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Brian Budd
Joel Faxon
Andrew Sachs
Scott Cicciari
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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 3, 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, Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari (6:49pm), Joan Plouffe, Andy Sachs (6:39pm)

Also Present: Capt. Vanghele, Officer Penna, Lt. Kullgren and five members of the public.

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

Public Participation: Patrick Ross, 75 Toddy Hill Road is hearing from the state that the project is shut down; local staff says it's on. Chairman Faxon said that he's reading there is funding. Chief Viadero said that it is an approved project and continues to move forward.

Police Union Participation: Officers participated in a survey, Officer Penna expects the results to be positive. This is an excellent idea to judge the overall climate of the department.

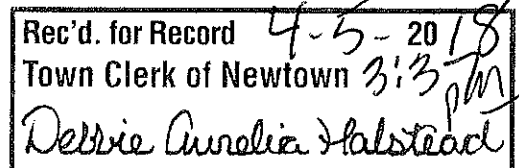
Consideration and action on the minutes for March 6, 2018. Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the minutes of March 6, 2018. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Chiefs Report: Chief Viadero asked for a moment of silence to recognize CT State Police Officer Kevin Miller. A contingent of officers will attend services. Snow storms took a toll on services in town but the DPW and the PD did a great job. **Police Facility:** site selection is moving forward; the first step going forward is a site assessment as well as a needs assessment. **Event:** Chief Viadero attended an awards ceremony for the Police Commissioners Association where officers from Stamford, Bethel and Westport were honored. Chip Rubenstein will address the commission tonight. **Toddy Hill Road:** Enforcement continues; the speed trailer will be in place once snow stops. **Reed School:** The traffic agent, at intersection, manually controlling the light, is working well. Chief Viadero does not see the need to do a road enhancement. **Personnel:** Officer Adam James made a narcotics arrest; a sizable seizure. He is a very proactive officer. Officer McDermott identified a vehicle and made an arrest of an individual who had stolen and used a credit card. Two officers out on health issues, one is due back at the end of the month. **Body Camera:** application has been submitted and initial approval from the state, to grant the funding, has been received. **Miscellaneous:** Uniform transition is complete. The last three police cars have been received. Save the date for the awards ceremony, May 15, there will be officers, as well as some civilians, who will receive awards. **Budget:** approved with very minimal reductions.

Old Business:

Update on Reed School Traffic Monitoring: covered under Chiefs report.

Toddy Hill Road Update: covered under Chiefs report.



Correspondence: none.

New Business: Alarm Ordinance Appeal – Newtown Savings Bank: Chief Viadero said there is a history of alarms and payments made. The new building has offices upstairs and an alarmed ATM.. Mr. D’Agostino and Newtown Savings Bank has been very diligent in trying to repair the problem and are working with the vendor. Newtown Savings Bank is asking for leniency on the outstanding debt in consideration that they have paid the prior ones. Upon further discussion Chairman Faxon moved to hold in abeyance any effort to collect any outstanding fines and ask Newtown Savings Bank to come forward with proof that they have been making diligent efforts to remedy the problem. If this is provided prior to the next meeting the Commission will agree to waive the fines as long as there are no additional false alarms. Chief Viadero will have Mr. D’Agostino to attend the next meeting with the documentation. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Budd stated that there is a 1 ½ year wait time for academy seats. The staff and services has been trimmed back; it’s all budgetary in nature. Capt. Vanghele said students continue to cross the road at the Exit 11 commuter lot. Newtown will reach out to the state police as the lot is their jurisdiction. The next step would be to actively ticket students. Officer Penna suggested the school add a policy to the student handbook. Commissioner Ciccari said an ambulance was donated and there is an opportunity to put together a campaign to raise funds to update the ambulance to turn into a tactical response vehicle. Chief Viadero said there is funding for a second canine. Anyone can donate; Murphy’s pub is having a fundraising concert this weekend.

Public Participation: Chip Rubenstein, 38 Bayshore Dr., Milford, talked to the commission about the Police Commissioners Association of CT (PCAC). His hope was to enroll the commission members in the PCAC. The association recognizes meritorious by police officers every spring along with the top academic graduates from Post. Another event is the Distinguished Chiefs & Law Enforcement Professionals. Excellent local chiefs have been honored as well as recently retired State Police. The ultimate goal is to fund scholarships for criminal justice majors in local colleges. Mr. Rubenstein asked for permission to nominate Chief Viadero as one of the distinguished Chief honorees next year. Chairman Faxon granted permission, saying it is a spectacular honor. Mr. Rubenstein reiterated the PCAC is in need of members. Chairman Faxon is happy to be a current member.

Public Participation: Carolyn Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Road appreciates the diligence and is looking forward to getting the speed trailer. She also asked for updated Toddy Hill statistics.

Adjournment: Having no further business report of police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk