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Joel Faxon
Andrew Sachs
Scott Cicciari
Neil Chaudhary
Joan Plouffe

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

**The Board of Police Commissioners
Special Meeting, Wednesday, September 8, 2021
191 South Main Street, Newtown
Conference Room**

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 Lorancaitis, one members of the public and three candidates who entered the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

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

Public Participation: Lois Barber, 33 Zoar Road voiced concern about there not being a legal right turn lane in Sandy Hook Center. Chief Viadero explained Church Hill Road is a state road, marked as is per data; there isn't enough traffic/accident data for the state to change it. Chairman Faxon advised Ms. Barber to contact the CT DOT as this is a state road that runs into a town road. Ms. Barber also voiced concern about minimal room to make a left turn on to Toddy Hill Road when coming down Rte. 34. Chairman Faxon stated the state has a big project planned for that area and nothing will be done until that time. Ms. Barber is also concerned with Buttonshop Road to Main Street; she would like a right turn only lane. Lastly, she would like the flagpole moved up a block to in front of the Edmond Town Hall. Chairman Faxon explained there have been many discussions relative to the flagpole and it is statutorily protected. Chief Viadero recognized Ms. Barber as the person responsible for donating many flags to the Capitol building and to officers who are veterans. The flag presented to Officer Ketchum's wife was provided through the efforts of Lois Barber.

Police Union Participation: Officer Lorancaitis reported everything is status quo and the union is happy there are new hires, with no delay, to fill the vacancies.

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of August 10, 2021. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Chief's Report: It has been a busy month. A robbery on Main Street is being investigated; it is believed to be an isolated incident. There was a fatal motor vehicle accident on Head O' Meadow/Castle Hill. Traffic continues to be a concern in Town and on the highway; gridlock due to motor vehicles accidents. There have been daily discussions with DOT. The detective promotion is moving forward in the next weeks, interviewing those who passed the test. Dr. McCabe will present on body worn camera program at the October meeting. There is grant money for variable warning/speed warning signs. There will be further discussions as to locations; Toddy Hill Road remains a concern. Area construction companies have been put on warning for using that as a cut through. A couple of roads were washed out by the storm. Tip a Cop raised \$2,400 for Special Olympics. Newtown Action Alliance will sponsor a gun buy back on Oct. 16. New Haven, Derby, Waterbury, Guilford and Branford will also hold gun buy backs on that day. The CT

Rec'd. for Record 9-10-2021
Town Clerk of Newtown 11:00am
Debbie Annelia Halstead

Police Commissioner Association will hold a dinner on Sept. 29. The association will honor two Chiefs and a number of police officers. Lt. Rich Robinson and Sgt. Scott Ruszczyk will be recognized for their work with officer wellness and training officers in CT, RI, MA and (virtually) OK on HART 911. Chairman Faxon highly recommends the commissioners attend the CT Police Commission Association dinner saying it is very well attended and informative with an excellent presentation. An Auto Theft Task Force will be formed with area towns to address auto thefts and juvenile crimes, with funding allocated from the state. Bridgeport will be the hub, with the most money. Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull, Monroe, Westport, Newtown and Fairfield will partner together. The program will run for three months. One officer will be dedicated to the task force. Chief Viadero explained it has been problematic to get information from juvenile justice on juveniles involved in auto thefts. That information is now readily freed up, allowing for the opportunity to receive the information quickly. There is a core group of individuals involved in auto thefts; if repeat offenders can be identified the activity can be curtailed. No parking signs will be put in on Turkey Hill Road; it's a narrow road creating a problem for cars to get through. The state is looking at site line issues at Zoar Road.

Capt. Vanghele said the 50th Anniversary of the Newtown Police Department will be held on Oct. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Retired officers will be invited to attend. The awards ceremony for the department is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 21 at 5:00pm.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

a.) Candidate Interview

Chairman Faxon advised the candidate that the interview may be held in Executive Session. All three candidates elected executive session.

Commissioner Cicciari moved to enter Executive Session per CT General State Statute 1-200(6a) and invited Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele and the three candidates, for only the portion pertaining to them, to join. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Executive Session was entered into at 6:59pm and returned to regular session at 9:41pm with the following motions:

Commissioner Sachs moved to rank the candidates. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. Motion passed 3-2 (Cicciari and Plouffe not in favor).

Commissioner Sachs moved to offer a patrol officer position to Barry Hyvarien. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Participation: none.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report Chairman Faxon moved to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners at 9:43p.m. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk