



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016
TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM
3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN

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

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

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Captain Joe Rios, Union President Lenny Penna, Lieutenant Chris Vanghele, 2 member of the press, and 5 members of the public

Chairman Faxon called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He opened by stating how sad it was for the Board to lose Commissioner Bob Myer. The Chairman explained that the process required the Republican Town Committee to put forth its best efforts to find a replacement and it chose former Police Commissioner Virgil Procaccini. Chairman Faxon then welcomed Commissioner Procaccini back.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Dick Baker, 17 High View Drive, told the Board that he was there regarding the Flag Pole. He presented Police Commissioners with an illustration of lighted and/or reflective signage he felt should be posted alerting motorists to the Flag Pole. He said he got the idea from a street in Keene, NH. He suggested that lighted or reflective arrows could be placed on the Flag Pole directing motorists around it and that a "Warning Flag Pole Ahead" sign could be placed up the road to slow motorists down.

Chairman Faxon said a Subcommittee of the Board had spoken to the State regarding the intersection, the State had request some information and the Board was working with the State on the next steps.

Herman Valentin, 9 Pearl Street, asked the Captain and the Board if they had a chance to see the burnout on Pearl Street. He said cars were still going up and down the street like NASCAR. Mr. Valentin questioned what was happening with the No Thru Trucks sign, when the next reading would be, and what would be done after that.

Captain Rios said the Department had put the tubes out and was still compiling the data to determine what the next step would be. He added that it would be comparing the data from the first time the tubes were put out.

The Captain stated that he was not sure about the status of the No Thru Trucks signs. Chairman Faxon said he understood that everything would be understood once all the data was released.

Steve Antal, 34 Pearl Street, told Police Commissioners he also has also observed cars speeding up and down Pearl Street like its NASCAR.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Penna reported that the Union had nothing pressing at the moment.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: Regular June 7, 2016 – Vice-Chairman Budd moved to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting June 7, 2016. Commissioner Rosenthal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chairman Faxon noted that there would be no Chief's Report that evening as Chief Viadero was not present.

CAPTAIN'S REPORT: Captain Rios stated that a copy of the Training Report was in their packets. He also reported that the Duties of the Supervisors were updated. The Captain informed the Board that Officer Adam Greco was now the new Police Chaplin. He noted that the former Chaplin, Reverend James Solomon, served the Department well. The Captain added that the Rev. Solomon was moving to Louisiana and would be sorely missed. **Incident Statistics: Written Report July 2016** – Captain Rios reported that burglaries were up totaling 6 last month and accidents were up as well. **Traffic Unit Report: July 2016 – written report by Sgt. Bahamonde** – The Captain stated that the report highlights the Traffic Unit's functions including fleet maintenance and traffic enforcement. **Detective Division Report: July 2016 – written report by Lt. Robinson** – Captain Rios indicated that the Lieutenant's Report highlighted the Detective Division's major investigations including the arrest of an individual in connection with the burglary of five homes over the last couple of weeks. He added that the individual was being tied to other burglaries. Chairman Faxon stated that although it was a huge loss to the Department to lose Officer Ketchum he noted that Sgt. Silver and Officer Schoen had been trained to operate the Department's motorcycle. Captain Rios added that the two were currently sharing the one motorcycle. Vice-Chairman Budd expressed his concern that the NextGen software work was labor intensive and asked if it was an issue. Captain Rios stated that IT was currently down a person who was recovering from surgery. **In other matters**, the Captain reported that retired Sgt. Robert Braatz passed away and that the Newtown Police and Honor Guard took part in his wake. He also reported that there was a serious motorcycle accident on Route 34; DUI grants held a check point yielding 1 drug arrest and several motor vehicle violations; Distracted Driving enforcement will continue through the month of August as well as Underage Drinking Enforcement; and Officers Chapman and Nosal were both out due to on the job injuries.

Emergency Services Unit (ESU) Guidelines – Captain Rios stated that the ESU Guidelines have been in place for awhile. He said they looked at the current ones and wanted to codify the policy. Lt. Vanghele stated that the ESU Policy is already in place and is 60 pages long. He said they needed to codify their own way to follow the procedures to make them Newtown specific. The Captain added that Newtown had a great symbiotic relationship with the other towns and need their team to run like a well oiled machine.

Vice-Chairman Budd moved to accept the Policy for the ESU. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Letters of Gratitude - Captain Rios reported that the Board had received numerous letters including some regarding Commissioner Myer, retired Sgt. Braatz and James Mooney. He noted that residents have really stepped up their support adding that there isn't a day that goes by

where cookies, bagels and cards don't show up at the Department. Chairman Faxon asked that the letters be posted with the minutes.

Commissioner Rosenthal asked Captain Rios to pass along his appreciation to the men and women of the Department.

Chairman Faxon agreed and said thank you guys for everything you do.

OLD BUSINESS: Chairman Faxon said the Board had already talked about the plans for Pearl Street and the Flag Pole.

Vice-Chairman Budd asked if the Board would get the stats updated for DOT and be ready for the meeting next month and Captain Rios said he thought so. Chairman Faxon recommended that Pearl Street data and signage and the update on the Flag Pole be placed on next months agenda.

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION: Vice-Chairman Budd asked if there was an update on the recruit attending the academy and when she would start. Chairman Faxon said he heard she was doing very well in the class and would become the 45th member of the Department. According to Lt. Vanghele, the new recruit would be starting in September.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. Baker told the Board that the Officers working traffic on the various roads were very hard to see when they were standing off to the side in the shade. As a solution, he suggested they wear orange or bright colored gloves. Captain Rios noted that officers were already wearing high visibility gear but believed Mr. Baker's idea was a sound one.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-Chairman Budd moved to adjourn at 6:57 pm. Commissioners Sachs seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

Ted Swigart, Clerk