

**The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 4, 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: Chief James Viadero, Capt. Chris Vanghele, Officers Penna, Greco, Figol, Schoen, Haas and Lieutenant Robinson. Also present were Joseph Steinfeld and five members of the public.

Commissioner Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and announced that the new police department passed referendum. It was an overwhelming victory for all the hard work of the department. The closing on the building and property was November 30.

Capt. Vanghele noted that the department was very small in the early 1970's. Special officers were part time to assist full time officers. Capt. Vanghele recognized Joseph Steinfeld, a special officer, who was a business man, rose to the rank of Chief of the Lake Authority and worked for twenty years in the court system as a sheriff. Special Officer Seinfeld was hired Aug. 1, 1981 as a special officer and retired as the last special officer on Oct. 18, 2018. Capt. Vanghele presented Special Officer Steinfeld with a special plaque in honor of his service. Special Officer Steinfeld stated it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Newtown Police Department, serving under five administration, and thanked Chief Viadero for support and Capt. Viadero for his special guidance and support.

Public Participation: Candide Slinko, 79 Toddy Hill Rd., said that an 18 wheeler was driving Toddy Hill Rd., slowly, but the impatient car behind it passed in close distance to side streets. There is a need for signage to warn people of the side streets or No Passing signs. The road also needs white lines. Chief Viadero has spoken to Public Works on the need for lines now that paving is complete. The speed trailer was taken down during the snow storm of 11/15 and is being repaired. Once it is repaired it will be put back out until winter weather. Pete Sepi, 83, Toddy Hill Rd. thanked the commission and said the speed trailer is missed.

Consideration and action on the minutes of November 6, 2018: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of November 6, 2018. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Consideration and action on the minutes of November 19, 2018: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of November 19, 2018. Commissioner Plouffe seconded with the following correction of typos: strike *as* in the third sentence; strike *is* in the seventh sentence and an apostrophe to Viadero's in the final sentence. All in favor of the amended minutes.

Police Union Participation: Officer Penna reviewed the McCabe report, was pleased with the findings and looks forward to maintaining an healthy relationship with the Chief as well as the Town. It was positive news to see the dramatic change from the 2012 report. Chief Viadero is fine with Officer Penna disseminating the report to the union.

Chief's Report: Chief Viadero reported the body cam program is up and running again; IT is working on some issues. There was a Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, Christmas tree lightings and a food drive. Toys for Tots will be this weekend at Tractor Supply, Queen Street Plaza and in front of TJ Maxx. Polar Express will be shown at the Edmond Town Hall, Movie with a Cop, on Dec. 15. This will be hosted also with Redding and Easton officers. A 15 year old girl traveled from Arab, AL to Newtown to meet

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Town Clerk of Newtown 1:00pm
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

someone she met online. The Department worked hard to locate the girl. Both the girl, and the boy she met, were found at Big Y in Monroe. Budgets are being prepared. In June, Capt. Vanghele is going to Boston for the Police Executive Research Forum, a training seminar for senior management. Lieutenants Kulgren and Robinson are attending the Sacred Heart Leadership Institute. Toddy Hill Road is always a priority. Enforcement continues. The sign program is going forward with the State; some signs will be removed from neighborhoods, while others will be placed in needed areas. The following road projects are almost complete: Rte. 302, Pecks Lane, Edmond Road and the Toddy Hill Road Bridge. The Sergeants test will be administered next Thursday; the oral portion will be in mid January. Capt. Vanghele said the construction company on Walnut Tree is looking to add a second shift in with a goal to complete the project by Dec. 21. The contract states one lane must be maintained. Little Brook Lane has experienced truck traffic; this should be a No Thru Truck area. Button Shop Road is the cut thru road.

Old Business:

Police Building Update: The closing on the police property was November 30. The Board of Selectmen turned the project over to the Public Building and Site Commission. An RFQ is being prepared for a general contractor. There will be a meeting with Kaestle Boos next week. Public Works is working to get the building cleaned out.

Correspondence: none.

New Business:

- a.) **2019 Mt. Pleasant Rd. Resurfacing:** Chief Viadero stated the State of CT will be resurfacing Mt. Pleasant next year from the Town line to West Street; he signed off on center line rumble strips from Rte. 6 to West Street; 2.30 miles. Rte. 34 rumble strips were not done. Commissioner Faxon moved to endorse Chief Viadero's signature on the letter of November 26, 2018 relative to the rumble strips that has been returned to the State. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.
- b.) **Little Brook Lane No Thru Truck Signage:** Commissioner Faxon moved to install No Thru Truck signage on Little Brook Lane in an area that would encourage operation of larger vehicles between Buttonshop and Toddy Hill Road. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.
- c.) **Acceptance of 2019 Meeting Dates:** Commissioner Budd moved to accept the 2019 meeting calendar with the change of the October meeting to October 2nd. (att.) Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Ciccari reported the Commissioner Fund Drive received a \$2,500 donation from Beylouni Colonial Dealerships and DNR also donated \$2,500 as well as some additional radios, for the tactical unit. Chief Viadero suggested presenting them with plaques. Chief Viadero thanked everybody for the outpouring of support from the community for the new Police Department.

Public Participation: Carolyn Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Rd., inquired about the completion date of the Toddy Hill Bridge. Chief Viadero thinks any delay is due to paving; he will check with Fred Hurley.

Candidate Slinko asked about the thru trucks at Button Shop. Chief Viadero said that trucks are not prohibited on Button Shop because of businesses. **Pete Sepi** asked what percentage of traffic tickets goes to the Town. The reply was zero.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report the police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Att: 2019 Meeting Calendar

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Marcinek, Clerk*

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Scott Ciccari
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

2019 Police Commission Meetings
Town Hall South Conference Room
3 Main Street, Newtown, CT
All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

February 5

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 4

July 2

August 6

September 3

October 2

November 5

December 3

January 7, 2020