



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, November 3, 2020

This meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 mandates and precautions and lack of appropriate space due to Election Day

### 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 and Capt. Vanghele

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Police Union Participation:** none.

**Consideration and action on the minutes:** Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of Oct. 6, 2020. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

**Chief's Report:** Three zoom meetings bombings, with racial slurs are being investigated as serious incidents. Sworn officers are being vetted for consideration to fill the current vacancy. Additional candidates are being vetted now to be admitted to the academy in anticipation of the upcoming vacancies. Chief Viadero expects to be ready to bring the certified candidates to the commission before Thanksgiving; the non-certified candidates in December. Upcoming training includes annual firearms qualifications. Officers continue to follow COVID-19 protocols. As numbers rise more officers have had to quarantine for fourteen days due to secondary exposure. No officers have tested positive. Three Ford Explorers are being outfitted and up fitted from prior budget year due to delay in delivery of new models. There are three from this budget for a total of six frontline patrol cars. Budget time is approaching. The budget process goes through the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Legislative Council in January, February and March.

#### Old Business:

**a.) Police Building Update:** The certificate of occupancy is expected on Nov. 4. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Nov. 7; attendance will be limited due to COVID-19. Furniture is due Nov. 9, with assembly on Nov. 10. The department will work out of both buildings for a while. Officers, unit by unit, are expected to move the week of Nov. 16; administration will be the last to move. Communications will move to the new building in March, 2021. Officers are at the polls today.

**Commissioner Participation:** Commissioner Chaudhary received a call from a resident who lives at the corner near the flagpole saying that accidents are increasing at the flagpole. Chief Viadero hasn't noticed an increase but will look at the data. Any striping in that area was due to the resurfacing of Rte. 25. Over

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Town Clerk of Newtown 9:40am  
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

the years there have been studies and meetings relative to the flagpole. Chief Viadero will follow up with Fred Hurley. Chairman Faxon recalled anything relative to a redesign, versus striping, painting or surface changes did not rank very high with the state. The hope of a safety redesign is not something the Town should anticipate from the state. Chief Viadero agreed with Chairman Faxon's recall. The Town provided the state with updated traffic data. Commissioner Ciccari asked if the commission petitions the state for a guardrail on Rte. 25 in the area of Kings Restaurant. The department and the First Selectman have been proactive in talking to the state about concerns in that area. The older building was not subject to newer zoning changes and the road redesign brought the road right up to the building. Preliminary conversations with zoning determined if there is a rebuild, it will not be that close to the road. Commissioner Ciccari asked about the road striping plans, saying the commission typically has a plan from DPW by now. Chief Viadero noted the highway department is behind schedule due to the August storm and is working hard to complete paving before the asphalt plants close for the winter. Striping is done last. Commissioner Plouffe said Taunton Hill was paved a year ago and isn't striped. Chief Viadero will connect with Fred Hurley. Chief Viadero gave an update on the Engleside Terrace issue resident Joe Wasik presented to the commission at the Oct. 6 meeting. Nobody is opposed to neighbors parking on the strip of land. Chief will reach out to Mr. Wasik and let him know the land can be used as long as all the neighbors are in agreement.

**Public Participation:** none.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business to report Commissioner Ciaciari moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the police commissioners at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek, Clerk*