



New Business:

a. Consideration and Action on the Position of Captain: Commissioner Budd moved to offer Bryan Bishop a conditional offer of employment as the position of Captain for the Newtown Police Department. Commission Cicciari seconded. Chairman Faxon noted that Bryan Bishop presented an impressive resume with a long list of achievements at the Danbury Police Department. He has interacted with members of the Newtown Police Department. The Commission was very impressed with the oral and written presentation. The motion unanimously passed. Capt. Bishop stated he is honored to have the opportunity and looks forward to working with staff and the community. Chief Kullgren said that Capt. Bishop will be an asset to the department and the decision to hire him was made with the department in mind. The process now is dictated by POST as statutorily required. Capt. Bishop will undergo a polygraph, physical, medical, psychological evaluation as well as a back ground check over the next three weeks. This is required for a person going from one agency to another.

b. Public Works Director Fred Hurley (Cricket Trail Discussion): Fred Hurley explained the legal definition of the private area roads are non-standard public roadways. Shady Rest and Rowledge Pond still has control of the roadway, as they block it off once a year. The roads are maintained to be accessible to emergency vehicles. Chairman Faxon said that under the Highway Defect Statute, holds the party bound to keep the roadway in repair is the party that can be held liable if there is a highway defect that is the sole proximate cause of an injury. Rob Sibley handled any land transfers in private communities. Reasonable repair includes markings and signage. Commissioner Budd asked if the MUTCD standards apply to a non-standard public roadway. Commissioner Cicciari suggested a phased approach: Phase 1, address the immediate need of a potential safety issue; Phase 2, evaluate deficiencies and cost. The DPW will work under the egis of the Traffic Unit to survey the need for stop signs. It will be a long term project. Mr. Hurley will research the legal opinion on the responsibility of the Town. Enforcement actions are enforceable provided stop sign and speed limit is approved by the local traffic authority and the state. Commissioner Cicciari said this is around safety and should incorporate safety signs and caution signs. Chief Kullgren said there was a survey of all the Cricket Trail should be incorporated into the entire discussion. He also wants to understand the legal opinion on the Commission responsibility. Commissioner Cicciari said there is a concern raised now about an intersection with safety concerns with a sign that was manually put in, unapproved and not legal. Chairman Faxon moved to erect stop signs in each direction at the intersection of Cricket and Narragansett ON Cricket Trail – two approved Newtown stop signs. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

c. Traffic Issue Questions from the Community: Chief Kullgren reported an accident at Sugar Street and Head O' Meadow involved Farm equipment that ran a stop sign. There was a request for traffic control signs on Rte. 302. There is no accident history related to farm equipment. Per MUTCD guidelines there is enough signage. One resident on Enclave requested a traffic light. It doesn't qualify for light; resident was advised to go to the State DOT. There was a request for a stop sign at Rte. 302 and Hattertown; this is not compliant or appropriate; under the appropriate practices a stop sign is not put in the middle of the road. The recent accident involved an impaired driver. Commissioner Chaudhary inquired about the legality of passing on the right on a paved shoulder. Chief Kullgren said passing on the right is not legal if there are markings to identify travel lanes.

d. Discussion Concerning Handling Emails/Written Correspondence to the Commission: Chairman Faxon spoke to Tom Hennick of Freedom of Information (FOIA); there is no requirement to append to the minutes. If a resident wants something appended they can attend the monthly meeting and submit the attachment. Commissioner Chaudhary felt an email could be attached to the minutes if the sender requests it to be. Commissioner Budd felt if the email was relative to a safety or security issue it would be something important and be agenda worthy. Commissioner Plouffe felt that an email should be attached to the minutes without requiring a resident to attend a meeting. Commissioner Cicciari suggested updating the Police Commission page on the Town website. After further discussion it was decided the website would be updated to read: If you wish to submit any written materials to the commission, to be considered for the minutes, please attend the Board of Police Commissioners meeting the first Tuesday of each month.

Correspondence: none.

Commissioner Participation: Commissioner Chaudhary will be absent from the April 5 meeting; Commissioner Ciccari will phone in.

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk