

191 S. Main Street Newtown, CT 06470 TEL (203) 270-4256 FAX (203) 270-0637

Brian Budd Scott Cicciari Julia Conlin Rance Thompson Philip Cruz

POLICE COMMISSION

The Board of Police Commissioners Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 6:30 P.M. 191 South Main Street, Newtown, CT Conference Room

MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Present: Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari, Julia Conlin, Philip Cruz, Rance Thompson

Also Present: Chief David Kullgren, Deputy Chief Bryan Bishop, Officer Leonard Penna, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, Officer Felicia Figol, and two members of the public.

Commissioner Budd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

Scott Baggett, 26 Hall Lane, stated a concern for the amount and speed of traffic on Hall Lane.

Police Union Participation

None

Consideration and Action on Minutes: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 2, 2024. Commissioner Cruz seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chief's Report

Chief Kullgren stated that there is one officer out on short-term disability, one on workers compensation, one on military leave and one vacancy bringing the effective strength to 41. The Detective Bureau is currently interviewing applicants with a goal to have three applicants to present at the March 5, 2024 meeting. Patrol has been busy with ice and snow. Weekly stats have been posted via the Community Services Division and the community feedback has been positive. The Community Services Division has raised \$16,000 for the Special Olympics. Three quotes have been received for auxiliary accessory lights for the existing warning signs on Botsford Hill at the railroad overpass. The Police Department is working with the Public Works Department on this project.

Old Business

Hall Lane Study Update, discussion, and possible action

Officer Penna stated that numerous complaints have been received regarding the volume and speed on Hall Lane. A 20 mph speed limit has been approved for Hall Lane. A tracker was installed for a full week to monitor volume and speed. Officer Penna shared the study (see enclosure). The increase in traffic on Tuesday was due to a significant

incident on I-84. The stat tracker concluded that there is a high volume of traffic on Hall Lane. Hall Lane being 17' wide does not allow for wide vehicles. An option given was to make Currituck Road to Hall Lane in about 75 feet a one-way street. Do Not Enter and Begin One Way signs would be installed that would give plenty of notice and would not force turnarounds in the resident driveways. This would prevent any traffic from diverting from Currituck Road onto Hall Lane. Commissioner Budd questioned if the one-way would inhibit commercial vehicles that are coming to service residences on Hall Lane. Officer Penna stated that there would be sufficient access via Hanover to all residences and that it would not inhibit commercial traffic. Officer Penna stated that all of the residents would be able to exit in either direction but would have one way to enter. Commissioner Cicciari stated a concern about the do not enter and one way signs that would divert traffic to other roads. Officer Penna stated that the 'no thru trucks' sign would not prevent trucks that have business in town. Officer Penna stated that the stat tracker showed that speed was not as big of an issue as reported. Chief Kullgren suggested putting the one-way road into effect for a trial period and then reevaluating in 30 days and again in 60 days. Officer Penna stated that traffic counts have been done on Blakeslee and those numbers could be used for comparison. Commissioner Budd asked for Scott Baggett's view. Scott Baggett stated that he thinks the one-way is a good idea and is interested in the trial period. He stated that he still has a concern for diverted traffic onto other streets. Sherry Baggett, 26 Hall Lane, stated that her son lives on Currituck and when traffic is backed up the traffic diverts to other streets. She stated that she diverts to Blakeslee when there is traffic build up and she is sure that others are doing the same. She also stated that cars traveling this route are doing so at high rates of speed. Officer Penna reiterated the concern of large vehicles getting stuck. Officer Figol inquired about a traffic light at the end of Currituck and Main. Officer Penna stated that a traffic light at that location would cause more traffic issues. Commissioner Cruz inquired about the one-way area and the residents in that area. Scott Baggett stated that the residents at the end of the one-way stated a concern regarding the one-way street during inclement weather at a previous meeting. Commissioner Budd suggested a trial period not to exceed 90 days and then reevaluate the counts and not make it permanent at this time.

Commissioner Cicciari made a motion to adopt a trial for Do Not Enter coming from Currituck Road going on to Hall Lane for a trial period of not to exceed 120 days starting from the date of install of the signage giving Newtown PD authority to reduce the trial and pull back signs sooner should there be a concern for problematic areas on Blakeslee, School House, or Sunset. Commissioner Cruz seconded the motion. Motion Passed, All in Favor

New Business

Review of Department Policies, discussion and possible action

Chief Kullgren and Deputy Chief Bishop shared a brief overview of the policies that had been shared with the commissioners to review, which included Chapter 5 Policies: Change of Command and Orders; Standards of Conduct; Unprofessional Conduct, Harassment and Sexual Harassment; Discipline System and Guidelines Matrix; and Investigation of Employee Misconduct and Citizen Complaints.

Commissioner Budd made a motion to accept the policies as discussed for 5.1 Chain of Command, 5.3 Standards of Conduct, 5.4 Unprofessional Conduct, 5.5 The Discipline System, and 5.6 Employee Misconduct. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion, Motion Passed. All in Favor

Correspondence

None

Commissioners' Participation

Commissioner Conlin inquired about a citizen inquiry and if the response would be shared with the commission. Chief Kullgren stated that the citizen was responded to and was a non-issue due to the data received however signage was added.

Commissioner Cruz stated that the BOE held a mock security drill in the Spring of 2023 and if there were any recommendations from that exercise. Chief Kullgren stated that it was a tabletop exercise. As for the PD there was recommended inservice training for ICS and another dispatch related item was recommended. A report was received from the security director to be shared. Commissioner Cruz asked if the results were received prior to November 30, 2023. Chief Kullgren stated that it was not received prior to November 30, 2023 and does not believe it would have impacted the response to the November 30, 2023 incident. Commissioner Cruz inquired if there is an ongoing relationship between the district, the police force, and the security department. Deputy Chief Bishop stated that there is a quarterly meeting. Chief

Kullgren stated that there are ongoing improvements in the security drills and training. Commissioner Cruz inquired about accurate and on-time information in receiving the final report and if it is being used properly. Chief Kullgren stated that there is a concern about the lateness of the report from the Spring 2023 drill. Chief Kullgren stated that the conversation was moving into personnel issues and security details, any further discussion would need to be done in Executive Session.

Adjournment: <u>Having no further business</u>. <u>Commissioner Cicciari motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Cruz. Motion Passed. All in Favor.</u>

Dana Ulibarri, clerk

Enclosures

Chiefs Report
DB Activity Report
Incident Statistics
Newtown Stats
Training Report
Hall Lane Traffic Study Report

Chief's Report

Police Commission

02/06/2024

Personnel Report:

- Department Authorized Strength 45 personnel
 - Injury/Extended Leave 1 personnel
 - Field Training 0 personnel
 - Military Deployment 1 personnel, w/ USCG
 - Vacancy 1, interviewing ongoing, potential for a special meeting in Feb to hire.
 - Effective Strength 41 personnel

Activities:

- Chief & Deputy Chief:
 - o 1/3 Staff Meeting
 - 1/3 Boggs Hill Debriefing
 - o 1/4 Department Meeting
 - 1/9 Budget Meeting with Bob Tait
 - 1/5 Budget Meeting
 - o 1/9 FCCOP
 - o 1/9 EOC Storm Meeting
 - o 1/10 Supervisors Meeting
 - o 1/16 Pistol Permit Meeting (Runkle)
 - o 1/18 DSSC Meeting
 - 1/18 Rev John Meeting
 - o 1/18 Cohen & Wolf
 - o 1/19 Pistol Permit Meeting (Godbout)
 - 1/22 BOS Meeting
 - o 1/23 Flock Safety Meeting
 - 1/24 EMS Chief Meeting
 - o 1/25 Prevention Council Visioning Retreat
 - o 1/26 NPS Ateam Meeting
 - 1/26 CIRMA
 - o 1/26 Town Negotiations
 - o 1/29 Cordico Meeting
 - o 1/30 Dispatch Negotiations
 - o 1/30 Red Dot Meeting
 - 1/31 Monseigneur Weiss Luncheon
 - o 2/1 Department Head Meeting
 - 2/6 FCPTOA
- Patrol:
 - Busy month with accidents due to weather
 - o Posting of activity stats for public viewing, positive response
- Community Service Division:
 - Special Olympics, Bender Classic approx. \$16k raised

Department of Police Services 191 S. Main Street Newtown, CT 06470



David M. Kullgren Chief of Police Tel. (203) 426-5841 Fax (203) 270-0637

DETECTIVE BUREAU ACTIVITY

December 19, 2023 through January 31, 2024

Summary of New	Cases	Investigated	by the	Detective	Bureau:
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- 1 Firearm Assault
- 1 Sexual Offense

Summary of New Cases Investigated by the Youth Division:

1 Custody Dispute

Total New Investigations: 3

Cases of Note:

Firearm Offense:

The Detective Bureau investigated and resolved a firearm related assault that occurred on Boggs Hill Road on Christmas Eve, where a wife shot her husband during a dispute. The victim was treated and released from the hospital, and the suspect was arrested and charged.

Sexual Offense:

The Detective Bureau investigated a reported sex offense, which was ultimately determined to be unfounded.

Observed Trends:

- There have still been numerous Fraud / Bad Check calls for service received by the Newtown Police Department. These Calls for Service generally encompass common scams via phone call, text or email, and fraudulently issued or modified bank checks. A social media post was created in an attempt to educate Newtown residence regarding a common scam.
- There has been an unprecedented increase in written checks being stolen from residential / commercial "blue" USPS mailboxes. These checks are then fraudulently negotiated, typically out of state. The Newtown Police Department has created several public notices

advising the residents of Newtown to stop mailing paper checks, or delivers these mailings directly to the post office counter.

 The Youth Division has been active in the community, making a visible presence to community businesses.

Prepared by Detective Lieutenant Liam Seabrook

Run Date: 02/01/2024 Run Time: 08:34

Newtown Police Department

Incident Statistics Report

01/01/2024 00:00 Thru 01/31/2024 23:59

Call Type Description	Total for Period
P 911 CHECK	7
P ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE	2
P ALARM - CANCELLED	
P ALARM FALSE	14
P ANIMAL CALL	32
PASSAULT	30
P ASSIST AGENCY / MUTUAL AID	2
P BUILDING CHECK	22
P BURGLARY	676
P CIVIL MATTER	1
P COMMUNITY POLICING / EVENT	12
P CRISIS INTERVENTION	9
P DISABLED MOTOR VEHICLE	4
P DISPUTE	
P DOMESTIC	13
P DRONE CALL OUT	5
P DUI	4
P DUMPING / LITTERING	2
P ERRATIC OPERATION	3
P ESCORT	25
P ESU CALL OUT	4
P FIRE ASSIST	2
P FIREARMS / AMMUNITION SURRENDER	2
P FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	1
P FRAUD / BAD CHECK	5
P HARASSMENT	10
P HEALTH / WELFARE CHECK	4
P K9 CALL OUT / TRAINING	24
PLARCENY	1
P LOCKOUT MOTOR VEHICLE / BUILDING	7
P MEDICAL ASSIST	3
P MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE	9
P MISSING PERSON	43
P MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT	3
P MVA	17
P MVA - DEER	39
P MVA - EVADING	1
P MVA - FATAL	1
P MVA - INJURY	111
	9

Run Date: 02/01/2024 Run Time: 08:34

Newtown Police Department

Page 2 of 2

Incident Statistics Report

01/01/2024 00:00 Thru 01/31/2024 23:59

Call Type Description	Total for Period
P NOISE COMPLAINT	5
P PARKING ENFORCEMENT / COMPLAINT	8
P PUBLIC HAZARD	37
P RECREATIONAL SHOOTING	37
P SEX OFFENSES	
P STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE	2
P SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	100
P THREATENING	100
P TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	71
P TRAFFIC STOP	127
P TRAFFIC STUDY / COMPLAINT	
P TRESPASSING	
P UNATTENDED DEATH	3
P VANDALISM	4
P WARRANT SERVICE	2

NEWTOWN POLICE BEPARTMENT STATISTICS CALLS FOR SERVICE

39.77	Iranic Crashes (ALL)	a.	5. S. S.	E		2 3			Am Feb March April May June July Aug Sept Oct Nov 63 64 55 63 74 65 49 57 71 65 62	S1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			3	Traffic Crashes (Property Damage Only	₽		5			-		57 48				ALL DECEMBER AND ADDRESS OF A SECTION AND ADDRESS AND	Traffic Crashes (Injury)							Ann feb Murch April May June Inly Aug Sept Oct Nov	4 / / 8 N IS 4 II 12 9 4		
Calls for Service	(ESS)	2000	las					Feb Warch April May June July Aug Sept On Nov	1218 1500 1336 1682 1614 1657 1610 1976 1915 1590	146.4 L46.4				Traffic Enforcement (Total)		100		2	25	- 10	20 -	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	F207 # 7,054					Traffic Enforcement Machael Machael	130	000		2	93	- Ge	07	0 11 12 1 1 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12	■ 2024
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Department of Police Services 191 South Main Street Newtown, CT 06470



Sgt. John McDermott Tel. (203) 426-5841 Fax (203) 270-0637

Newtown Police Training

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Department

January 2024

During this month the following training was completed and/or instructed:

Employee	School Type	School Name	Date	Hours
Det. Monckton, Ofc. Mulhall	ESU	Sniper Monthly Training	01/15/2024	8
Lt. Seabrook, Det. Monckton, Ofc. Mulhall, Ofc Hayes	ESU	ESU Monthly Training	01/25/2024	8
K9 Ofc. Figol	K9	K9 Monthly Training	01/11/2024 01/24/2024	8
Ofc Hayes Ofc McGowan	Firearms	Firearm Qualifications- Trumbull PD Range	1/10/2024	8
Lt. Smith Sgt. Wood Sgt. McDermott Ofc. Caramadre Ofc. Flynn Ofc. Mulhall Acting Sgt. Pirhala Ofc. Rojas Ofc. Wickman	General Instruction	POSTC In-service Recertification WCSU	01/08/2024 01/11/2024	8
Det. Harold Det. Monckton	Investigative	Background Investigations	01/11/2024 – 01/12/2024	8
Ofc. Wlasuk	Accident Investigation	Crash Reconstruction	01/22/2024 - 02/02/2024	8

Sergeant John McDermott Professional Standards Newtown Department of Police Services

HALL LANE TRAFFIC VOLUME STUDY (2300009705)



Officer Leonard Penna #076

Newtown Police Department Traffic Unit

JANUARY 2024

Due to the increased volume of traffic as well as numerous complaints of excessive volume and oversized vehicles too large to physically fit through Hall Lane, the Newtown Police Department's Traffic Unit has conducted a traffic study in an attempt to remedy this issue. Hall Lane is a narrow Town owned roadway which travels east to west connecting The Boulevard, Hanover Road, and Currituck Road. Hall Lane has one side road, Sealand Drive, which connects Hall Lane to Hanover Road. Hall Lane has an established State DOT 20 mph approved speed limit. There are a combined total of 23 homes on Hall Lane and Sealand Drive. The length of Hall Lane is approximately 4/10 of a mile and its width is approximately 17 feet. The excessive volume of traffic is from vehicles traveling eastbound from Currituck Road to Hanover Road and or to The Boulevard.

The Newtown Police Department's Traffic Unit installed their Houston Radar Stat Tracker device on Hall Lane in the vicinity of #10 from July 15th, 2023 to July 22nd, 2023 to collect vehicle volume. The below chart includes the volume data collected from the Stat Tracker.

Incoming	Weekly Counts
	(2300009705)

from Sat-Jul-15-2023-12-00-I

	7/17/2023	to	7/23/2023			
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hour	7/17/2023	7/18/2023	7/19/2023	7/20/2023	7/21/2023	7/22/2023
0 - 1	0	1	0	0	1	//22/2023
1 - 2	0	0	1	0	0	0
2 - 3	0	0	0	ĺ	0	Ö
3 - 4	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 - 5	0	1	0	1	ő	0
5 - 6	0	2	Ī	ĩ	2	0
6 - 7	5	6	6	3	3	2
7 - 8	11	26	19	15	7	5
8 - 9	25	94	30	27	20	4
9 - 10	17	92	16	19	7	15
10 - 11	10	110	13	11	19	19
11 - 12	20	161	16	12	13	22
12 - 13	20	190	21	18	27	16
13 - 14	19	279	26	23	21	*
14 - 15	26	212	31	24	40	
15 - 16	38	48	114	44	64	*
16 - 17	79	16	227	114	128	
17 - 18	105	285	100	180	272	· ·
18 - 19	26	142	47	59	105	100
19 - 20	20	13	10	16	28	
20 - 21	5	ΪΪ	12	8	12	***
21 - 22	1	4	5	3	1	•
22 - 23	2	0	0	ĭ	2	*
23 - 24	Í	3	2	0	0	
Totals	430	1696	697	580	772	
		\$5000000000		500	112	84

The collected data includes the amount of vehicles traveling on Hall Lane from Currituck Road to Hanover Road per hour of each day. Vehicle volume significantly increases during the hours of 5pm to 7pm from Monday to Friday. This increase of volume is caused by rush hour congestion on I-84 as well as Route 25 / Route 6. Hall Lane currently allows vehicles to bypass heavy traffic in these areas and be used as a cut through. With the current narrow width of Hall Lane, larger vehicles, such as commercial buses, tractor trailers, etc., cannot physically fit while there is oncoming traffic and or to turn onto Hanover Road without getting stuck in that Intersection.

On Tuesday, July 18th 2023, Hall Lane experienced an even larger than normal amount of traffic with a total of 1696 vehicles traveling onto Hall Lane from Currituck Road to Hanover Road. This was due to a Tractor Trailer rollover accident on I-84. The increased amount of traffic began at approximately 7am and ended at approximately 7pm. During this time, a commercial "Peter Pan" bus entered onto Hall Lane from Currituck Road at approximately 3pm, which was unable to turn onto Hanover Road due to its size. The bus ultimately had to be removed by a heavy duty wrecker in order for it to be able to move on its way. This incident closed Hall Lane for approximately 2 hours between the hours of 3pm and 5pm. As soon as Hall Lane reopened, an above average amount of traffic utilized the roadway until 7pm. The expected volume of traffic would have been even greater than 1696 vehicles if Hall Lane wasn't closed for the 2 hours during evening rush hour.

One suggestion was to make Hall lane a "No Thru Trucks" road to prevent commercial trucks from getting accessing Hall Lane and getting stuck, however a "No Thru Trucks" road allows any truck originating or having a destination within a city, town, or borough where any through truck prohibition has been established to use such prohibited road and therefore would not remedy this issue.

It is proposed that approximately the first 50 feet of Hall Lane in from Currituck Road be converted to a "One Way" Road. This would prevent vehicles from being able to enter Hall Lane from Currituck Road, however allow two way travel for the remainder of Hall Lane. By doing this, Hall Lane could not be used as a cut through roadway and as a result limit the amount of commercial vehicles getting stuck while detouring around heavy traffic.

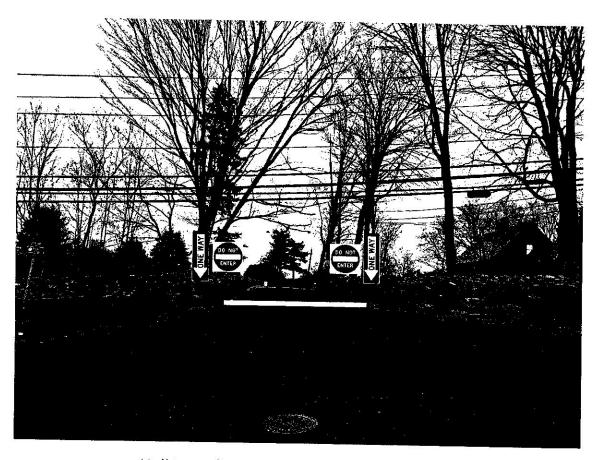
The following photographs show this area of Hall Lane in its current state as well as the "One Way" proposal.



Hall Lane from Currituck Road (Existing)

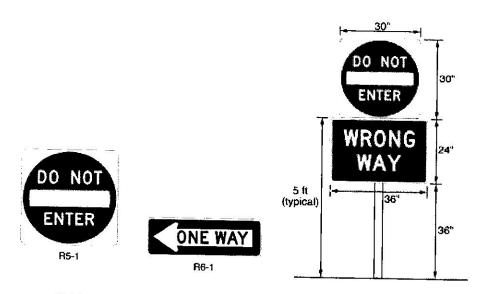


Hall Lane approaching Currituck Road (Existing)



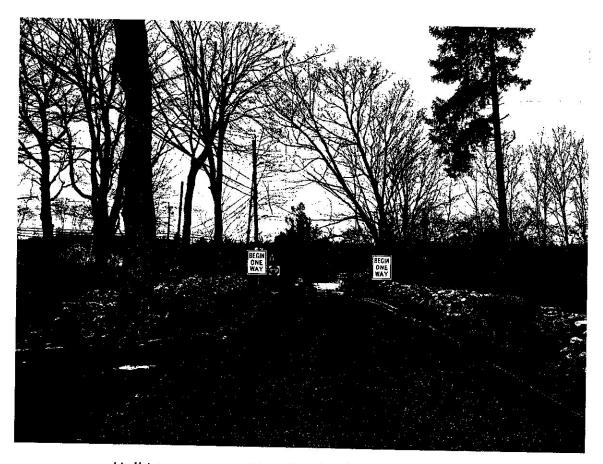
Hall Lane from Currituck Road (Proposed)

*Not to Scale



"Wrong Way" enhancement sign is not needed.

A minimum 12" wide "Stop Line" across entire width of Hall Lane.



Hall Lane approaching Currituck Road (Proposed)

*Not to Scale





EXECUTION:

With guidance form the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), the following signage and markings is recommended;

- (2) 30"x30" (R5-1) "Do Not Enter" Signs at end of Hall Lane at Currituck Road.
- (2) 36"x12" (R6-1R/L) "One Way" Signs above "Do Not Enter" Signs parallel to Hall Lane.
- (1) 12" wide minimum "Stop Line" across Hall Lane at Currituck Road.
- (2) 24"x30" (R6-6) "Begin One Way" Signs approximately 50 feet before "Stop Line".
- (1) 30"x30" (R1-1) "Stop Sign" to be added on the left side of Hall Lane at Currituck Road.

The MUTCD does not offer guidance on establishing "One Way" roads.

Traffic Unit Officer Leonard Penna #076