



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2016
TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM
3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN

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

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

ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Chief James Viadero, Lieutenant Chris Vanghele, Lieutenant David Kullgren, one member of the press, and 6 members of the public

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Glen Swanson, 9 Maplewood Terrace, informed the Board that a letter had been sent to Land Use forging a complaint with regard to the construction equipment parked along the side of the narrow road on Maplewood Terrace. Mr. Swanson gave commissioners photos he had taken of the vehicles and where they were located on the road. He explained that he had called the Police Department in June 2016 and was told the equipment parked on the road was not violating any statutes. Mr. Swanson stated that Zoning Enforcement had issued a cease and desist order on September 25, 2016. He told the Board that the vehicles made the road barely passable and were often parked down at the end of the road making it difficult for cars to turn around. As a solution he recommended that the Town put up "No Parking" signs.

After looking at the photos, Chairman Faxon stated it was clearly an obstruction if vehicles were parked like that. He asked the resident if the vehicles were parked there on a daily basis and Mr. Swanson said they were often parked like that for 10 days at a time and then they would be gone probably because they were parked on a job site. The Chairman suggested that before the Board takes special protective action in that area they would try to negotiate with the owner of the construction vehicles. He added that if that didn't work the Board would then take action. Commissioner Budd suggested that if there was maybe an ordinance that stated that vehicles could only be parked on a road for 24 to 48 hours then maybe enforcement action could be taken. Commissioner Rosenthal stated that it was definitely a zoning violation. Mr. Swanson noted that even after the cease and desist order was issued the equipment was still there.

Chairman Faxon questioned whether the conditions of the road had deteriorated because of the construction vehicles and Mr. Swanson said the conditions of the road had gotten worse.

Commissioner Budd recommended that Mr. Swanson give the Chief and his staff time to work on the matter.

Chairman Faxon reminded everyone that this was a good example of why the Board of Police Commissioners meets the first Tuesday of every month. He told Mr. Swanson that they appreciate people like him coming forward, but reminded him that the Board has rules it has to operate in and must research the matter before taking any kind of action.

Herman Valentin, 9 Pearl Street, asked if there was any update with regard to Pearl Street and Chairman Faxon reassured him the Board would be addressing the matter later on the agenda.

Sherry Bermingham, 42 Main Street, told Police Commissioners that she wanted to keep the community nice. She said she noticed police giving out tickets which helped. Ms. Bermingham indicated that on Saturday night a pedestrian was hit by an SUV as they were walking across the Main Street in the crosswalk and dragged. She stated that the driver had stopped and was very upset. Ms. Bermingham suggested that the driver might not have seen the person because the street light closest to the crosswalk was out. She cautioned the Board that Halloween was coming and with all the children that cross the street there the light needed to be fixed.

Chairman Faxon reassured Ms. Bermingham that they knew who to call.

Ms. Bermingham noted that the No Parking signs along the side of the road were difficult to read and possible difficult to discern where the No Parking began and ended.

Chief Viadero reassured Ms. Bermingham a call would be made tomorrow with regard to the street light that was out.

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: none

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: September 6, 2016 – Vice-Chairman Budd moved to accept the minutes from the Board of Police Commissioners Regular Meeting September 6, 2016. Commissioner Procaccini seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

CHIEF'S and CAPTAINS REPORT: Chief Viadero reported that September was a busy month with Special Events. He added that there was also a commercial burglary which they were expecting a warrant for and indicated they had another hit on a suspect they had arrested over the summer. The Chief stated that everything went well with the start up at Sandy Hook Elementary. According to Chief Viadero, the Department received a \$58,000 DUI Grant due to the work of Lt. Vanghele and they had also received \$40,000 K-9 Fund donation from an anonymous donor for an additional K-9. Hearts 911- The Chief stated that next week they would be working with Hearts 911 on a build in East Winsor. SWAT Training – Chief Viadero stated that Officers Schoen and James were in SWAT training. K-9 Challenge – The Chief indicated that Officers Figol and Hayes would be at the second annual Western CT K-9 Challenge Fund Raiser up at Fairfield Hills hosted by Second Company Governors Horse Guard from 10 am to 3 pm Saturday, October 8. Newest Officer – Chief Viadero stated that Officer Chelsea Harold is doing very well. Polish Police Visit- The Chief reported that the PD was visited by esteemed high ranking officers from the Polish Police. He added that they spent several hours at the department while visiting Connecticut. Opioid Forum – Chief Viadero reminded the Board that Newtown would be hosting a Forum on Opioid Crisis tomorrow, Wednesday, October 5. He added that there was another OD in Town on Sunday. He noted that officers used Narcan, but the individual died despite their efforts.

Side Jobs - Chairman Faxon remarked that the annual report the Chief prepared was quite detailed. He noted that there was a significant amount of revenue that the agency collects from road jobs that many are not aware of. The Chairman noted that last year approximately \$785,000 was collected for such work. Chief Viadero suggested that the Department was running far ahead

of that total this year. Vice-Chairman Budd added that all of that money goes into the Town's General Fund.

9th Safest City – The Chief concluded his report by stating that Newtown had been ranked the 9th Safest City in Connecticut by SafeWise due to its commitment to the safety and security of its residents.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion and Presentation of Data Compiled Pertaining to Pearl Street – Chairman Faxon opened the floor to allow residents to speak first.

Mr. Valentin stated that while they were having a yard sale and the signs were still up, cars were slowing down like it was a stop sign.

Vince Imerti, 28 Pearl Street, stated that one of the residents had made up a sign “Drive Like Your Children Live on Pearl Street.” He said that cars were still going fast and added that it is a problem all day long.

Chief Viadero reported that the tubes were out from September 19 to September 26 and the data was consistent. He said he even went up and parked there. The Chief suggested that they didn't really get a fair sample because drivers were standing on their brakes right before the tubes and going over them slowly. He added that the problem was still up there.

Chairman Faxon indicated that the Board is presently engaged in the Traffic Calming Procedures for Pearl Street. He said that it would be appropriate now given the new data they have on Pearl Street and the makeup of the neighborhood and review the data from Key Rock Road and Queen Street so they can see what was used for a bench mark for speed tables or before they engage an engineer.

The Chairman said they have enough data to decide what they want to do as a Board for the next meeting.

Chief Viadero assured Police Commissioners he would have data for them for next month or even before that.

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that speed was a problem throughout Town but added that the PD does a good job of monitoring and enforcing it.

Vice-Chairman Budd said he agreed with the Chairman about looking at the data from Key Rock Road and Queen Street.

Chairman Faxon suggested that they need to decide what range of traffic calming solutions Pearl Street falls into. He added that they can't always put down speed tables.

Retired Officer Identification HR218 Compliance –

Vice-Chairman Budd moved to accept the Retired Officer Identification. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCES:

Chief Viadero stated that he had received one letter of appreciation for Officer Seabrook.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kyle Lyddy, Permanent Memorial Commission – Kyle Lyddy used a map to show where the proposed site was off Riverside Road for the Permanent Sandy Hook Memorial. He informed Police Commissioners that the parcel of land was privately owned and that he was bringing it up before the Board for the security and safety of that location. Mr. Lyddy said he wanted to make sure protocols were in place from a security perspective. He said the committee would vote Thursday on the location. Mr. Lyddy said the Memorial Commission was working closely with Newtown Parks and Recreation and that the Commission was looking into lighting sensors, cameras, etc for security purposes.

Mr. Lyddy stated that the initial reaction from the 26 families has been very positive. He added that the feedback at the Board of Selectmen's meeting was very positive as well with their concerns being mostly about security. He added that the First Selectman's recommendation was to initiate GIS System.

Vice-Chairman Budd thanked Mr. Lyddy for the diligence on his part.

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION: none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Rosenthal moved under 1-200 and 1-201 of the General Statutes to go into Executive Session at 7:21 pm for the purpose of discussion and appointments of officers to vacant positions. He invited Chief Viadero to attend. Vice-Chairman Budd seconded and motion unanimously carried.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

Ted Swigart, Clerk