



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

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, May 3, 2016**  
**TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN**

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

Commissioner Faxon called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Dan Rosenthal, Andy Sachs, Vice-Chairman Brian Budd and Chairman Faxon

**ABSENT:** Bob Myer

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief James Viadero, Captain Joe Rios, Union President Lenny Penna, Lieutenant Rich Robinson, 1 member of the press, and 2 members of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Herman Valentin, 9 Pearl Street, said he saw radar up on two spots on Pearl but doesn't feel it a significant impact at all. He added that it was still nuts up there. Mr. Valentin told the Board he would like to proceed to the next step and suggested he was open to whatever they had to suggest.

Chairman Faxon reported that he had observed 7 or 8 cars that day as he drove up and down Pearl Street. He said that people seemed to be going slow. The Chairman suggested that they could have been local people but reassured Mr. Valentin that he would continue to go through there on his way to New Haven.

Chief Viadero stated that a post study would be done. He suggested that the issue on Pearl Street was a two-pronged problem: speed and traffic volume. The Chief indicated that it was something they had to look at and resolve either by stopping or discouraging people from using it as a cut through.

Chairman Faxon asked Mr. Valentin what signage there was heading westbound and Mr. Valentin said nothing just a 25 mph one and another sign.

Mr. Valentine suggested a "No Thru Trucks" sign and the Chief indicated that he had recently spoken to Public Works Director Fred Hurley about that.

Chairman Faxon assured Mr. Valentin that they were paying close attention to Pearl Street regularly. He asked the resident to remain vigilant and come back and talk to them again.

**POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:** Union President Penna reported that everything was well and the Union had no concerns at this time.

**CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: Regular April 5, 2016 – Vice-Chairman Budd moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting April 5, 2016. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**CHIEF'S REPORT: Budget Transfer** – Chief Viadero reported that they needed to transfer money to the Overtime Account do to the overtime related to school security and prisoner watches. **Distracted Driver Grant** – The Chief told Commissioners that the Distracted Driver Grant concluded in April. He indicated that there last one was on Friday and stated that it would resume again in August. **Route 25 Fatal** – Chief Viadero reported that a 90-year old individual was hit and killed by a DUI. He commended all the officers involved, noting that it was a difficult investigation. He added that earlier in the week Lieutenant Vanghele had started a Fatal Accident Recognition Team and had met with other police departments for support. **Rebate** – The Chief announced that monies from a recent rebate would allow the Department to do maintenance on its handsets/radios. **New Vehicles** – Chief Viadero stated that two of the new vehicles were in and one was on the way and would arrive in a few weeks. **Chief's Training** – Chief Viadero reported that he would be attending training for Chiefs of Police at Mohegan Sun Wednesday. **Citizens Police Academy** – The Chief told Commissioners that the Citizen's Police Academy would be meeting Wednesday nights at 6 pm until the end of June. **Biker's Safety Class** – Chief Viadero told the Board he had seen Officer Penna at the Biker's Safety Class. He added that the class was good for public relations. **Houses for Veterans** – The Chief informed Commissioners that three officers from the Department were in South Windsor volunteering their time with Hearts 911 rebuilding houses for Veterans – Lt. Kullgren, and Officer Flynn and Sgt. Woods. **Police Explorers Golf Cart** – Chief Viadero on behalf of the Police Explorers thanked Officer McCarthy for buying a Golf cart on her own and donating it to the Explorers. He noted that the cart was outfitted with lights and markings as well. **Mutual Aid** – The Chief reported that K-9 Officer Figol had been in Fairfield in response to a mutual call. **Public Safety Resiliency** – Chief Viadero told Commissioners that SRO Chapman did a great job representing Newtown Police Department at the Fairfield University School of Nursing Public Safety Resiliency class. **Munitions Training** – The Chief told the Board that the entire Department was taking part in munitions training in May. **Detective School Graduation** – Chief Viadero stated that Fairfield County Detective School held its graduation. He said that Officer McDermott was sent there and did very well. **Training at Fort Dix** - The Chief reported that three officers were sent to Fort Dix via Heart 911 for SWAT training. **Teacher's Arrest** – Chief Viadero said the Department was still busy investigating the arrest of the school teacher. **Burglary Suspect Caught** – the Chief commended Officers Penna, Pereira and Pisani with the arrest of a burglary suspect on April 17. According to the Chief, the house was empty and neighbors saw a suspicious individual and called the police resulting in the arrest. **Sexting Arrest** – Chief Viadero informed Commissioners that SRO Seabrook had made another sexting arrest. The Chief indicated that the arrest was unrelated to the previous sexting arrests. **Narcotics Arrests** – Chief Viadero stated that K-9 Officer Figol had made noteworthy narcotics arrests one during a motor vehicle stop and another when an individual turned themselves in on a warrant, wreaked of marijuana and a subsequent search yielded narcotics. **Letters of Recognition** – The Chief reported that he had received a letter of recognition for Lieutenant Robinson, two for Officer McCarthy and one for an SSO.

**CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Incident Statistics: Written Report April 2016** – Captain Rios reported that accidents were up slightly – 61 for April and 45 for March. He added that Alarms were down. **Traffic Unit Report: April 2016 – written report by Sgt. Bahamonde** – The Captain noted that the traffic focused its attention on the Hot Sheet and noted that Pearl Street was included. He stated that there was a complaint at the Creamery on Route 302 so a speed box and trailer were put out there. Captain Rios suggested that the Creamery is busier than ever and he said he is encouraging officers to take enforcement action when necessary. He said that in a addition to following up traffic complaints the Traffic Unit has a wide variety of other duties and

assignments. **Detective Division Report: April 2016 – written report by Lt. Robinson** – Captain Rios stated that Burglaries were down and Lt. Robinson noted that they were seeing 50% closure right now. The Captain stated that they had DNA evidence at the lab for stolen cars. He added that one individual they got prints on was already under arrest. Captain Rios stated that Detective Frank was still investigating a missing person and that everyone had worked well investigating the recent fatal accident. According to Lt. Robinson, the Detective Division is handling fingerprinting from 7 am to 3 pm.

**Distracted Driving and Click-It or Ticket** - Captain Rios informed the Board that the Department had just finished up with its Distracted Driving initiative in April and that May is Click-It or Ticket Month.

Chairman Faxon asked if the new Alarm Ordinance had kicked in and Chief Viadero said not yet but indicated he thought it is July 1 and would check on the date.

**MADD Awards** - Captain Rios reported that Sergeant Woods and Officer Munckton were being honored at the MADD Awards this year. Chief Viadero told the Board he would send them out an invite.

**OLD BUSINESS: Pearl Street** – Chief Viadero said he would look into “No Thru Truck” signs for Pearl Street. **Wasserman Way** – The Chief reported that the Traffic Unit did a study and Wasserman way was Status Quo. He added that there were no accidents raising a red flag there. Chairman Faxon said he would write former Police Commissioner Virgil Procaccini stating that the Board wouldn’t recommend doing anything at this time. **Bennetts Bridge Road** – Chief Viadero stated that Mr. Hurley had asked that the matter be tabled right now. Chairman Faxon said the Board would hold it over until next month. **Flagpole** – Chief Viadero reported that he had spoken to Mike Galante with regards to the individuals he works with on the State level who can best answer the Board’s questions. He suggests he hopes to get in a meeting before the first Tuesday in June.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Faxon said he was concerned about the lack of signage at the Boulevard/School House Hill intersection. He suggests that there needs to be some kind of traffic control sign in the southbound lane of the Boulevard where it intersects School House Hill. Chief Viadero said he would look into it. Commissioner Sachs asked if the Board had received anything on Charter Ridge. The Chief said he knew the Department had been up there and said he would check on it.

**COMMISSIONER’S PARTICIPATION:** Commissioner Rosenthal said that the Department should be commended for the way it handled the situation with the teacher. He said the way it acted was very professional. Chairman Faxon seconded his fellow Commissioners opinion.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Valentin asked if the “No Thru Truck” signs would work. Chief Viadero suggested that they put them on both sides. He said the signs are geared towards trucks but often works for cars. Captain Rios noted that only works from town line to own line.

Chief Viadero said that he would like to thank Sergeant Bahamonde for all that he does on a regular basis - from running the Traffic Unit to the maintenance of the fleet and from the over-time to entertainment – he is the right arm here. The Chief added that he would just like to recognize him for all he does.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Rosenthal moved to go into Executive Session at 706 pm under General Statute section 1-210-B4 & 9 to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect

to pending employee matters, claims, grievances, and collective bargaining. He invited the Chief and Captain to attend. Vice-Chairman Budd seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

At this time, the clerk left the meeting.

According to Chairman Faxon, the Board exited Executive Session at 8:10 pm. Vice-Chairman Budd moved to exit the session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sachs and unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Vice-Chairman Budd moved to adjourn at 8:11 pm. Commissioners Sachs seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

*Ted Swigart, Clerk*