



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 2019
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. Vanghele, sixteen members of the public and one member of the press.

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

Public Participation: **Bill Duffy**, 17 Pilgrim Lane requested a stop sign at Still Hill Road and Toddy Hill Road, to slow down speeders and reduce passing on double lines. He also said that cars pass school buses and do not obey the speed signs. Mr. Duffy has gathered signatures and is willing to get more. **Chris Capozziello**, 12 Pilgrim Lane said that cars pass buses at a high rate of speed; it's unsafe. The flashing speed signs do not slow speeders down. It's difficult to get out of Pilgrim Lane at certain times of day. Cars need to be slowed down on the straightaways. The road work will generate more traffic. There is no expense to installing stop signs. **Henry Lopez-Cepero**, 60 Toddy Hill Road talked about the history of traffic being diverted through Toddy Hill Road. A state study showed that Toddy Hill Road is unsatisfactory for commercial traffic and the DOT stated the road couldn't support 18-wheelers. There are now 18-wheelers. There used to be a No Thru Truck sign, but there isn't anymore. This is an emotional issue and lives are at stake. He was rear ended, turning into his driveway in 1999. Stop signs or traffic lights are needed. **Lani Lee**, 69 Queen Street, said that cars have run over her mailbox four times in one week. She requested a speed hump or a guard rail. Commissioner Faxon said that this has been looked at for a very long time. There have been engineering studies. The experts said, that based on the design of roadway, input from community, cost and materials, the speed humps, were placed where they belong. The Police Commission rely on the experts in determining the location of the speed humps. Chief Viadero said the site line at the bottom of the hill does not allow for a speed hump in front of Ms. Lee's property. He will talk to Fred Hurley about a guardrail. **Susan Benedetti**, 1 Clearview Road is astonished with the traffic and speeding on Toddy Hill Road; it's an accident waiting to happen, the flashing speed signs do nothing and questioned why Key Rock has speed humps and Toddy Hill doesn't. She said it's a quality of life issue and controlling the speeding will benefit the entire town, not just Toddy Hill residents. **John Crisalli**, 15 Pilgrim Lane suggested smaller permanent signs all along the road. He also agreed a stop sign would be helpful. He stated that the traffic on Toddy Hill Road became heavier after the prison went in. **Tom Mapes**, 82 Toddy Hill Road, supports the comments of his neighbors relative

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Debbie Aurelia Halstead

to 18-wheelers and buses, saying he has seen Charter buses on Toddy Hill Road. There is no reason commercial traffic should be traveling Button Shop or Little Brook Lane either. He agrees more enforcement is needed and a stop sign might be a better solution. **Kim Jaeckel**, 93 Toddy Hill Road said that no signage works to deter truck traffic; something has to be done to control the truck traffic. There is a lack of signage.

Dan Wiedemann, 13 Clearview Drive said that what's been done so far is not working, and while he understands the process, believes something more has to be done. Cars passing school buses is a safety issue.

Commissioner Faxon explained there is a standard set of guidelines for the utilization for traffic control devices; there are protocols for when stop signs can be installed. Generally, thru traffic is not stopped on a main thoroughfare. Enforcement on Toddy Hill Road has been continual. Engineer protocol would say no to stop signs and speed humps. Commissioner Budd said that what's been looked at, over the years, has been enforcement, education and engineering. Engineering is the most expensive component. Chief Viadero and Capt. Vanghele have done everything asked of them. The engineering aspect needs to be looked into, as well as funding, to complete an engineering study. Chief Viadero appreciates the public attendance. Officers are on Toddy Hill Road conducting enforcement. Unfortunately, they can't be everywhere all the time. Stop signs can be used when residents cannot enter the main road from a side street; which is a problem with Pilgrim Lane and Clearview Drive. Chief Viadero also said that Wayz works against the police.

Commissioner Faxon announced that there is a new police vehicle that will be deployed as a result of commission members fundraising efforts. Everyone present left the meeting, temporarily, to look at the Newtown Police Emergency Services vehicle. Chief Viadero thanked Commissioner Cicciari for collecting donations for the Emergency vehicle. Very generous anonymous donations were received.

Police Union Participation: none .

Consideration and action on the minutes of April 2, 2019: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of April 2, 2019. Commissioner Budd seconded. Motion unanimously passed.

Chief's Report: Frasier Woods has requested signage and pavement markings to identify it as a school zone. There was an attempted ATM robbery at Sunoco on Main Street. A Sergeant pursued a suspect until speeds were too high. The stolen vehicle was recovered in Waterbury and processed by Newtown PD. Officers were commended. The budget is right on track. Lt. Kullgren has been doing a good job getting the officers needed training; there has been leadership training and supervisory training. There was a conference that focused on officer wellness and mental health. It was well received and well attended. Sgt. Ruszczyk and Lt. Kullgren are involved with SMART (Stress Management and Resiliency Training), a program that was developed at Harvard, geared to trauma physicians and military medical personnel. They are presenting throughout the state as well as training our officers. This is Distracted Driver Enforcement month. Senator Hwang held a forum at the Edmond Town Hall. Town enforcement, in the last two weeks, includes 129 cell phone violations, 72 infractions, 3 misdemeanor summons, 1 DUI and 2 under suspension. A total of 108 man hours was focused on distracted driving enforcement.

Old Business:

- a.) **Police Building Update:** The project is into the final design with Kaestle Boos; working on security systems, finishes and little details. Value engineering is being done, which is a normal process during the building phase. Interior pre-demolition will begin in June; the area will be fenced in and construction will begin in July. The anticipated date of occupancy is September 2020.
- b.) **Traffic Signage Request – Longview Heights:** Chief Viadero said some signs are in place as a result of a complaint about Ferris Creamery parking. The situation will be monitored.
- c.) **Rural Curved Road Project (State DOT):** Chief Viadero shared a revised, update plan for the state curved road. Signage has been toned down; implementation of signs will begin in June.
- d.) **State Road Paving Projects:** not discussed

Correspondence: Letters of Appreciation: none.

New Business:

- a.) **Policy Discussion (Reserve Officers-Updated Policy of Special Officers):** There is a demand for extra duty officers in various areas of town. Retiring officers who want to continue to work can be employed for these jobs. The benefit is using Newtown officers. Revenues received by using Newtown officers will go into the General Fund. The policy is well thought out; the commitment is on the officer. The officers need to keep their certification on their own. Compensation comes through the town after invoicing the contractor; fees attached for the vehicles will be retained by the town. A section on compensation will be added to the policy. Chief Viadero will make revision and bring back to the commission.

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Cicciari thanked Ron & the Town Line Auto Body crew for work and generous donations. He also thanked Melissa and David Beylouni and the Colonial group for their donations and help as well as Don from DNR for radios and donations. There was also a generation anonymous donation. Officer Hayes was the point person working with Commissioner Cicciari. Chief Viadero said that the vehicle was donated by Newtown Ambulance and completely covered by donations with no cost to the Town. Commissioner Budd commended Chief Viadero for running and directing the conference. Newtown was well represented in a highly professional and credible manner.

Public Participation: Pete Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Road, thanked the commission for all they do. The sentiments heard tonight are the rumblings heard all the time.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report the police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 8:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Susan Marcinek, Clerk*