



**TOWN OF NEWTOWN**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017**  
**TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN**

*\*These minutes are not finalized until approved  
At the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

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

**ABSENT:** none

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief James Viadero, Captain Chris Vanghele, Union President Lenny Penna, K-9 Officer Felicia Figol, Officer Matt Hayes, the Board of the Newtown Kennel Club, 9 members of the public, and 1 members of the press

Chairman Faxon called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**New Business:**

**Newtown Kennel Club** - Helene Nietsch, President of the Kennel Club, introduced all the members with her Steve Sackter, Vice-President; Richard Stremaski, Treasurer; Lisa Peterson, Secretary; Pam Pearl, Jan Purdy, Frances Paulin, and Susan Marucci. She informed the Board that they were making a \$15,000 donation to the K-9 Unit to purchase and train a new canine. Chairman Faxon thanked the Kennel Club for its spectacular gift, adding that it came at a great time.

Chief Viadero also thanked the club for its donation. He stated that the K-9 Officer Figol did a great job with Saint, the department's second Canine. The Chief noted that they had to put Saint to sleep on Easter. He said this would definitely help get the K-9 program back on track.

Chief Viadero indicated that the Department would have prospective dog training in Fairfield for three weeks adding that Officer Figol jumped in to help out. The Chief said they are looking at whether he is suitable. He added that the first part was training and the second part was with no socialization.

Chief Viadero presented the Kennel Club with a plaque in appreciation of its generous donation reading it to all those in attendance.

He added that Officer Figol does a phenomenal job working with the canine and quipped that Officer Hayes is a great "crash test dummy" taking all the bites.

The Board of Police Commissioners together with the Kennel Club, K-9 Officer Figol and Officer Hayes got pictures first with the check and then with the plaque.

Following the photo opportunity, Kennel Club members thanked the Board and left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Audrey Locorotondo, 17 Greenbriar Lane, told the Board she has lived there for 6 years and never had a problem until the summer of last year. She said they finally called the Department in January. She indicated she was at the meeting with several other residents that live on her road. Ms. Locorotondo reported that there is a family with a number of young adults at 24 Greenbriar Lane that fly up and down the street. She said she has yelled at them but they don't care so she called dispatch. The concerned resident said one of them has a red mustang, crashed it and now it's painted black. She said she was concerned because they have small children there.

Jennifer Conclin, Greenbriar Lane, said she has a 3 ½ year old and a really nice front yard. She noted that one of the days when it was warm out but was still icy, the kid “came flying” down the road lost control and went into the yard. She said her son was in the yard at the time and it really terrified them. Mrs. Conclin indicated that the same kid almost hit her head on one day when he wasn't looking. She said you hear the roaring engines at all hours of night – 10 pm, 11 pm, and midnight – and; she added that she isn't old but it's the lack of respect.

Joe Belisari, 16 Greenbriar Lane, noted that when the weather is nice the kids ride up and down the road on motor scooters without plates.

Ms. Locorotondo added that the kids' friends come and go too.

Chairman Faxon assured the residents the Board got the picture. He noted that the Department does house calls; but he urged the residents not to take matters into their own hands. The Chairman told the residents he appreciates when they make contact with the Board if they have what sounds like a constant nuisance going on.

Chairman Faxon indicated that Newtown did have a noise ordinance with a decibel level that can't be exceeded, but he suggested that was not necessarily vehicles unless they were extremely aftermarket modified.

Ms. Locorotondo said she spoke to a traffic officer and he checked to make sure the speed limit was State approved. She indicated the officer said it was and suggested possibly putting up a speed display sign.

Chief Viadero reassured residents that they had added it to their “hot list.” He said they would put a plan together and will be there for awhile.

Ms. Locorotondo thanked the Board and said that was all they ask for.

The Greenbriar Lane residents left the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Pete Sepe, 83 Toddy Hill Road, thanked Police Commissioners, stating that this was a night of gratitude. He said the neighborhood expresses a lot of gratitude to you and is grateful.

Candide Slinko, 79 Toddy Hill Road, also thanked the Police Commissioners.

Will Duffy, 17 Pilgrim Lane, said they all appreciated the Board's efforts.

Chairman Faxon said they appreciated it.

Carolyn Sepe, 83 Toddy Hill Road, said that the signs were out and it appeared the battery might have died. Captain Vanghele said he would take care of it.

Mrs. Sepe added that there was a definite awareness when police were there.

**POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION:** Union President Penna told Police Commissioners the Union was negotiating with the Town for a new contract and said they were looking forward to finalizing that.

## **CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES: May 2, 2017:**

Commissioner Sachs made the motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting May 2, 2017, as corrected. Commissioner Rosenthal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved. Correction: Page 1, under Public Participation, Marty Schertzer is a member of the Botsford Fire Department not the Botsford Police Department.

## **NEW BUSINESS (Continued):**

**Application for approval of Speed Limits (State Traffic Administration)** - Chief Viadero asked the Board that in an effort to make sure all the roads in Town are posted correctly they need to be approved by the Board of Police Commissioners.

Commissioner Rosenthal made the motion to approve the applications for the posted speed limit signs. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Budget Transfer - Chief Viadero reported that since the Department was short one officer so they made a budget transfer of \$34,000 from the salaries account to the overtime account to do enhanced enforcement on some of the problem areas like Main Street and Poverty Hollow as well as run radar enforcement and distracted driving. Special Olympics -The Chief said that the Special Olympics is coming to Town on Friday, May 9. He told the Board that the officers have done a really good job with that and have raised over \$4,000. Chief Viadero continued saying they would be carrying torch at 11 am on Friday from the Dodgingtown Market to the Blue Colony Diner and then the State Police would take it from there. He added that the ceremonies would be held that night at Southern Connecticut State University and then the event would be held at SCSU the following day. The Chief noted that he would be there and applauded the efforts of all the officers involved. Citizens Police Academy – Chief Viadero reported that they had just completed the Citizens Police Academy last Sunday. He said they had 15 attendees and it went very, very well. RFQ Funding – The Chief said they received the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) funding for the design of the new police department and met with the attorney so they will be selecting a designer hopefully. Leadership Training – Chief Viadero told Police Commissioners that they brought in Bill Riley to do the leadership training and it went very well. Regular Training – The Chief said that as far as regular officer training he felt they far exceeded what they have done in the past. Polish National Police Delegation – Chief Viadero reported that two weeks ago their department was visited by 5 officers from the Polish National Police. He said they exchanged information and gifts. Hearts 911 – The Chief said a fundraiser was held in New York two weeks ago where they built a veteran's house. He said 10 to 15 officers from their department helped with that over the course of the last year or so. Orange Walk – Chief Viadero said the Orange Walk against gun violence was held Friday and was well attended. Car Thefts – The Chief told Commissioners that there was one car theft last month. He said a BMW was stolen from Town and found in Waterbury. He added that the keys had been left in it. Chief Viadero again warned residents to lock their cars and not to leave the keys in them. Heroin Problem – Chief Viadero reported that the heroin problem is ongoing. He added that NARCAN was utilized three times in two weeks – two of which were to the same individual within a 24 hour period. K-9 Program – The Chief indicated that current support from the Newtown Kennel and individual donations will keep the K-9 program going. He added that the program was in good shape now to select a new canine. New Recruit – Chief Viadero announced that the Department's new recruit is in the academy and leading the class academically. He said the recruit should be graduating the last week of September and then he will take part in a 12-week FTO program after that. Calls for Service – The Chief said that officers have been very busy and are doing a great job out there.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Toddy Hill Road Traffic Study** – Chief Viadero told residents they had made their own observations of the situation on Toddy Hill and he felt Sgt. Silver had a good program put together. The Chief said he has witnessed speeders and distracted drivers and he has pulled a few people over himself. He added that there was definitely a problem over there as there were 172 stops made last month. Chief Viadero said they will do enhanced enforcement.

He noted that the traffic count on Toddy Hill Road is 6600 to 6700 per day with an average speed of 35 mph. The Chief suggested that the buses slow that average speed down giving a false reading.

Chief Viadero indicated that they wanted to purchase a few more speed warning signs.

Captain Vanghele added that the officers were doing a tremendous effort up there adding that they will always have Toddy Hill on their radar – no pun intended.

Chairman Faxon said that sounded great and that they would keep up with it and a number of things. He added that their presence is the most important thing.

**COMMISSIONER’S PARTICIPATION:** Chairman Faxon indicated that at the next meeting they need to complete the Chief’s review. He asked them to take time to do this and that the Chief would also complete one. The Chairman said they would assemble them together then the Board would approve it and put the review in the Chief’s personnel file.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** none

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner Rosenthal moved to go into Executive Session at 7:14 pm under Connecticut Statute 1-200 A 6 B to address strategy and negotiations for collective bargaining. He invited Chief Viadero and Captain Vanghele to attend. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

At this time the clerk left the meeting.

According to Chairman Faxon, the Board exited Executive Session ten minutes later.

Commissioner Rosenthal moved to adjourn. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

*Ted Swigart, Clerk*