



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017
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, Virgil Procaccini, Vice-Chairman Brian Budd and Chairman Joel Faxon

ABSENT: Andy Sachs

ALSO PRESENT: Chief James Viadero, Captain Chris Vanghele, Union President Lenny Penna, 1 member of the press, and 5 members of the public

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

Chairman Faxon moved that the Board insert an item onto the evening's agenda to approve the meeting schedule for 2017. Vice-Chairman Budd seconded and motion unanimously carried.

Vice-Chairman Budd made a motion to approve the Newtown Board of Police Commissioners regular meeting dates as follows for 2017: February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5, and January 2, 2018.

Commissioner Rosenthal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Penna reported that everything was good with regard to the Union.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: December 6, 2016 – Chairman Faxon asked that Commissioners take action on the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting at the Board's next regular meeting.

CHIEF'S REPORT: Chief Viadero apologized to the Board indicating that their packets with all the reports for last month would be made available at their next meeting; however, the Chief indicated that he could give them a brief breakdown. Car Break-Ins – Chief Viadero reported that several motor vehicles in the area of Currituck Road in December had items stolen from them as well as one house. The Chief suggested that all the vehicles had been left unlocked and had electronics items stolen from them. He said that the Department believes the thefts were perpetrated by the same group of individuals from Waterbury and indicated the incidents remain under investigation. Chief Viadero warned residents to keep their doors locked and valuables out

of their vehicles. Holiday Stop Yields Cannabis and Cash - The Chief reported that during a routine traffic stop over Christmas two officers yielded approximately a pound of marijuana and \$4,000 to \$5,000 in cash. Roving DUI Patrols – Chief Viadero informed Police Commissioners that rather than set up a DUI a Check Point that did roving DUI patrols. NEW School Resource Officer (SRO) - The Chief announced that Officer Monckton became the new SRO and will work with the other SRO Officer Seabrook. New Officer and Patrol Vehicles – Chief Viadero stated that the Department’s new officer would be taking a polygraph next week and added that the new patrol vehicles should be ready. West Street Parking – The Chief indicated that Sgt. Bahamonde would make sure the parking 3 spaces on West Street by the restaurant were marked. Promotions and Ceremony – Chief Viadero reminded the Board that there would be an executive session at the end of the meeting that evening and that they were all invited to attend the Promotional Ceremony at 7 pm January 26 in the Middle School Auditorium. Final Budget – The Chief added that he had met with Finance Director Bob Tait to review the final budget and would be sending it out for Board’s review.

CAPTAIN’S REPORT: Captain Vanghele indicated that he had nothing more to add as the Chief had covered it all.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion of Nettleton Avenue Report and Discussion on Traffic Units Recommendations - Bob Hall, 5 Nettleton Avenue, stated that he has resided at his home for 54 years and since that time the private road has evolved from a mud hole to a speed way.

Mr. Hall presented the Board with a large map of the Nettleton Avenue area from Elm Drive to Juniper, as well as handing them out each a small version of the large map.

According to Mr. Hall, the property lines extend across Nettleton Avenue, which is essentially a right of way owned by the three property owners who live on it. He added that members of the general public don’t have a right to it.

Mr. Hall informed Police Commissioners that approximately 20 years ago when the sewers were getting put in he asked the Town not to pave the road. He noted that when catch basins started being put in he bought the road from the owner and again asked that the road not be paved.

Mr. Hall suggested that everyone would like the road to be “one-way” from Elm Drive to Juniper to keep people from using it as a cut through. He stressed that people are cutting down the road at 45 mph even though it’s only 12-feet wide and made to go no more than about 15 mph.

Chief Viadero stated that he has received a number of emails from individuals regarding the speed. He noted that he has even been up there and witnessed it. He added that it would be hard to set up traffic calming up there but one-way signs would be the least expensive.

Mr. Hall told Commissioners that they would like to set a speed limit on the private road.

Chief Viadero suggested that because it was a private road he didn’t think they needed State approval.

Chairman Faxon suggested the road be made totally one-way heading westbound and Chief Viadero stated that Sgt. Bahamonde recommended that in his report.

Vice-Chairman Budd agreed that it was a good idea but suggested that it could be a problem when work begins on Route 302.

Chief Viadero recommended they have a meeting with DOT to put up additional signage to deter people from going down side roads.

Vice-Chairman Budd suggested that if the State provided extra officers to control the traffic when construction begins that might help. The Chief Agreed.

Karen Pierce, 11 Nettleton Avenue, said she agreed with what was being suggested.

Commissioner Rosenthal expressed his concern about Birch Rise and suggested that should be made one-way as well.

Chairman Faxon reminded Commissioners that Nettleton Avenue is not like other nearby roads as it is a private dirt road and not much wider than a trail.

The Chairman indicated that he would be open to the traffic commissioners' suggestions.

Chief Viadero suggested the Department monitor Birch Rise with tubes.

Chairman Faxon added that if there was a safety issue the Board will deal with it.

Commissioner Rosenthal said that he was in favor of a temporary basis One-Way on Nettleton Avenue and was in favor of addressing the speed limit.

Commissioner Procaccini recommended that if they were doing this preemptively for the State's construction project in the spring then they should do the same thing and make Nettleton Avenue and Birch Rise Avenue both one-way.

Chairman Faxon suggested that if both were made one way westbound people traveling on Route 302 would hit traffic and start making u-turns.

Commissioner Procaccini recommended that signs be put at the end of Juniper Road and Birch Rise Drive saying "One Way."

Commissioner Budd suggested that they put up signs on Nettleton Avenue and monitor Birch Rise Drive once construction begins.

Chairman Faxon told Mr. Hall that he could close Nettleton Avenue and Mr. Hall agreed he could put up a barrier; but Ms. Pierce noted that she has had people turn around in her yard before and fears that would happen again.

Vice-Chairman Budd made the motion to install a "One Way" sign on Nettleton Avenue headed westbound between Elm Drive and Juniper Road pending completion of State project on Route 302, Commissioner Rosenthal seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATION: none

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: none

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Lieutenants Candidate Interviews): Commissioner Rosenthal moved to go into Executive Session at 7 pm under 1-200 and 1-201 of the General Statutes for the promotion of officers to new positions. He invited Chief Viadero and Captain Vanghele to attend as well as candidates Silver, Bahamonde and Woods. Vice-Chairman Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left.

Ted Swigart, Clerk