



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

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Stephen Sedensky

### POLICE COMMISSION

**The Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 6:30 P.M.  
191 South Main Street, Newtown, CT  
Conference Room**

#### **MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**Present:** Joel Faxon, Neil Chaudhary, Stephen Sedensky

**Also Present:** Captain Bryan Bishop, Chief David Kullgren, First Selectman Dan Rosenthal, three members of the public

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Participation:** none

**Police Union Participation:** none

**Consideration and action on minutes:** Commissioner Chaudhary moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of April 11, 2023. Commissioner Sedensky seconded. Motion passed.

**Chief's Report:** 45 strong, one person injured, zero in field training, effective strength is 44. Activities for the Captain and Chief about a dozen meetings ranging from department head meetings, radio enhancement projects, rotary clubs, work zone. Officer wellness checks done. One third of the department is done every year. Meetings have continued with Newtown Allies for Change who are giving input on policies of biased nature, Connecticut Chiefs meeting and expo, Fairfield County Chief of Police Meeting, Newtown Mens Club, Newtown Prevention Council Meeting to remain active in the community. The Community Service Division participated in Autism Awareness month, on April 22 the penguin plunge, and on April 27 did a podcast recording in the community service room that will go out on the social media platform, Newtown Action Alliance, on the gun buyback. Commissioner Sedensky asked what the procedure used for wellness checks. Chief Kullgren explained that there is a vendor that comes in and meets with the officer individually for 10-15 minutes. A report is submitted to the department and the chief and an identical one given to the officer that states that they participated in the wellness

check. The paperwork is retained in the officer's medical file. Each officer receives a wellness check once every five years. Commissioner Sedensky mentioned the child abuse training in the Hartford area. He will forward the information to Chief Kullgren.

Motor Vehicle stats are in the package. Commission Faxon mentioned the stats and the change from 2022-2023 and the numbers improving in terms of infractions given. He would like to reiterate that the way an officer handles a stop in regards to rules of the road, property damage, worry, trouble, motor vehicle interference, not having a way to get your kid to school, you to work, or you to where you need to go. If there is a property damage that renders a motor vehicle damage then there is a consequence which would be a ticket. Commissioner Sedensky explained the infraction process. Commission Faxon explained the process of negotiating an infraction online vs going to court which gives more reason for preventative measures that can be deployed for reasons to be driving safely. He stated that with the online feature to negotiate a ticket there is even more reason for a ticket to be rendered when there is a collision. If a collision is caused there are consequences. The person at fault that is violating a safety rule of the road should be given a ticket. Commission Chaudhary questioned the private property damage that shows on the report. Captain Bishop stated the private property damage numbers are not broken out. The private property would be a collision that happened in a business parking lot. Most of the infractions are motor vehicle accidents/collisions.

### **Old Business:**

**Roadway markings, Procedures** – Chief Kullgren put together a guide on roadway markings that breaks down the statute for center lane markings. The commission can make changes to those and add markings in areas that need particular attention due to a crest, accident-prone area, etc... Commissioner Chaudhary questioned the source of ADT 3000 vehicles or more and what the source was. Commission Sedensky clarified that it is in the actual regulation. Commissioner Sedensky stated that the plan is to have a case-by-case analysis of whether a road needs markings or a portion of the road needs markings. The board will rely on the Public Works Department and their direction on the roads that need markings. Fred Hurley, Newtown Public Works Director, stated that he is happy with the way the report is laid out. He wants to put together a list of items that the public should consider in regards to roadway markings. He stated that giving the public the why gives consistency. Fred Hurley stated that there needs to be a working group so that the process is definitive. Commissioner Faxon clarified what the working group would be doing and the process. Fred Hurley stated that doing some test cases with public input would be helpful. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that the challenge is that there are some roads that have curves that will have lines but other roads that have similar curves that will not have stripes and this leaves too much to subjectivity. Commission Chaudhary stated that he looked at the state website that has a handful of town roadways and the vehicle counts and these roads are all under 3000 cars Glen, Queen, Botsford Hill, Hanover, Poverty Hollow, Boggs Hill, Huntingtown, Brushy Hill, and most of Hattertown, He is not suggesting that these do not need striping because there are parts of the roads that do need striping. West Street shows 4800 cars and right now it only has barely a stripe on it so he is wondering where the traffic was measured at. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that those roads currently have lines on them and if they are repaved, they would be lined again. Commissioner Chaudhary stated that he feels that the less striping is better and that roads that are strictly residential a stripe would not be needed. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that there are other roads that have been double striped in the last year and should not have been. Commissioner Faxon said that there are going to be complaints on the striping of roads that homeowners feel should not be striped. Fred Hurley stated that the town engineer should have a set of criteria that is looked at when making a decision on striping. The public should be coming to the Police Commission with concerns and frustrations rather than going to the Public Works Department. Fred Hurley stated that next steps are for the Public Works to get together in the next month and come back at the next meeting with a list of items for decision making. Commissioner Chaudhary questioned striping on Osborn Hill. Fred Hurley stated that there is a piece of Osborn Hill that may need striping but not the entire road. Commission Faxon stated that once the criteria is in place a decision can be made with the same criteria on areas such as Osborn Hill and Elm. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that when a road is repaved and had a stripe

previously it may not get a new stripe. A conversation was held regarding different roads in the town and how long the stripe should be and if it should be double or single. Fred Hurley stated that there are other safety devices that could be used instead of striping to mark the edges of the road. This will be readdressed next month.

**Block the Box Ordinance – locations** – Commissioner Chaudhary stated that Pole Bridge may benefit from being on this list. Pole Bridge is not a typical road that has these types of signs. The painting would be on the 34. Commissioner Faxon clarified where the backup is and if it would be alleviated once the construction is complete. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that if there are roads that need to be addressed then they should be added to the list. Commissioner Faxon stated that Pole Bridge should be added to the list. First Selectman Rosenthal will talk with the project manager regarding an onramp from Toddy Hill. The on ramp was to alleviate traffic going toward the high school from the 34 and not a direct access to the ramp from Toddy Hill. Commissioner Chaudhary mentioned roads south of 25 and 302 which are Elizabeth, Laurel, and Lovells. Commissioner Faxon said that those roads do not get a lot of thru traffic. First Selectman Rosenthal mentioned Elm at 25 down by Carminuccio's. Commissioner Chaudhary stated that Elm is so far from the light and the backup is due to traffic volume when someone is trying to make a left.

Commissioner Sedensky made the motion to add Pole Bridge to the Block the Box Ordinance List. Commissioner Chaudhary seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**No Parking Signs at Fairfield Hills Complex** – First Selectman Rosenthal stated that the challenge is periodically with the NYA and Newsylum which led to the no parking signs being put in, without those signs there is a lot of grass parking during busy times. He feels like the police cannot do anything right now because there is not any legislation that allows them to do any enforcement without having no parking on the grass signs and Newsylum does not enforce the no parking on the grass. Currently there are paper No Parking signs around Newsylum. When there is a sunny day then the parking on the grass greatly increases. There is adequate parking without having to park on the lawn. There are events where there is not adequate parking and the police are aware of these times. Commissioner Chaudhary questioned the removal of the paper signs during high peak times. If there is grass parking in areas such as Newsylum then the police can have the Newsylum make an announcement to have cars parked on the grass removed to avoid ticketing. In front of NYA is technically a driveway with a fire lane and can be enforced. First Selectman Rosenthal mentioned Litchfield Hall and if NYA is having a big event, then people park on the lawn rather than in hardscape areas. Commissioner Faxon questioned if it was a fire lane or not. First Selectman Rosenthal stated that the building and a small perimeter around the building is leased to the NYA all other land is town-owned land. The baseball field, the grass, and parking lot is not leased to the NYA. Fred Hurley clarified the fire lane. First Selectman Rosenthal would like to enforce the no parking on the grass. First Selectman Rosenthal would like signs at entrances to the campus that state that there is no parking on the grass along with additional signs in the grassy areas.

Commissioner Chaudhary made a motion to approve the No Parking On Grass Signs at Fairfield Hills Complex. Commissioner Sedensky seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

**New Business:** none

**Consideration and Action on Policy & Procedures:**

**Correspondence:** none

**Commissioners Participation:** Sue Marcinek has stepped down from being the clerk. She was the clerk for six years. Her work is appreciated and she did a good job. Dana Ulibarri was welcomed as the new clerk. Judy Thomas

wanted to express her appreciation to Sergeant Chapman for displaying Autism Awareness materials on his car and elsewhere during the month of April.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

*Dana Ulibarri, clerk*