

191 S. MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
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Joel Faxon
Brian Budd
Scott Cicciari
Neil Chaudhary
Joan Plouffe

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 7, 2021
191 South Main Street, Newtown
Conference Room

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

Present: Joel Faxon, Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari, Neil Chaudhary, Joan Plouffe

Also Present: Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele, First Selectman Rosenthal, Officer McCarthy, Officer Figol, seven members of the public and one member of the press.

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

Election of Chairman: Commissioner Plouffe nominated Joel Faxon as Chairman. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. Chairman Faxon appreciated and accepted the nomination saying the commission is an apolitical body working together to support the Town and the Police Department. All in favor.

Election of Vice Chairman: Commissioner Plouffe nominated Brian Budd as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. Commissioner Budd noted the commission has an apolitical agenda working for the betterment of the Town and the department. All in favor.

Add to Agenda: Commissioner Chaudhary moved to add to the agenda, an executive session, for discussion of personnel matters. Commissioner Faxon seconded. All in favor.

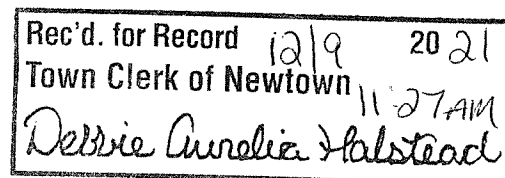
Public Participation:

Alexa Larson spoke about problems with narcissism, competitions and stalking. She has experienced public safety crimes and vandalism.

Greg Pategas, 126 Toddy Hill Rd., asked if there was any follow up to his concerns with the flagpole area. Chief Viadero has spoken to the state, they are reluctant to hashing due to parking in the area. Mr. Pategas has spoken to Rep. Bolinsky; Chief Viadero will contact Rep. Bolinsky.

Pete Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Rd., said progress is being made on Toddy Hill Road and he remains thankful for police efforts. He questioned the additional speed trailers. Chief Viadero explained that the newer unit is a lesser model, from the state, that doesn't pick up vehicles as far away as the more sensitive more expensive ones but feels the units are still covering the area well.

Police Union Participation: none.



Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2021. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

Chief's Report: Two traffic studies were shared with the commission, one on South Main Street at intersection of Country Club Road and one at Sugar Street/Head of Meadow intersection. The Country Club Road recommendation is to add hash marks on South Main Street to indicate vehicles cannot block the intersection. Chairman Faxon asked the Chief to let the state know the commission is interested in safety on Rte. 25. Recommendations for the Sugar Street concern is that signage is adequate and no additional signage is necessary. Traffic enforcement has been busy; there has been an extra effort to have a presence in schools after issues in neighboring communities and schools. The Auto Theft Task Force held a press conference on November 24. There has been a spectacular effort in educating, making arrest and recovering stolen motor vehicles. The funding expires on 12/31/21. The State has been asked to extend funding efforts. Staff has provided shift coverage for the City of Danbury for funeral detail; two Danbury officers recently passed away. Exit 11 construction is in full swing; there will be activity for the next 1 ½-2 years. Five officers have expressed interest in the SRO opening. Interviews will be conducted the week of December 20 with the Superintendent and the Principal of the High School.

Old Business:

Personnel Update: Barry Hyvarian will be on his own in a week. Frank Piazza is doing well in FTO. Amanda Lopez is doing well at the Waterbury Academy. We are fortunate to have officers; other departments are struggling with keeping departments at full staff.

Approval of the 2022 Meeting Calendar: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the 2022 meeting calendar, striking the July 5 meeting and changing the October meeting to October 11, 2022 (amended calendar attached). Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Participation: Commissioner Cicciari reported he received an email from a resident of Summit Road concerned about the increasingly busy and dangerous area at Main Street and Currituck Road. Chairman Faxon said that past flagpole studies included that area; it is up to the state to decide. The Police Commission has raised concerns; he recommends residents reach out to the State Representatives and CT DOT directly on matters of state roads. Commissioner Chaudhary thanked Captain Vanghele for the 50th anniversary event. Also, as a reminder, Commissioner Chaudhary noted this is deer crash season; decreasing speed is helpful. Chairman Faxon welcomed Brian Budd back to the board saying his perspective, as a police officer, is important. Chairman Faxon also congratulated Commissioner Cicciari on his re-election to the commission.

Executive Session: Commissioner Cicciari moved to enter executive session per CT General State Statute 1-200(6a) to discuss personnel and invited Chief Viadero and First Selectman Rosenthal to attend. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. Executive session was entered into at 7:02 p.m. and returned to regular session at 7:42 p.m. with no motion and the following announcement: Chief Viadero announced he has been offered a position as the Chief Inspector in the States Attorney General's office, particularly the Inspector General's office. After a lot of thought Chief

Viadero has decided to accept the position, effective end of January, and has shared the news with staff. Chief Viadero is humbled to serve with the officers and serve the community he lives in. Commissioner Budd said that the commission and the Town appreciates the direction Chief Viadero has put the department in under his leadership. It is unfortunate Newtown is losing Chief but Commissioner Budd understands the value of the position he will have for all law enforcement in the State of CT, not just in Newtown. Capt. Vanghele thanked Chief Viadero. He came in after a dark time, when Capt. Vanghele was in law enforcement for over twenty years. Under the Chiefs leadership, and ability to put people first, Capt. Vanghele felt refreshed. He is grateful and humbled to have been second in command to a leader like Jim. Commissioner Cicciari said he felt blessed to have served on the commission with Chief Viadero and the department is better off for having him. Commissioner Plouffe is impressed with what Chief Viadero has done with the department and incredibly grateful. She is proud of him, happy for him and sorry to see him go. Commissioner Chaudhary is newer to the commission and all is status quo, although he does appreciate all Chief Viadero has done. First Selectman Rosenthal stated the night he was elected to the Police Commission in 2015 was the same night the then Police Commission announced the hiring of Chief Viadero. First Selectman Rosenthal had the pleasure of working with Jim on the commission for two years and four years as First Selectman. He considers Jim a close friend and has great respect for him. He is happy for Chief Viadero; all the reason we are sad to see Jim go are all the reasons First Selectman Rosenthal is optimistic about the future of the department. Losing, arguably, the best Chief in the state, we are not in the situation of having to resurrect the department from the ashes. We are well poised to bring in a new leader. It is a department someone would want to be a part of and that is thanks to Chief Viadero. Chairman Faxon has been on the board for eleven years, having served in times of great distress, difficulties and turmoil. To come out of that with an extraordinary Chief to bring the department and agency to where it is now, in a spectacular building, with a full staff of well trained, responsive staff, with lack of grievances, results in a very positive environment. This is what will have the most longevity of what Chief Viadero has done; the work environment, and the respect for the people who work for this agency, is second to none. This is a testament to the Chiefs ability to lead. The job he will take on at the state likely doesn't exist in the USA and there is no better person to set the mold for that kind of job.

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Att: 2022 meeting calendar

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk

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2022 Police Commission Meetings
Conference Room
191 South Main Street, Newtown, CT
All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 4

February 1

March 1

April 5

May 3

June 7

No July meeting

August 2

September 6

October 11

November 1

December 6

January 3, 2023