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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, April 5, 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 and Joan Plouffe (present remotely).
Absent: Neil Chaudhary

Also Present: Chief Kullgren, Capt. Bishop and seven members of the public and Officers McCarthy and Figol.

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

Public Participation: **Barbara O'Connor**, 36 Little Brook Lane requested a Dead End or No Outlet sign at the beginning of Little Brook Lane, saying cars go down the road thinking they can get through the cul de sac, to find it blocked off. It is only open, by the Town, in emergencies. Chairman Faxon asked Chief Kullgren to ask Public Works to install a sign. **Michael Agius**, 24 Poplar Drive, reported an incident that took place at Fairfield Hills campus on a Saturday night involving a large crowd of 17-22 year olds. They were preparing for a 'pull off' where trucks are hooked together. Mr. Agius spoke to them and advised them to unhook, concerned someone would be hurt. He then called the police and was unsatisfied with the response. Chief Kullgren spoke about state statues for minor violations, such as equipment violations; legislative changes are placing these infractions as secondary violations. Chairman Faxon explained this is due to the police reform through the legislature and police have to follow that. He suggested Mr. Agius lodge a complaint with the legislature that directs the laws, how they are enforced and what violations that can be used as a basis to make a probable cause traffic stop. **Samantha Modzelwski**, 8 Boulevard, is one of the many families with growing families and pets on the Boulevard. The speeding has become a grave concern. There are many children going from house to house, people use the road as exercise, to run and walk pets. The speeding is out of control and the families are concerned there will be an accident. **Cathleen Spiro**, 9 Boulevard stated drivers speed up to beat the traffic light. There are eleven kids in the five houses closest to the light. **Christine Kralicky**, 6 Boulevard said people use the street as a cut through; there is one long stretch that some treat like a racetrack. She requested police presence. Families are concerned. **Wendy Smith**, 7 Boulevard says there are not only young drivers coming through but mothers, fathers, elderly drivers and new drivers also. Also, the maps app redirects traffic to the Boulevard when the highway is backed up, adding out of town drivers to the road.

Police Union Participation: none.

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of March 1, 2022. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

Rec'd. for Record 4-7 2022
Town Clerk of Newtown 3:00PM
Debbie Aurdia Halstead

Chief's Report: There are two positions to be filled; there is a waiting list for the June/July police academy. The hiring process will continue with onsite training while waiting for future seats in the academy. Recruitment at Bridgeport University showed very little interest; more job fairs will be scheduled at universities. The Detective Bureau handled school threats overnight on March 16; after a full investigation it was determined not to be a viable threat. Chief Kullgren praised the detectives. There was a series of related altercations at the high school between March 16 and March 23. These were fully investigated, a joint Board of Education and Newtown Police Department letter went out to parents, showing a unified front. Twelve juvenile summons were issued. Chief Kullgren praised the SRO's for their work with the Board of Education. There is current list for the Sergeants exam. The Lieutenant test process will take place on May 2 and May 5. The Axon special appropriation for cloud storage of body worn cameras was approved and installed on March 15. The Police Commission webpage language has been updated, as requested. There have been meetings with the State DOT, the Board of Education and the construction coordinator relative to the Toddy Hill/Exit 11 improvements. There will be increased flow of information from the DOT to the Town relative to lane changes and things that may affect daily commutes. The project was intended to be two years long, however they expect completion by June 2023. The slip ramp is scheduled to be done by late summer, October at the latest and will be between Toddy Hill Road and the first overpass. Commissioner Plouffe asked who administers the Sergeant and Lieutenant tests. By contract, between the Town and the Police union there is contractual language that indicates an outside third party handles the exams. Interviews will likely be the week of April 25. Chief Kullgren stated the Detective Bureau is heavy on cases and working hard on hiring.

Old Business:

a. Turkey Roost Road No Parking request: Chief Kullgren stated a study was done after a request for no parking signs was received for the entire length of Turkey Roost Road to Kaechele Drive. Given the volume of traffic and the number of complaints a no parking sign is not appropriate. Chief Kullgren will concur with Officer Mulhall and will increase enforcement.

New Business:

a. The Boulevard Traffic Concerns: Chairman Faxon thanked those present to represent the Boulevard and explained the process of traffic calming. Chief Kullgren stated the first step is education, evaluation of signage and appropriate enforcement through radar and portable traffic display signs. Commissioner Budd mentioned use of tubes to track actual speeds over a specific time period. The display signs better gage speed over a distance; the tubes are a more finite location. If two signs are available they will be placed at both ends; if only one, it will be placed at one end for determined period and then moved to the other end. A resident noted there is no specific time of day when speeding is worse; it is constant, all day long. The traffic unit downloads data and develop a report.

b. Policy Changes: Chief Kullgren stated the language will be modeled after POTSC language to alleviate any confusion as to why an officer on field training making an arrest. It clarifies this can be done under the direct supervision of a field training officer. Commissioner Budd moved to adopt proposed new language for Policy 3.0 IV Arrest by Probationary Police Officers Prohibited as presented. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor. New Language: *Probationary candidates, while undergoing basic training, may not have contact with citizens unless such probationary candidates are accompanied by, and working in concert with, a currently certified law enforcement officer, this includes making arrests.*

Commissioner Budd moved to approve putting the Mission Statement in the Rules and Regulations as presented. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor. *It is the mission of the Newtown Police Department to protect and serve our community while honoring our badge, our integrity and the public trust. Working together with the community we will seek justice for all, while holding ourselves and others accountable for their actions under the color of law.*

c. Secondary Employment: This was last approved in 2019. Commissioner Budd moved to approve the secondary employment request for David Kullgren for seasonal underwater maintenance. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Correspondence: none.

Commissioner Participation: Commissioner Chaudhary asked if the Department had received grant funding for April Distracted Driving Month, which is state funded. The state will offer it to municipalities with data suggesting a high volume of distracted driving. Chief Kullgren does not believe grant money was received. Coverage for money received for distracted driving would require voluntary overtime. At the time many officers are already on overtime due to staffing shortages.

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk