

**The Board of Police Commissioners  
Special Meeting, Monday, June 11, 2018  
Town Hall South Conference Room  
3 Main Street, Newtown**

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

**Present:** Joel Faxon, Scott Cicciari, Joan Plouffe, Andy Sachs

**Absent:** Brian Budd

**Also Present:** Chief James Viadero, Officer Penna, four members of the public and one member of the press

Commissioner Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

**Public Participation:** J. Costello, 132 Taunton Hill Rd., spoke to the board regarding traffic on Taunton Hill. The concern is with all the construction in town, especially in the area of Exit 9, and asked if Taunton Hill could be made a no thru truck road. Chief Viadero said that the traffic officer is looking into it and if it qualifies no thru trucks signs will be posted. There has been radar enforcement in that area. **Patrick Ross**, 75 Toddy Hill Road said he has never seen a meeting with such a great group of people, run smoothly and efficiently with an agenda kept on task. Commissioner Faxon said that succinct presentations are very important. Additionally, Mr. Ross appreciates the continued enforcement on Toddy Hill Road.

**Police Union Participation:** Officer Penna noted all is well with the union.

**Consideration and action on the minutes for March 6, 2018.** Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of May 1, 2018. Commissioner Sachs seconded. All in favor.

**Chiefs Report:** Chief Viadero said the storm took up most of their time in May, there were no injuries, were fully staffed and the Dept. of Public Works was very helpful. On May 26 there was a suicidal suspect; a quiet resolution to a potentially hostile situation. The Action Alliance held a walk at Fairfield Hills on June 2; police were present. There were two car thefts from Butternut Ridge; police stress to residents to lock cars. Garage door openers within cars are a key to the house; key fobs are a key to the car. These incidents are happening throughout the state. There was an unfortunate death of a 12 year old today. There is an increase in traffic that has a lot to do with the commuter population. Speed signs are still on Toddy Hill Road. Chief Viadero will know better after July 1 what the budget appropriation is for the capital account and if he'll be able to look further into permanent speed signs. There have been complaints of commercial trucks. Toddy Hill Road is a no thru truck road; signage will be improved. Temporary speed tables will be put on Birch Rise; speed signage is there. There have been parking issues on south portion of West Street, with cars parking on both sides of the road. There was temporary signage; no parking signs will be posted on both sides. The same issue occurs on Robin Hill Road, near Ferris Creamery. There is a public safety need; Chief Viadero said they do need more parking and he will speak with George Benson, Land Use. Commission Faxon moved that no parking signs be installed on both sides of the eastbound lane of West Street between the Dana Holcombe House driveway and the intersection of Main Street. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Faxon moved to install no parking signs along Robin Hill Road in both directions from Rte. 302, back a reasonable distance, in order to prohibit vehicles from parking on the roadway and that public safety is a significant concern; the no parking signs will be placed far enough to elevate any public safety concern. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

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Town Clerk of Newtown 3:51pm  
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

Chief Viadero spoke about the police tow rotation. Once a year all operators participating in the rotation are checked to make sure they are all in compliance with the ordinance. All are in complete compliance. Officer Matt Wood has been busy with community outreach; he does a phenomenal job. Special Olympics participation was extraordinary. Officer Chapman took Tip a Cop to a new level. There was a Torch Run and a Citizens Police Academy graduation. Steve Ketchum was honored on two separate occasions last month. There are regular meetings with Kaestle Boos relative to the new police building, hopefully there will be something to bring forward to the commission next month. There was a ceremony, with clergy, at the War Memorial, that honored the police and all that they do. The Board of Finance will be talking about the body cameras at their meeting tonight. There's no impact to the town. Commissioner Faxon said the important part of body cameras is that 99.9% of the time police will be exonerated and there will be less litigation. The awards ceremony will be rescheduled to September or August. The commission will meet on July 10 (not July 3). The status of the August meeting will be discussed next month.

**Old Business:**

**Alarm Ordinance Appeal – Newtown Savings Bank:** Chief Viadero stated that Newtown Savings Bank was proactive in addressing their false alarm issues and the problem has been fixed. Tom D'Agostino of Newtown Savings Bank was present to explain why there were issues and how they were remedied. Commissioner Faxon moved to waive the outstanding fees owed by Newtown Savings Bank for false alarms. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

**Discussion on Line Striping Committee:** There is no standard as to how roads would be striped. Former Commissioner Rosenthal was active in this when he was on the commission. A consistent, cohesive process has to be developed with Fred Hurley. Commissioner Faxon moved to form a subcommittee of Commissioner Plouffe and Commissioner Cicciari to handle the line striping issue and to return to the commission with suggestions. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

**Toddy Hill Road Update:** discussed under Chiefs report.

**Birch Rise/Rte. 302 Intersection update:** discussed under Chiefs report.

**Correspondence:** none.

**New Business:** none.

**Commissioners Participation:** none.

**Public Participation:** Pete Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Rd. expressed gratitude for the continued police presence. J. Costello, 132 Taunton Hill Rd. asked if there's a way to suggest the state put a sign to Route 84 & Rte. 6. Chief Viadero says people pay more attention to apps, such as 'waze' than they do to signs, but will give the area the attention it needs.

Adjournment: Having no further business report of police commissioners adjourned their special meeting at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek*, Clerk