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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, June 7, 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

**Also Present:** Chief Kullgren, Capt. Bishop, two members of the public and Officers McCarthy and Schoen.

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

#### Public Participation:

**Samantha Modzelwski**, 8 Boulevard has noticed a continued effort in enforcement and thanked the commission and department. She said evenings are the same but early morning and early afternoon the cars go slower.

**Judd Costello**, 132 Taunton Hill Road has an immediate concern about speeding. The road is a cut through and residents are afraid to walk on the road or check their mail due to the number of cars speeding. He asked about federal funding for electronic devices. Chairman Faxon stated there is traffic calming information on the police website, the Police Commission does not handle grants; there is a process. Chief Kullgren explained that most of the federal grant money goes through the State DOT. Sgt. Silver said the electronic monitoring has to be challenged through the legislature as the PD is not able to issue enforcement based on electronic monitoring. Enforcement and education can be done through signs; enforcement can be increased in that area. The advantage of the portable signs is that people don't expect them to be there. Tubes and data can be part of the study of this area. Mr. Costello will contact Sgt. Silver directly with concerns he has about the size of trucks allowed on roads.

**Police Union Participation:** Sgt. Seabrook, Union Vice President stated things are going well; Capt. Bishop is a welcome addition. They are working on hiring. There are ongoing conversations between Chief Kullgren, Capt. Bishop and the union on efficiency changes. The department is headed in the right direction.

**Consideration and action on the minutes:** Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of May 3, 2022. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Budd moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting of May 18, 2022. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

**Chief's Report:** There are currently 44 of 45 sworn officers; interviewing began June 2nd and June 3rd for recent opening. DEEP is wrapping up the bear incident. On May 25th there was an omni presence at all schools, including private schools. On May 27th ESU called out to Bethel and regional mutual aid response for a domestic including firearms. The incident was resolved; all involved did an amazing job. An arrest was made relative to the Community Center arson. Three staff members (J. McDermott, W.

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Town Clerk of Newtown 8:00 am  
Debbie Annolia Johnston

Chapman and F. Figol) are now trained as de-escalation instructors. They will work as a team to bring the training to the officers. The administration has continued interviews with all sworn and civilian staff, giving Capt. Bishop the opportunity to get to know staff. The interviews also allow for the staff to help to guide where the department is going. Thank you to Sgt. Wisentaner, who helped to organize, along with additional staff, the first Law Enforcement Memorial service at the department, on May 15th. There were 472 flags to represent the officers that were killed in 2021, in the line of duty. A stone with Steve Ketchum's name was also dedicated at that time.

#### **Old Business:**

**a. The Boulevard Traffic Concerns:** The tubes have been out. Data shows average speed dropped by 1 mph. College kids are back in town, the daily counts increased 140 vehicles a day. Police presence is making a difference. Enforcement will continue. Data will again be collected before school goes back in to session at the end of summer.

#### **New Business:**

##### **Discussion & possible action**

**a. State Application for the Approval of Speed Limits:** This item will be revisited at the next meeting in August. The traffic unit went through many roads and identified areas in need of speed limit signs.

**b. Policy Changes:** Legislators are continually updating areas of the Police Accountability Bill. The new language mirrors the state model policy. Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the changes in the wording in the use of force reporting. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

**c. Board of Police Commissioners Regulations:** Chairman Faxon stated there is no delineation in regulations stating what sections applies to the Police Commission. Section 21 was the main focus. The due process for notifying a state or municipal employee of disciplinary action needs to be updated in terms of what the Police Commission must do to be in harmony with the Loudermill decision. This would allow everyone to understand how to proceed and specify how things get to the Police Commission. Commissioner Plouffe suggested reviewing all regulations to see what needs updating. Chief Kullgren said that certain portions of the rules and regulations are updated periodically. The work continues on this. Chairman Faxon asked Chief Kullgren to review and suggest regulations that need to be updated.

**Correspondence:** Gratitude from the community was shared and appreciated.

**Commissioner Participation:** Commissioner Plouffe spoke about 988, the suicide prevention hotline, the mental health version of 911 to be implemented July 16. Chief Kullgren said that they need to research the validity of the program and make sure infrastructure in place. He has a meeting with Human Services, which has a suicide prevention unit within it; this is on the agenda. Commissioner Cicciari voiced gratitude to the men and women of the department as it continues to be a challenging time in the nation. He appreciates the efforts of all during the last month of activities.

**Executive Session:** Chairman Faxon addressed interview candidates, offering to hold interviews in public or executive session; all chose executive session

Commissioner Faxon moved to enter executive session for discussion and further action per CT General State Statute 1-201(a) for the purpose of interviews for the promotional position of Lieutenant and invited Chief Kullgren and Capt. Bishop to attend. The candidates were also invited to join, only for the portion pertaining to them. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Faxon moved to enter a second executive session, per CT General State Statute 1-201(a), discussion and further action to delegate the Chief the authority to name the acting Sergeants as needed and invited Chief Kullgren and Capt. Bishop to attend. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor. Executive Session was entered into at 7:14pm and returned to regular session at 8:46p.m. with the following motions:

Commissioner Plouffe moved to promote Scott Smith Liam Seabrook to Lieutenant effective immediately.  
Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Budd moved to delegate the authority to Chief Kullgren to appoint an acting Sergeant as needed. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek, Clerk*

