



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 6, 2018
Town Hall South Conference Room
3 Main Street, Newtown

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

Present: Joel Faxon, Scott Cicciari, Joan Plouffe, Andy Sachs

Absent: Brian Budd

Also Present: Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele, Officer Penna and four members of the public.

Commissioner Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Public Participation: Carolyn Sepe, 83 Toddy Hill Road, said she witnessed three traffic stops in two hours and thanked the Chief and the Commission. Pete Sepe, 83 Toddy Hill Road said the continued enforcement is much appreciated. He also shared a sign he saw in his travels. Chief Viadero said that there will be fixed signage with flashing speed provided the budget stays in tact through the process. Alan Colangelo, Manager, Newtown Terminal, All-Star Transportation, introduced himself and Michelle Ku, Board of Education Chair, was present to support Mr. Colangelo. Ms. Ku also thanked the Police Commission for their partnership with the Board of Education and the safety and security of our schools. Patrick Ross, 75 Toddy Hill Road said the police are doing an outstanding job; the presence, even in to the winter, has been unbelievable. He is very happy and wants the officers to know.

Police Union Participation: Officer Penna reported all is well; no complaints. The relationship between the union and administration is smooth.

Consideration and action on the minutes for January 2, 2018. Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of January 2, 2018. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Faxon moved the Ad Hoc Building Committee minutes of January 23, 2018 with the following corrections: Commission Faxon called (not caught) the meeting to order. Additionally, the motion in the final paragraph was that the Ad Hoc Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen they hire Kaestle Boos for the next stages of the design process. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

Chiefs Report: Chief Viadero reported Newtown was named the third safest town in the State of CT. The Board of Selectmen recommended the hiring of Kaestle Boos; this will be turned over to the Public Building & Site Commission. There have been staffing shortages due to injuries; several officers are expected back. Mr. Hurley and Mr. Hodas met relative to Main Street design. Information was provided to the state; some funding has stopped but we are hoping to be in the pipeline when funding opens up again. Sgt. Silver collected numbers relative to Toddy Hill Road. From 11/31/17 to 1/1/18 there were 206,000 cars observed going northbound. The average speed was 33.2 mph; the most heavily traveled times were between 3pm-6pm. In the past couple of weeks, during enforcement, the average speed was 35.5 mph. There were a total of 23 infractions, 25 warnings, 2 misdemeanor arrests (not traffic related)

and the high speed was 59 mph, the low speed was 25mph. Officers spent 35.5 hours there from 1/31/18 to 2/6/18. The State Police analyzed and critiqued their response to the Sandy Hook incident. The purpose of the report was to look at their actions, possibly providing information in the event that other agencies experience a similar event. Chief Viadero, as well as the families, were made aware of the report prior to release. A report from Officer Flynn was shared, in response to our request to lower the speed limit on Route 25 and Route 6 (att.). The state has been here twice to review the request.

Old Business: none.

Correspondence: none.

New Business:

*** Presentation by Alan Colangelo (All-Star Transportation). Proposed traffic pattern for Reed School bus drop off – use of Old Farm Road:** (att.) Mr. Colangelo explained the Board of Education changed school times as the result of a Federal sleep study program. Mr. Colangelo further explained the time constraints which resulted in combining Reed and elementary school bus routes and asked the commission to consider allowing buses converging from the south end of town be allowed to turn left from Mile Hill Road into the access gate for Old Farm Road in the morning only between 8:50am and 9:00am. This would alleviate the traffic tie up at the intersection of Mile Hill/Wasserman & Trades Lane. The sight line is clear both north and southbound. The Superintendent, Director of Public Works and the Town Engineer have all been informed and are agreeable with the proposal. Changing of the left turn green light would create southbound delay. There are a total of twenty-seven buses but there would be only five to six buses at a time entering Wasserman Way. The Reed School custodial staff will unchain and chain the gate each morning. Chief Viadero would have supervisors there to make sure that while working to solve one problem another problem isn't created. He will also speak to the Superintendent about contacting parents to alert them Old Farm Road is for bus traffic only. Commissioner Faxon suggested the buses begin using Old Farm, for two weeks, beginning February 21; the commission meets again on March 6 and will re-evaluate. Commissioner Faxon moved to allow, commencing on February 21st, the chain to come down and Old Farm Road to be used as an ingress point at Reed School for buses only in the morning, during the drop off period, and be allowed to continue through March 6. The commission will revisit at that point; Chief Viadero is directed to close the gate if this appears to be a public safety issue. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

***Traffic Report prepared by Officer Flynn. Request for speed limit changes on Mt. Pleasant Road & Route 25 (CDOT requested information:** This item was covered under the Chief's report

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Plouffe expressed concern over students parking in the Exit 11 commuter parking lot. Chief Viadero will talk to the Superintendent to see if anything can be done. This is a state road. Commissioner Plouffe thanked Chief Viadero for the signs at the crosswalk.

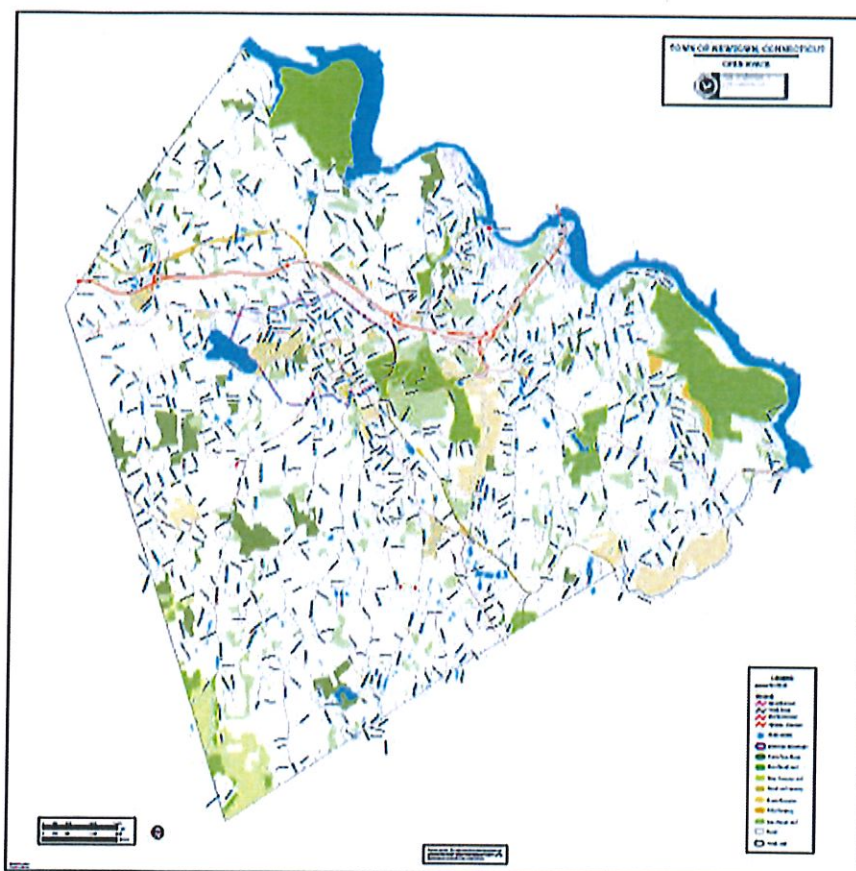
Public Participation: none.

Adjournment: Having no further business report of police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 7:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk

Attached: Flynn report on Route 25 & Route 6; Proposal for allowance of Reed School access

Speed Limit Change For Route 25 & Route 6



Officer Jason Flynn #073

Newtown Police Department

Traffic Unit

1/26/2018

A request was put in to the Connecticut State D.O.T. to reduce the speed limit on Route 25 and Route 6 in three (3) locations from 45 mph to 40 mph. They have inquired about accident history in those areas regarding the request. I ran accident history on all three (3) areas from 01/01/2015 to 01/01/2018.

- Accident Data (see attached)

For the area on South Main Street (Route 25) in the year 2017 there were a total of fourteen (14) accidents. Eleven (11) of them without injuries and three (3) of them with injuries. In the year 2016 there were a total of fourteen (14) accidents. Ten (10) of them without injuries and four (4) of them with injuries. In the year 2015 there were a total of two (2) accidents, both were without injuries.

For the area on Mount Pleasant Road heading east bound in the year 2017 and 2016 there were zero (0) accidents. In the year 2015 there was one (1) accident which had injuries.

For the area on Mount Pleasant Road (Route 6) in the year 2017 there were a total of fifteen (15) accidents, two (2) with injuries and one (1) was a fatal. In the year 2016 there were a total of ten (10) accidents, one (1) with injuries. In the year 2015 there were a total of eight (8) accidents. Six (6) of them without injuries and two (2) of them with injuries.

Accident History

South Main Street (Route 25)

From southern end of Pecks Lane to Pootatuck River Bridge

2017						
Case #	Date	Time	Injury Type	Location	Collision Type	Violation
1700001088	1/18/2017	15:56	No Injuries	150 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-242
1700001267	1/21/2017	20:45	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700003081	2/17/2017	8:23	With Injuries	South Main St. @ Ethan Allen Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-242
1700005156	3/20/2017	13:51	No Injuries	South Main St. @ Pecks Ln.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700010978	6/13/2017	7:03	No Injuries	South Main St.	Car vs. Guardrail	14-242/14-218a*
1700011971	6/28/2017	10:40	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Curb	14-247
1700012171	7/1/2017	9:56	With Injuries	153 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-247
1700013332	7/18/2017	9:12	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700013336	7/18/2017	9:57	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700016992	9/1/2017	7:08	No Injuries	153 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700020389	10/14/2017	9:00	No Injuries	154 South Main Street	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700022322	11/11/2017	11:33	With Injuries	South Main St. @ Ethan Allen Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-242
1700022445	11/14/2017	8:07	No Injuries	182 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1700022537	11/15/2017	13:32	No Injuries	150 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-242

2016						
1600002863	2/5/2016	11:03	No Injuries	188 South Main St.	Car vs Guardrail	No Action
1600003070	2/8/2016	12:03	No Injuries	South Main St. @ Wills Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-218a*
1600006283	3/23/2016	21:23	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1600007721	4/15/2016	4:55	With Injuries	182 South Main St.	Car vs. Pole	14-242
1600009222	5/7/2016	9:51	No Injuries	150 South Main St.	Car vs. Pole	14-240
1600015032	7/30/2016	15:27	No Injuries	146 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-247
1600017708	9/6/2016	11:33	No Injuries	173 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	No Action
1600019262	9/28/2016	8:47	No Injuries	152 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1600021523	10/28/2016	19:43	With Injuries	South Main St. @ Orchard Hill Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-301
1600023346	11/26/2016	8:35	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1600023681	12/2/2016	9:05	With Injuries	150 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1600023862	12/5/2016	16:30	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Guardrail	14-236
1600024217	12/11/2016	13:24	No Injuries	South Main St. @ Orchard Hill Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1600024777	12/20/2016	7:41	With Injuries	South Main St. @ Ethan Allen Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240

Officer Jason Flynn #073

Traffic Unit

Accident History
 South Main Street (Route 25)
 From southern end of Pecks Lane to Pootatuck River Bridge

		2015					
Case #	Date	Time	Injury Type	Location	Collision Type	Violation	#
1500025447	10/6/2015	13:22	No Injuries	191 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-243	1
1500027646	11/4/2015	9:11	No Injuries	151 South Main St.	Car vs. Car	14-240	2

Officer Jason Flynn #073
 Traffic Unit

Accident History
Mount Pleasant Road (Route 6)
From Hawleyville Road to Bethel Town Line

2017						
Case #	Date	Time	Injury Type	Location	Collision Type	Violation #
1700001532	1/26/2017	16:49	No Injuries	117 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-247 1
1700004399	3/6/2017	15:47	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Suzie Dr.	Car vs. Car	14-245 2
1700004641	3/10/2017	10:19	No Injuries	173 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 3
1700005204	3/21/2017	8:48	No Injuries	170 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-247 4
1700005836	3/31/2017	18:18	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Suzie Dr.	Car vs. Car	14-242 5
1700006052	4/4/2017	11:33	Fatal	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Taunton Ln.	Car vs. Car	14-235 6
1700009598	5/26/2017	8:04	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Suzie Dr.	Car vs. Car	14-240 7
1700012437	7/5/2017	13:43	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Hawleyville Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 8
1700012817	7/11/2017	11:34	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Taunton Ln.	Car vs. Car	14-242 9
1700013627	7/21/2017	9:24	With Injuries	130 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	No Action 10
1700015397	8/11/2017	18:01	No Injuries	147 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-247 11
1700017020	9/1/2017	16:18	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Taunton Ln.	Car vs. Car	14-240 12
1700017639	9/9/2017	17:34	With Injuries	144 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-230 13
1700022820	11/20/2017	8:34	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Old Bethel Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 14
1700024025	12/9/2017	12:57	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Old Bethel Rd.	Car vs. Curb	14-218a* 15

2016						
1600000478	1/6/2016	13:59	No Injuries	147 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-242 1
1600006968	4/4/2016	16:09	No Injuries	117 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 2
1600015796	8/10/2016	8:06	No Injuries	174 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-247 3
1600017304	8/31/2016	17:24	No Injuries	121 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 4
1600018176	9/13/2016	17:34	No Injuries	145 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 5
1600019430	9/30/2016	8:45	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Pocono Rd.	Car vs. Sewer Cover	No Action 6
1600021875	11/3/2016	12:03	No Injuries	184 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 7
1600022622	11/14/2016	18:20	With Injuries	117 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 8
1600023652	12/1/2016	21:48	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Hawleyville Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 9
1600024857	12/21/2016	10:42	No Injuries	172 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240 10

Officer Jason Flynn #073
Traffic Unit

Accident History
Mount Pleasant Road (Route 6)
From Hawleyville Road to Bethel Town Line

2015						
Case #	Date	Time	Injury Type	Location	Collision Type	Violation
1500002413	2/8/2015	18:39	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Hawleyville Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1500005305	3/20/2015	16:21	No Injuries	175 Mount Pleasant Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-218a*
1500018098	8/19/2015	2:08	No Injuries	143 Mount Pleasant Road	Car vs. Trees	14-230
1500026925	10/26/2015	12:09	With Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Hawleyville Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-243
1500026945	10/26/2015	16:56	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Taunton Ln.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1500028059	11/10/2015	19:49	With Injuries	133 Mount Pleasant Road	Car vs. Car	14-247
1500029381	11/28/2015	16:11	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Taunton Ln.	Car vs. Car	14-240
1500031215	12/24/2015	17:39	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Hawleyville Rd.	Car vs. Car	14-243

Officer Jason Flynn #073
Traffic Unit

Accident History

Mount Pleasant Road East Bound (Route 6)
From Hawleyville Road to Blackman Road

Case #	Date	Time	Injury Type	Location	Collision Type	Violation	#
2017							
2016							
2015							
1500005967	3/28/2015	20:54	No Injuries	Mount Pleasant Rd. @ Tory Ln.	Car vs. Guardrail	No Action	1

Officer Jason Flynn #073
Traffic Unit

Newtown Police Commission

Re: Proposal for allowance of Reed School access

Tuesday, February 6th, 2018

As all of you are aware, the Newtown School Board passed a resolution on June 20th, 2017 that would allow the high school to start later in accordance with a Federal sleep study program which shows that students in this age group perform better academically with a later school start time.

This decision forced a restructuring of the transportation schedule that had to be completed within a seven-week window. One of the issues with moving the high school start time later was that it would push all tiers back later. A direct effect of later start times would be the much later dismissal of the elementary students. A potential dismissal time of 4:40 PM was not favorable as it would push bus routes well after 5:00 PM and thus delivering young students home after dark during the winter months. One solution to this was to combine the Reed and elementary school routes, which resolved the problem of a later dismissal, but inadvertently created another issue... tight time constraints.

Due to schedule conflicts with the school district's teaching union, the elementary schools cannot have staff available until 8:45 AM to take students off of the buses. The buses then have to make their way to Reed School to drop off by 9:00 AM. The problem with this scenario is that it takes approximately 13 – 15 minutes by bus to travel from Head O'Meadow School on Boggs Hill to Reed School. It takes approximately 12 – 14 minutes by bus to travel from Middle Gate School on Cold Spring Road to Reed School. Both areas present obstacles already in that the Head O'Meadow buses run into traffic backed up on Route 302 trying to get through the construction and traffic light at the intersection of Routes 302 & 25. The Middle Gate buses have difficulty in easily turning left from Cold Spring Road onto Route 25 with the amount of traffic travelling north and south along Route 25. Buses from these two areas of town converge on Mile Hill by the south end of Queen Street and it is here where we lose the last few available minutes to reach the rear of Reed School on time.

Many mornings, the line of traffic travelling north along Mile Hill backs up from the light at the intersection of Trades Lane. There are twenty-five buses that have to contend with the line of traffic trying to make a left from Mile Hill/Wasserman Way onto Trades Lane to reach the rear of Reed School. The arrow providing a clear passage left at this intersection lasts for 14 seconds. Once the light changes and opens the path for south-bound traffic from Wasserman Way onto Mile Hill, the line is at a standstill. During the period of 8:55 – 9:00 AM, the volume of traffic coming up Wasserman Way prevents cars and buses from turning left onto Trades Lane, except for the short period of time the arrow provides.

This is the reason for this proposal. We are asking that the buses converging from the south end of town be allowed to turn left from Mile Hill Road into the access gate for Old Farm Road in the morning only between 8:50 and 9:00 AM. By allowing this, we will be able to avoid the traffic tie-up at the intersection of Mill Hill/Wasserman & Trades Lane. This would save us at least 3-5 minutes on some buses, making all buses on-time for Reed School.

This request is for morning access for entrance only onto Reed School's property. All buses will utilize the light at the intersection of Trades Lane & Mile Hill/Wasserman Way for exiting the property and for entrance to the property in the afternoons. All buses travelling from the north to/from Sandy Hook School will utilize the light at the intersection of Wasserman Way & Trades Lane.

In reviewing any potential safety factors (please see attached photos), buses have a clear line of sight north along Mile Hill for any on-coming traffic in order to safely turn left into the access gate for Old Farm Road. South-bound traffic also have ample line of sight to see buses well in advance of this gateway. With the road being in a school zone and a posted speed limit of 25 mph, buses do not have to contend with taking a risk in making this turn.

We have discussed this with the Superintendent's office, the Highway Department and the Town Engineer's Office. All are in favor of opening up access to Old Farm Road to aid in a more-timely arrival of these twenty-five buses. All parties are waiting for the acceptance of this proposal by this commission. It is our hope that this commission will approve our request to assist in the efficiency of the school transportation schedule. Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan T. Colangelo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan T. Colangelo,
Manager, Newtown Terminal
All-Star Transportation

