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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, February 1, 2022  
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 Kullgren, First Selectman Rosenthal, various officers, both on and off duty, Chief Viadero, eight members of the public and one member of the press.

Chief Viadero said it was an honor to have David Kullgren step into the position, someone with talent, from the inside, to rise to the next level and be Chief of Police.

Chief Kullgren was sworn in by Assistant Town Clerk Renee Weimann. Chief Kullgren said it is an honor and a privilege to serve the community in different capacities. He thanked Chief Viadero, as a mentor, saying he and the department wouldn't be where they are without the leadership of Chief Viadero, putting people first, making the officers better and in turn making the community better. Chief Kullgren is excited and looks forward to working with everyone and also together with the community.

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:33p.m. and recognized the importance of the swearing in ceremony, noting it is something that doesn't happen in this town often. This is a testimony to the quality of the department and the individuals that have held the position of Chief. Chairman Faxon expressed thanks to departed Chief Viadero for all that he's done for the department, the town, the agency, the building and for his friendship, as they served together on the Police Commission. Chairman Faxon looks forward to continuing the established tradition in keeping the department in harmony within the building, peace in the town and safety for the citizens. Vice Chairman Budd said a lot of hard work went into the decision, there were impressive candidates. Chief Kullgren deserves where he is today and Vice Chairman Budd looks forward to working with him.

**Public Participation:** Greg Pategas, 126 Toddy Hill Road said that last he heard was relative to Representative Bolinsky and another traffic study at the flagpole. The commission is unaware of this information. The Town did a study years ago, any further study will be done by the state. Chairman Faxon will reach out to Representative Bolinsky. Chief Viadero said Representative Bolinsky was going to come out with a document asking about information on a study of 302 and the flagpole. He's looking to put together an informational newsletter once he talks to CTDOT on behalf of the town. **Carol Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Road** congratulated Chief Kullgren, looks forward to working with him relative to enforcement on Toddy Hill Road. She asked if the speed radar can be adjusted as smaller vehicles aren't detected as soon as larger trucks. Chief Kullgren said radar will pick up the largest signal. He will have the traffic unit make sure it is aligned properly.

Rec'd. for Record 2/2 2022  
Town Clerk of Newtown 11:20 am  
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

**Police Union Participation:** none.

**Consideration and action on the minutes:** Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 6, 2022, and the special meetings of January 18, 2022 and January 25, 2022. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Kullgren reported the traffic unit looked into a complaint in the area of Crick Trail and Narragansett. The recommendation is to leave as is. Cricket Trail is a private road; Narragansett is a Town road. There are no traffic or speed counts on a private road. Traffic is estimated to be at 150 cars a day; not a high volume. Chairman Faxon said people need to take care and be aware of their surroundings. Vice Chairman Budd appreciates the five year data, showing no accidents. Commissioner Chaudhary noted it is an unusual four way intersection with a single stop sign. Both Commissioner Cicciari and Commissioner Plouffe agree that based on the cost of a stop sign one can be put opposite of the existing stop sign. Commissioner Cicciari believes it is warranted. Upon further discussion Chairman Faxon agreed. Chief Kullgren noted a middle ground would be a sign stating that vehicles coming from the opposite direction do not have to stop. Sgt. Silver explained the existing stop sign is placed at the end where houses are. A motion was made, and seconded, to add discussion and action on Cricket Trail to the agenda. With further discussion it was decided this item will be put on the next agenda and in the interim Chief Kullgren will speak to Fred Hurley about researching the origin of the existing stop sign. Chief Kullgren continued his Chief's report by commending the midnight shift for responding quickly to a break in at the CVS drive thru, apprehending the suspect. Officer Frank Piazza will complete field training in early March. Officer Amanda Lopez will complete the academy on May 5 and begin field training. The hiring process for vacancies has begun with a closing date of Feb. 21. Chief Kullgren and Chief Viadero attended a dedication and community training at Fairfield's Sacred Heart Theater. The organization builds bridges between the community and police departments. There were focus groups with community members of different background and ethnicities to discuss common issues facing the nation right now.

**New Business:**

**a. Potential vote for appointment of a Personnel Search Committee for the executive level position of Captain pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200(2) & (7):** Chairman Faxon explained that creating a personnel search committee is legal per the Freedom of Information Act. Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept and create a personnel search committee for the executive level position of Captain pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200 (2) & (7). The members will include the Police Commission, Chief Kullgren and ex officio member Dan Rosenthal. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

**Correspondence:** A letter of praise for Officer Tardim and Officer McCarthy was received relative to a person in distress. Chairman Faxon appreciates that citizens recognize the good work of the officers and asked Chief Kullgren to commend the officers.

**Commissioner Participation:** Commissioner Chaudhary asked that an agenda item be added relative to including letters and emails to the minutes.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek, Clerk*