

3 MAIN STREET
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470
TEL. (203) 270-4360
FAX. (203) 270-4247



Joel Faxon
Andrew Sachs
Scott Cicciari
Neil Chaudhary
Joan Plouffe

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, December 3, 2019
Town Hall South – Main Conference Room
3 Main Street, Newtown

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

Present: Joel Faxon, Joan Plouffe, Andy Sachs, Neil Chaudhary
Absent: Scott Cicciari

Also Present: Chief Viadero, Capt. Vanghele, Lieutenant Kullgren, Officer Haas, Brian Budd, Donna Budd, four members of the public and one member of the press.

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Chairman Faxon moved Appointment of Commission Chair and Vice Chair up on the agenda.

Appointment of Commission Chairman and Commission Vice Chairman: Commissioner Sachs moved to appoint Joel Faxon as the Chairman and Scott Cicciari as the Vice Chairman. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor. Commissioner Faxon appreciates the confidence people have in him and tries to be open and receptive to input; he appreciates the opportunity to move forward with another term as Chairman and looks forward to having Scott Cicciari as the Vice Chairman. Although not present, based on conversations they had, Commissioner Faxon said that Commissioner Cicciari supports the vote.

Chief Viadero recognized former Commissioner Brian Budd, who was on the Police Commission for twelve years and presented him with a plaque, a challenge coin and a bottle of wine. Chief Viadero said that Commissioner Budd's impact on the agency has been instrumental, moving forward and taking the agency through a very, very trying time, 12/14 and the impact on the department. Being very knowledgeable and a police officer helped in getting a new facility. The department will be eternally grateful. Commissioner Budd said that Bill Brimmer, twelve years ago, gave him the chance to be on the Police Commission. The vision of past Chairmen, Duane Giannini and Paul Magiafico lined up with where we are today. Chief Viadero has been instrumental in changes. Dan Rosenthal, Pat Llodra and the current members of the Commission have been helpful. The carried momentum facilitated the vote to get the new building. Chairman Faxon echoed the Chief's comments and also said the Brian Budd was very helpful in showing him the ropes. Having a sworn officer on the Board is unique and it is a loss to no longer have him on the Board. At the same time Chairman Faxon welcomed Neil Chaudhary as a positive gain. Commissioner Sachs said that the perspective Commissioner Budd brought to the Board, and the education the Board received because of it, is immeasurable, as is the value to the community. Commissioner Plouffe echoed the sentiments of the Board; what Commissioner Budd brought to the table is invaluable.

Rec'd. for Record 12.5.2019
Town Clerk of Newtown 2:51 pm
Debbie Aurelia Halstead

Public Participation: Carolyn Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Road thanked the Board for the white stripes and the rumble strips. They make a difference. William Duffy, 17 Pilgrim Lane hopes that the road surface on Toddy Hill Road will be improved. Chairman Faxon noted that Fred Hurley will be invited to attend the January Police Commission meeting. Pete Sepi, 83 Toddy Hill Road expressed gratitude for improvements. There's still work to do and he is anxious to hear more about traffic calming. Lieutenant Kullgren thanked Commissioner Budd for his service and Mrs. Budd's sacrifice relative to the time given to the Board.

Police Union Participation: none.

Consideration and action on the minutes of Nov. 5, 2019: Commissioner Plouffe moved to accept the minutes of Nov. 5, 2019. Commissioner Sachs seconded. Commissioner Chaudhary abstained. The acceptance of the minutes passed.

Chief's Report: Community events include a food drive with Redding PD at the Big Y. There was a movie with a cop (The Grinch). The toy drive will be at the Toy Tree, TJ Maxx and Tractor Supply. The budget will be submitted soon; budget meetings begin in January. Chief Viadero will request funding for signage and traffic studies. Three officers in the traffic unit, Sgt. Silver, Officer Flynn and Officer Mulhill, were honored as traffic heroes by AAA. All 45 officers participated in the annual firearms qualifications and all passed. The Department received funds from Newtown Prevention Council which allows officers to look into vendors and liquor stores relative to underage drinking. Traffic has been very heavy through town. When there is an issue on Rte. 84 Waze sends everyone off the highway. Officers are very busy. Officers participated in No Shave November, which raised money for cancer awareness and men's health.

Old Business:

a.) **Police Building Update:** The ground breaking was in November. Consigli is now in the building; work has commenced.

b.) **Toddy Hill Road Update:** Some recommendations made by the traffic engineer have been implemented. The footings have been poured for the speed signage. Chief Viadero has been assured it will be done. There was a delay due to the snow storm. Weather will be favorable for the next couple of weeks. Mr. Hurley has been responsive and Chief Viadero is confident the signs will be put in. Enforcement continues.

Correspondence: A thank you letter was received from an elderly woman visiting Newtown who received aid from an officer after getting stuck off the side of a driveway. Another thank you letter was received from out of town, recognizing Officer McCarthy for helping with a car issue, while off duty and out of town. Capt. Vanghele received a thank you note from Trinity Episcopal Church for time he spent there on Oct. 18 relative to immigration status.

New Business:

Approval of new Pursuit Policy – State mandated policy revisions: Chief Viadero gave an overview of the subject policy saying that he chaired the committee. The policy is a cooperative effort of the POSTC (Police Officers Standards and Training Council), attorneys from state government, legislators and from looking at best practices. Implementation is January/February. Capt. Vanghele was thanked for his help on the policy. Chairman Faxon moved to approve the Pursuit Policy. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Approval of Meeting Dates for 2020: Following discussion it was decided that there will be no meeting in July. Chairman Faxon moved to approve the attached meeting dates for 2020, noting there will be no meeting in July, 2020. Commissioner Plouffe seconded. All in favor.

Commissioners Participation: Commissioner Chaudhary is happy to be on the Board and is looking forward to learning from everybody and contributing in any way he can. Commissioner Sachs noted that Commissioner Chaudhary comes with a wealth of knowledge on traffic. Chairman Faxon welcomed Commissioner Chaudhary saying the Board likes to work together, collectively, to solve problems. Chairman Faxon also congratulated Commissioner Plouffe and thanked her for her continued service. Commissioner Plouffe congratulated Chairman Faxon on his re-election and said the groundbreaking was exciting.

Public Participation: **Pete Sepi** invited the Board to park in his driveway to witness what's going on. He asked when the speed signs will be installed. Chief Viadero stated that Fred Hurley has been very responsive and has assured the Chief they will be installed ASAP. Chief Viadero would like to see them installed by next week. Not inclusive of Police time and signage purchased out of the police budget, the Department of Public Works has spent over \$30,000 on the rumble strips and the striping.

Chairman Faxon stated the department is understaffed, based on population and the size of the town, and more patrol officers are needed on Toddy Hill Road. He stated there are other areas of the government that control the number of officers and the budget and recommended a presence at those meetings as well. Chief Viadero said staff was reduced from forty-seven to forty-five officers about five years ago; he would like to expand the traffic unit.

Carolyn Sepi asked what other board meetings they should attend. The Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the Legislative Council.

Adjournment: Having no further business to report the police commissioners adjourned their regular meeting at 7:17p.m.

Att: 2020 Meeting Calendar

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Marcinek, Clerk

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**2020 Police Commission Meetings
Town Hall South Conference Room
3 Main Street, Newtown, CT
All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.**

January 7

February 4

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

No Meeting in July

August 4

September 1

October 6

November 3

December 1

January 5, 2021