



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, October 6, 2020
Council Chamber, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown

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

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

Also Present: Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele (via phone), and eight members of the public.

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

Public Participation: **Joe Wasik**, 82 Engleside Terrace spoke about the parking issue in his neighborhood. Neighbors do not have a driveway, cars are parked in the road and worked on in the road. It's a small road with no room to turn around. Mr. Wasik has a driveway but has difficulty accessing it. Chief Viadero said he is talking to Land Use about a slot of land in that area, but isn't confident it can be used for parking. Chief Viadero has talked to DPW about mowing the site line and will further talk to Fred Hurley about the reason for not allowing parking. Mr. Wasik was advised to continue to call the PD when conditions exist. **Pete Sepi**, 83 Toddy Hill Road is grateful for what's happened on Toddy Hill Road but voiced concern over the removal of the speed trailers in winter. He noted there was a lot of passing near the speed trailer because patch paving covered the yellow stripes and asked if that section could be re-striped. Chief Viadero will speak to Fred Hurley. He also stated the speed trailer will be kept out as long as weather permits. Chief Viadero is talking to the First Selectman about possibly adding one more fixed speed device, like the ones currently there. **Carolyn Sepi**, 83 Toddy Hill Road said they were passed on the way to the meeting. She asked if speed control devices would be placed across the road. **Bill Duffy**, 17 Pilgrim Lane has noticed a lot of speeders in the last two weeks. He is amazed there aren't more accidents with the high risk passing. Mr. Duffy asked if cameras could be used in certain areas. Chief Viadero stated there is no state statute in CT that allows for that. **Susan Doyle**, 75 Toddy Hill Road said there seemed to be a lack of police presence around town. Chief Viadero stated they are still out there, responding to calls and continuing enforcement.

Police Union Participation: none.

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of Sept. 1, 2020. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Sworn officers are being interviewed for the current vacancy. There will be two additional vacancies in July 2021 due to retirements. Candidates are being interviewed for those positions. A plan is being put together to get them into the academy sooner in order to fill the positions. The test for the vacant detective position will be given at the beginning of the year. Activity levels are increasing; COVID protocols remain in place.

Rec'd. for Record 10.7.2020
Town Clerk of Newtown 11:15am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

Old Business:

a.) Police Building Update: The police building is 90% complete. The Certificate of Occupancy is expected the first week of November. Work is being done with vendors relative to infrastructure, AV equipment, phones. Transferring to the building will be done in segments. Commutations will move early next year and are the last unit to transfer. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house in late October. The department is up to date on Policies relative to the Accountability Bill. The April 2021 implementation of the Use of Force policy is aggressive; hands on training and classroom training is required. Due to COVID restrictions the number of officers trained at one time is limited; they are looking to push back the implementation date.

Correspondence: Chairman Faxon is appreciative of the supportive letters and notes from community members. There is a strong level of support for the Police Department.

New Business: none.

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Plouffe stated that she spoke to an aide of Chris Murphy. While he supports the SRO program he is moving forward to use the federal funding for SRO's for social workers. Newtown SRO program is not federally funded and therefore will not be effected.

Public Participation: none.

Executive Session – Personnel Matters: Commissioner Cicciari moved to enter into executive session for personnel matters per state statute 1-200 (6a) to discuss performance/employment of a public employee and to invite Chief Viadero and Capt. Vanghele (via phone) to join. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. When asked, Chief Viadero noted the employee was informed and requested the meeting be held in executive session. All in favor. Executive session was entered into at 6:58p.m. and returned to regular session at 7:11p.m. with no motion taken.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report the police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk