

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

**The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 4, 2022
191 South Main Street, Newtown
Conference Room**

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

Present: Joel Faxon, Neil Chaudhary, Joan Plouffe

Present via teleconference: Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari

Also Present: Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele, Officer McCarthy, Officer Figol, Lieutenant Kullgren and three members of the public

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Add to Agenda: Commissioner Faxon moved to amend the agenda to include the appointment of the personnel search committee consisting of the five member of the Board of Police Commissioners with the Administrative Subcommittee of Scott Cicciari and Brian Budd pursuant to state statutes 1-200(2) and 1-200(7), Commissioner Plouffe seconded, all in favor.

Public Participation: Alexa Larson spoke about rigging when victims make reports and problems with stalkers.

Police Union Participation: None

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Chaudhary moved to approve the minutes of the 12/7/21 meeting, Commissioner Plouffe seconded. Commissioner Budd made a correction, 9 lines up from Adjournment, the word poisoned should be poised. All in favor with correction.

Commissioner Chaudhary moved to approve the minutes of the 12/22/21 with corrections, Commissioner Plouffe seconded. Commissioner Chaudhary explained that they may have had an executive session that they shouldn't have. He suggested adding all the information from the executive session to the minutes for transparency. The additional information is as follows: The commission discussed whether a master's degree should be required for the position. It was decided to keep the requirement as a bachelors because of the language under Licenses and

Certificate included POSTC certification and FBI National Academy or equivalent as being required. Commissioners agreed that during candidate comparisons commissioners could use degree as a tool to weight candidates.

Also discussed was the language requiring the candidates must reside within Newtown or within a certain distance from Newtown. The language was kept as 25 miles and commissioners agreed that during candidate comparisons commissioners could use proximity as a tool to weight candidates.

The commission also discussed whether 5-years of command experience was sufficient given that the language in the posting of the prior chief requested 7 years. The discussion included information that 5-years of command experience is typically preceded by many years of law enforcement experience. The language in the posting was changing to include at least 15 years of full-time professional law enforcement experience and at least 5-years as a senior police commander.

The commission discussed hiring from within versus outside the PD. There was no consensus on this topic as it was deemed that this was something that could not be known without seeing who the applicants were.

All in favor of accepted the minutes with the addition.

Chief's Report: Chief Viadero reported that it has been a busy month as far as closing out business and the budget. They were able to interview SRO's before Christmas. They had three good candidates. The person who they are choosing will be mirroring Officer Monckton who is also a member of the detectives unit. The Chief and the Captain have been working on preparing the Sargent and Lieutenant exams which should be ready in two to three weeks. Last month, they did a Cultural Competency training which was conducted by Dr. Lorenzo Boyd, Founder and President of Renz Consulting and also a Professor at UNH. Operation Wing Span funding expired on 12/31/21. The project hasn't gone through the wayside but the funding has. In the three months they were part of the program, they were very successful recovering vehicles and weapons. Currently, the department is undergoing staffing situations. There are officers with Covid and there are other officers that are tested on a day to day basis. There are a number of order in's to keep staffing level.

Capitan Vanghele read his letter of resignation. He will be leaving the Town on January 30, 2022. He is going to Plainville to be the Chief of Police. The Chief said he was thankful for his work and support through the years. All Commissioners wished him well on his new endeavor and thanked him for the work and selfless acts.

OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Update: Covered in Chief's report

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Selection Committee Update: Commissioner Faxon moved to appoint a personnel search committee consisting of the five members of the Board of Police Commission with an administrative subcommittee of Commissioner Cicciari and Commissioner Budd pursuant to statute 1-200(2) and 1-200(7), Commissioner Plouffe seconded. Commissioner Faxon explained that this was the same process used as they did last time so there is a precedence. The Administrative Subcommittee meetings are not nonmeetings, do not need to be noticed, there is no public and no minutes. It is useful technically when it comes to resumes that are FOIable. A large swath of personal files are available with a FOI request, the exemption for personnel files that would be an invasion of privacy. There could be a legal opinion whether certain material qualifies for privacy. If they go forward on this, anything that can be discussed in public should be brought into a meeting and discussed. The interviews would be executive session if the candidate chooses. The concept is you can have conversations that are not on the public record. That doesn't mean that some of those conversation can't be discussed in a public meeting. We may want to executive sessions at our meetings because anything in executive sessions cannot be discussed outside of the session. All in favor

Correspondence: Commissioner Chaudhary received correspondence he forwarded to members. Commissioner Plouffe received correspondence from someone that is concerned about the Chiefs selection.

Commissioners Participation: None

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Miles, Clerk Pro-Tem