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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, May 3, 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 (via phone), Neil Chaudhary and Joan Plouffe

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

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.

Public Participation: Samantha Modzelwski, 8 Boulevard, thanked the commission and department for the quick response to concerns brought up at the last meeting relative to the Boulevard. There has been a noticed increase police presence. Judy Thomas, 11 Jo Mar Dr. thanked the department for placing magnets on the cars for Autism Awareness Month in April and also thanked Officer Stephanie McDermott for distributing the autism pins for the officers. Christine Kralicky, 6 Boulevard stated seeing officers patrolling and pulling drivers over sends a message to people traveling the Boulevard. Residents will be aware of police presence.

Police Union Participation: none.

Consideration and action on the minutes: Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 5, 2022. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded noting that Commission Chaudhary was listed as both present and absent; he was present at the meeting of April 5. All in favor of the minutes as amended.

Chief's Report: Over fifty candidates were reviewed for the officer vacancies, and narrowed down to three. Chief Kullgren expressed appreciation to the detective bureau for the hard work in interviewing the candidates. In the process of serving a warrant on Frontage Road on April 14, the suspect fled and was later apprehended after crashing a vehicle. Chief Kullgren was away but was impressed with the information flow and the officers on scene; Capt. Bishop took the lead and all staff performed amazingly. Encroachment permits have been granted for the in street pedestrian signs on state roads. Officer Stephanie McDermott has registered the Town with Neighbors by Ring which allows residents to share information related to local crime. Commissioner Chaudhary stated that residents should continue to call 911 to report a crime or incident.

Old Business:

a. Turkey Roost Road No Parking request: There has been enforcement; landscapers have complied by parking off the road and in the driveways.

Rec'd. for Record 5/5 2022
Town Clerk of Newtown 9:04 am
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

b. The Boulevard Traffic Concerns: Data received from tubes on the Boulevard showed an average speed of 35mph; the 85% speed was 40mph. A few vehicles were noted as going 50mph/60mph. Five year crash data shows one minor accident. The average number of vehicles traveling the road is 1,748 in a 24 hour period. There will be prolonged enforcement over the next month. Tubes will be reinstalled after the month and more data will be collected. Chairman Faxon appreciates the feedback of the residents. One resident will supply Chief Kullgren with specific times of days that particular cars speed on the Boulevard. On another topic, Chairman Faxon asked for awareness at Ferris Creamery. No parking signs have been posted on the area roads, causing a back-up of traffic to the creamery. He asked that Chief Kullgren think of measures to address this as it is a safety issue.

New Business:

a. Policy Changes: Chief Kullgren presented policy changes. After discussion the following motions were made: Commissioner Budd moved to accept the policy changes relative to uniforms. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. Confidential information is redacted when having cars towed, still allowing the driver to do the job and still complying with the state statute. The new procedure is to make note in the CAD system as the paper log is no longer used. Commission Budd moved to accept the changes in section 4 and B of the 7.11 towing of motor vehicles policy. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. State law requires Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), dictated by POSTC; this will be incorporated into the current policy. Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the policy changes relative to DRE. Commissioner Budd seconded. All in favor.

b. Personnel Matters/Recruit Candidate Interviews: Chairman Faxon noted there were three candidates present for interviews and advised each that the interviews could be held in public or in executive session. All three candidates elected executive session.

Correspondence: none.

Commissioner Participation: Commissioner Chaudhary thanked Chief Kullgren for the bicycle drop off. There were 75 pounds of drugs dropped off at the recent drug take back on April 30. Walgreens and CVS have begun the permit process to have drug collection boxes.

Executive Session: Commissioner Budd moved to enter executive session for the purpose of interviewing officer candidates and invited Chief Kullgren and Capt. Bishop to attend. The candidates were also invited to join, only for the portion pertaining to them. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. Executive Session was entered into at 7:13pm and returned to regular session at 9:16pm with the following motions:

Commissioner Budd moved to offer Anthony DiGiovanni a conditional offer of employment with the understanding all the conditions of the conditional letter of employment must be completed. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Budd moved to offer Nina Ongaro a conditional offer of employment with the understanding all the conditions of the conditional letter of employment must be completed. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Adjournment: Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk