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Brian Budd  
Joel Faxon  
Andrew Sachs  
Daniel Rosenthal  
Virgil Procaccini

## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

### BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners  
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, November 7, 2017  
Town Hall South Conference Room  
3 Main Street, Newtown

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

**PRESENT:** Chairman Joel Faxon, Vice-Chairman Brian Budd, Virgil Procaccini, Dan Rosenthal and Andy Sachs.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief James Viadero, Capt. Vanghele, Lt. Bahamonde, Officer Penna, four members of the public and one member of the press.

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**ADD TO THE AGENDA:** Commissioner Faxon moved to add the acceptance of the Chiefs review to the agenda for discussion and possible action. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

Commissioner Faxon moved to add, for discussion and possible action, a suggestion to CTDOT to reduce the speed limit on Rte. 25, in locations that are 45mph down to 40mph so it is consistent throughout town, leaving opportunity for GPS calibration to send trucks through Wasserman Way and avoid going through town. Commissioner Procaccini seconded. All in favor.

**Public Participation:** Mike Mandarano, 9 Birch Rise Drive, thanked the commission for the lit up sign but reported the traffic was worse with the sign; more and fast. The problem continues and he hopes there is another solution such as a one way on Birch Rise temporarily or rubber speed bumps.

Chief Viadero stated the sign was removed because it was on resident property and lighting up the houses. Work will be done overnight, once a pattern is established the will be alternating lanes; signage will be put up. Mr. Mandarano said people are looking to cut thru Juniper, after sitting in traffic; it is dangerous.

**Pete Sepi**, 83 Toddy Hill Road said the speed trailer works; there is a noticeable difference when it is not there.

Chief Viadero said he is looking to have permanent signage into the Police budget.

**Patrick Ross**, 75 Toddy Hill Road said the hard work is paying off. Reading from a report he inquired about average stops in a certain period of time.

Chief Viadero said that 124 traffics stops, in a specific area, in one month, is a lot. 131 traffic stops over a three month period is still a considerable amount of stops. The average speed, over 7,000 vehicles is within an acceptable range.

Rec'd. for Record 11-8 2017  
Town Clerk of Newtown 4:00pm  
Debbie Annelia Halstead

**Recognition:** Chief Viadero thanked Commissioner Procaccini for his years of dedicated service to the police department and presented him with a gift. Chairman Faxon thanked Commissioner Procaccini for his many hours of service and rising to the call of duty in his prior career.

**Police Union Participation:** Officer Penna reported that union and the town has ratified and approved a new contract through June 30, 2020. Chairman Faxon thanked the union for bargaining in good faith

**Consideration and action on June 6, 2017 minutes:** Commissioner Rosenthal moved to accept the minutes of October 3, 2017. Commissioner Budd seconded. All in favor.

**Chief's Report:** Chief Viadero reported that the Board of Education website was hacked, which was disturbing to the parents and the town. The vendor is out of Atlanta. Officers investigated; the FBI was contacted. Chief Viadero spoke about the FBI report that was recently released. Redacted forms were disturbing. After consulting with the FBI and US Attorney's office it was found that the individual referred to in the report was not credible. There was no merit to the report. There was a car theft in Sandy Hook last week. Newtown and Danbury are working together and have identified a suspect. Chief Viadero will be meeting at the Fairfield police department along with Fairfield county police departments; everybody is experiencing auto thefts. Much is emanating from Waterbury. The union was very cooperative and understanding of state and local situations when negotiating the contract. There were several injuries this month. Julio Tardin will be graduating the Bridgeport Police Academy and will start directly following that. Atty. Jon August donated \$250 to the canine program. The canine challenge at Fairfield Hills was well attended and raised a considerable amount of money for Newtown Kennel and the Horse Guard. Chief Viadero thanked Officer Figol and officers that helped out. Lines have been painted on the road at the driveway of the police department so that drivers won't block the entrances. Chief Viadero thanked Newtown Ambulance for a donated ambulance. It will be repainted or wrapped and used for special events. Officer Tim Shoen was recognized at the AAA Awards; he led the department with motor vehicle enforcement. Newtown Police Department was recognized as a gold standard for the motor vehicle enforcement and the programs undertaken. Sgt. Ruszczyk has been working with Hearts 911 on a program addressing stress management and resiliency training for police officers. Lt. Kullgren and the accident investigation team were recognized in the work relative to a fatal accident on Rte. 25. The individual plead out to a manslaughter charge. Officer McCarthy was recognized for the CIP program that was held at UCONN. The profiling draft will be addressed at the staff meeting; will report on this next month.

**Captain's Report:** Capt. Vanghele reported the department is keeping track of the alarm ordinance. One business owner refuses to pay his fines and does not want law enforcement to respond to his alarm. He is entitled to a hearing before the commission and received notification of such. Commissioner Faxon and Chief Viadero agree that if an alarm comes in the police will respond; the commission is willing to speak to the business owner. Chief Viadero said that having registered alarms has helped dramatically.

#### **Old Business**

**Toddy Hill Rd. Update:** addressed under public participation.

**Road Striping:** Commissioner Faxon communicated with a resident on Brushy Hill relative to lack of striping on a portion of the road. Chief Viadero received a letter relative to School House Hill Road. Commissioner Rosenthal stated that a double line should be continued on double lined road, such as Brushy Hill. Roads with no line should be single lined. Chief Viadero will communicate this to Fred Hurley. The same vendor is used for state and town roads.

**Correspondence:** none.

**New Business:**

**Review of Chief Viadero:** The commission has finalized the review of Chief Viadero. Commissioner Faxon is very pleased to have the Chief in charge; there has been a significant improvement in the morale, the organization as well as the carrying out of day to day duties. Commissioner Rosenthal thinks the Chief embraces everything that it is important in a police department and interacts with the community. He is a great ambassador for the police department. Commissioner Budd recognized the resources, skill and talents that Chief Viadero has brought to the job. There is an atmosphere that motivates the investigators and patrol staff. Commissioner Budd moved to approve the Chiefs annual review. Commissioner Rosenthal seconded. All in favor.

**Rte. 25 Speed Limit:** Commissioner Rosenthal moved to suggest, to the state, that the speed limit on Rte. 25 from the southern tip to the northern terminus in Brookfield, to 40mph in any location that is currently 45 mph. This change has the potential to divert GPS systems to exit 11 instead of exit 9, potentially avoiding downtown areas and the flagpole. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

**Commissioner's Participation:** Commissioner Rosenthal noted he referred a resident having issues with a relative to Capt. Vanghele. The gentleman sent a note saying how helpful Capt. Vanghele was. Commissioner Rosenthal would like to explore doing something, at least on a temporary basis, for the residents on Juniper and Birch Rise, possibly making it one way. Chief Viadero will discuss with Sgt. Silver.

**Public Participation:** none.

Commissioner Faxon thanked Commissioner Procaccini once again for his work on the commission. Chief Viadero welcomed Sue Marcinek as the clerk of the Police Commission.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business the Board of Police Commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 6:13pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek, clerk*