



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**The Board of Police Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 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, Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari, Joan Plouffe,

**Absent:** Andy Sachs

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

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

**Public Participation:** **Pete Sepe**, 83 Toddy Hill Road thanked the commission for the noticeable police presence on Toddy Hill Road. **Carolyn Sepe**, 83 Toddy Hill Road, asked to be kept informed of the budget, relative to the permanent speed signs, as it goes through the process. **Candide Slinko**, 79 Toddy Hill Road said there has been a lot of police presence that has resulted in slowed down traffic. **Patrick Ross**, 75 Toddy Hill Road said the police presence is unbelievable; he is thrilled.

**Police Union Participation:** Officer Penna reported all is well; no complaints

**Consideration and action on the minutes for January 2, 2018.** Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of February 6, 2018. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

**Chiefs Report:** Capt. Vanghele reported the plan to open **Old Farm Road** for school bus entry has been abandoned. Traffic Agent Chris Harris manually controls the traffic light at the intersection of Wasserman Way and Trades Lane, which gives the approaching buses a green area for the duration needed. Commissioner Faxon noted that Mr. Hurley, Direct or Public Works, looked at Old Farm and noted significant road work would be necessary for bus access. Capt. Vanghele said having a traffic guard available was the best option. Traffic enforcement continues on **Toddy Hill Road**. In February there were 96 motor vehicle stops, which represents 25% of the total motor vehicle stops in the Town for February (384). The stops included 37 infractions and two custodial arrests. The **Police budget** remained in-tact through the Board of Finance process; it goes to the Legislative Council next and those meeting dates are posted on the town website. **Personnel:** Julio Tardim continues to do well and is scheduled to be off Field Training this month. One officer is still out and expected to return in April. Surveys were completed that deal with historical data such as calls for services and personnel strength as well as population and other demographics. Once the contract is complete between the Town and Kaestle Boos the space needs assessment and site selection for the **new facility** will soon follow. SRO Monkton found that approximately six students used the **Exit 11 commuter lot** to park. He warned each one that the lot could not be used for school parking. The High School has sent out a number of reminders also. Commissioner Plouffe stated the email she received said students could park in the lot but needed to be picked up and brought to school. Capt. Vanghele will follow up on this. **Recertification training** has occurred during January, February and March. This one week training is required to remain a certified police officer. Lt. Kullgren is the President of the Fairfield County Police Training Officer's Association, which sponsors the training. Sgt. Scott Ruszczyk presented a stress management class that was an outgrowth of stress management training he attended at Harvard University. **Incidents:** 2/22 Robbery of Red Bull from Big Y, included assault of store security. Suspects apprehended in Waterbury. 2/26, Union Savings Bank robbery, suspect apprehended by Newtown Police on Grand Place. All cash was recovered. 2/22 domestic between two brothers ended in the arrest and seizure of one ounce of cocaine, one pound of marijuana and over \$600 cash. A pistol grip shotgun and ammunition was also seized. Commissioner Faxon stated there is an Awards & Decorations Committee

that will consider recognizing specific officers for an outstanding job. Commissioner Faxon expressed pleasure with the closure rate of these crimes.

**Old Business: Update on Old Farm Road Plan for Reed School Bus Traffic** – item covered under Capt. Vanghele’s report. **Toddy Hill Road Update** – item covered under Capt. Vanghele’s report.

**Correspondence: CDOT Notification on Traffic Signal Improvements:** Commissioner Faxon questioned the Rte. 34/Bennetts Bridge light; the document mentions a pedestrian control features. He asked for more information as to what the final plan is and what the timeframe is.

**New Business:** none.

**Commissioners Participation:** Commission Plouffe received great feedback relative to Officer McGowan.

**Public Participation:** Andy Gorosko, Newtown Bee, asked when the commission and the traffic authority would review the application for 79 Church Hill Road. Commissioner Faxon said that nothing has been submitted yet. There is a multi-step process, when police commission input is required documents will be submitted, there will be a public hearing and questions asked. It hasn’t gotten to that point in the process yet.

Adjournment: Having no further business report of police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek*, Clerk