



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners

Regular Meeting, Tuesday, March 2, 2021

This meeting was held remotely due to COVID-19 mandates and precautions

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, Officer Lorancitis, one member of the public and one member of the press.

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Public Participation: none.

Police Union Participation: Officer Lorancitis said the traffic enforcement is increasing. The union is working with the administration on procedures in the booking area. Chairman Faxon expressed appreciation for the report and union representation at the meeting.

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of February 2, 2021. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Chief Viadero noted that the communications division will move from 3 Main Street to the new PD facility on March 16. Booking will be up and running once communications is in the building. Vendors are going over technology issues. There will be a meeting tomorrow about the booking area policy. Officers have received the second shot of the COVID-19 vaccination. Relative to the one detective vacancy, officers were given the opportunity to work a three month rotation to get an idea of the job. Testing is anticipated to be in May or June. The implementation of the Use of Force portion of the Police Accountability bill was to be April 2021. After testimony before the judiciary committee and deliberation, POST council has asked for a stay of implementation until April 2022. The lesson plan will be universal, sanctioned by POST and everybody will be trained the exact same way. Chief Viadero acknowledged the work of Lieutenant Kullgren involving online training of officers; all officers that were due for their training cycle are up to speed because of the ability to take the online training. The body cameras are four years old; the department is looking to transition to a new vendor with a model that can be used with the current server. A 22 year old male resident died in a motor vehicle accident on Toddy Hill Road. Preliminary investigations do not show speed was a factor. The investigation is on going. Capt. Vanghele said that along with the motor vehicle fatality, the midnight shift responded to a suicide. There is a direct relationship with the EAP provider, who came in early to talk to the shift for initial counseling. There haven't been any COVID-19 cases or quarantined officers since January. 96% of the department have received both doses of the vaccine. COVID protocols remain in place. Chief Viadero thanked Capt. Vanghele on the management of personnel relative to COVID in the past few months.

Rec'd. for Record 4-1 20 21
Town Clerk of Newtown 830am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

On behalf of the board, Chairman Faxon expressed most heartfelt condolences to the family of the young man who passed away on Toddy Hill Road. Additionally, he appreciates the resiliency of the men and woman of the department who deal with impactful calls.

Old Business: Commissioner Cicciari asked about status of the flag pole or exit 11 activity. Chief Viadero said this was diverted to Fred Hurley, who is working with WestCOG. They have the information on studies that were done.

Chairman Faxon noted that as the traffic authority for the Town the most important goal is to ensure traffic safety is paramount in the way that roads are maintained. The findings of report on the fatal MVA will be reviewed to determine if there's something that needs to be done as far as traffic safety.

Correspondence: none.

New Business:

Personnel update: The new recruit, Peter Wlasuk is doing well. Most training has been remote via zoom but he has also gone to POST in Meriden for hands on training. He should be in Meriden full time sometime in March. The second hire is waiting POST council approval on certification; that is anticipated to be March 11. Candidates are still being vetted for another vacancy.

Commissioner Participation: Commissioner Cicciari asked about the bar that is always up at the new police facility on S. Main St. Chief Viadero said it is not being utilized right now as it is tied to the communications division. The operation is from the communication console or from an officer's car. The infrastructure connected to the console will be operational when the communication division is on site. Commissioner Cicciari said his heart goes out to the men and women working the midnight shift, with back to back deaths.

Public Participation: **Pete Sepi**, 83 Toddy Hill Road thanked the commission for the police presence on Toddy Hill road, it is needed as the speed is terrific.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report Commissioner Chaudhary moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners at 6:52 p.m. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk