraved glass plaque from the Board and the Chief in recognition of his contribution of service from 2011 to 2015. Chairman Mangiafico said that serving on the Board for the past 4 years was really, really, a pleasure but not always easy. He said that he had such cooperation from the Chief, noting that they would sit down the fourth Thursday of every month to set up the agenda him in his office. The Chairman added that some of those meetings were brief and some were not. Chairman Mangiafico said that the Chief was a help to him in more ways than one.

According to the Chairman, his term in office was really worthwhile adding that the Board became very proactive not just because of him but because of all of them. Chairman Mangiafico said part of it was how they think of their public service. In addition, the he thanked Union President Ruszczyk and his guys for being a tremendous help. In conclusion, the Chairman smiled and reminded the Board he was still Chairman until the end of the month.

**ADJOURN MEETING:** Commissioner Faxon moved to adjourn at 7:07 pm. Commissioner Procaccini seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

*Ted Swigart, Clerk*