



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD TUESDAY, October 7, 2014
TOWN HALL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM
3 MAIN STREET, NEWTOWN

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

Chairman Paul Mangiafico called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

PRESENT: Brian Budd, Joel Faxon, Andrew Sachs, Virgil Procaccini, and Paul Mangiafico

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Michael Kehoe, Captain Jose Rios, Public Works Director Fred Hurley, Union President Scott Ruszczyk, and 1 member of the press. No members of the public were present.

Chairman Mangiafico welcomed Virgil Procaccini, Jr., as the Board of Police Commissioners' newest member, filling the vacancy left by former Police Commissioner James Viadero. The Chairman told the Board that Commissioner Procaccini owns a Private Investigations firm and comes to the Board with 27 years of law enforcement experience serving the Town of Easton and the State Police.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

POLICE UNION PARTICIPATION: Union President Ruszczyk thanked Chief Kehoe for two initiatives: the new uniforms and the mental health initiative. He added that negotiations were continuing.

CONSIDERATION AND ACTION ON THE MINUTES FOR: Regular Meeting September 2, 2014 and Special Meeting September 18, 2014: Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes from the regular meeting September 2, 2014 as corrected, removing Commissioner Sachs name as present for that evenings meeting and adding his name as absent. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Faxon moved to accept the minutes of the special meeting September 18, 2014. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Mangiafico asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda regarding a letter the board received from the Dr. Erardi Superintendent of Schools dated October 2, 2014. Commissioner Faxon moved to add the item to the agenda regarding the letter from the Superintendent of Schools. Commissioner Budd seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Letter from Superintendent Dr. Erardi -

Chairman Mangiafico indicated he had met with Superintendent Dr. Erardi last week and read the letter he received from the Superintendent dated October 2, 2014 into the record. (A copy of the letter is attached to the evening's minutes.)

CHIEF'S REPORT: Personnel Report – Lt. Exam - Chief Kehoe reported the Lieutenant exam would be held November 3. New Hires – The Chief told the Board that they had two new hires at the academy and noted that with these two new members the Department will have 45 officers filling the 45 positions available. **Budget** – Chief Kehoe assured the Board he will have the Fiscal 2014/2015 budget synopsis for them at the next meeting. **Fleet** – The Chief informed the Board that a written report regarding the fleet and how it is situated is in their packets. He indicated that it was a day to day effort keeping the full fleet in service.

Commissioner Faxon asked the Chief about body cameras (“Body Cams”) and what has been done to consider them, adding that he imagined having the protection of video would help them more than hinder them. Chief Kehoe told the Commissioner Faxon that the department already had 5 cameras coming in donated by Taser.

Commissioner Budd stated that it wasn't the cost of each camera that was the issue (roughly \$500 apiece); as much as it was the challenge of downloading the video and the hard drive storage retention.

Union President Ruszczyk stressed that he was very much against implementing the body cameras use in Newtown. He said he understood why departments were behind it that needed to improve community relations but suggested that Newtown has no issues with that. The Union President added that most of their problems were minor and added that having the body cameras will create more problems than their worth. He was quick to note that he has no problem with the in car cameras.

Training Report – Chief Kehoe stated that a copy of the report was in the Board's packets. He said that they have had a semi-active month with regard to training and added that the department-wide firearms training would begin in November or December and indicated they were trying to secure ranges for that. **Letters of Gratitude** – The Chief reported that the department had received two letters of gratitude – one for Officer Penna and the other for the Department. **Correspondence** – Chief Kehoe announced that the Department received a correspondence from the Federal Highway Safety Program offering the Department funding for its DUI enforcement program from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. The Chief said the other correspondence the Department received was regarding the traffic signals at Highland Plaza. He suggested the matter was still in the discussion stage between by the Plaza's engineers and the State of Connecticut. Chief Kehoe indicated that Mr. Hurley was very involved in the Route 25/Pecks Lane intersection and called on the Director of Public Works to address the matter further.

Mr. Hurley indicated that the issue off accidents in the intersection was critical. He reminded the Board that several years ago a left turn lane on Route 25 for Pecks was in the works. Mr. Hurley indicated that the money for Pecks/Rte 25 was approved but when the issue of the realignment of Commerce Road and Edmond Road on Church Hill Road came to light the money was moved to there. The Director of Public Works assured the Board that the State still considers the Pecks /Route 25 intersection critical and it's on the funding construction list for a left-hand turn lane, but added that it will be roughly two years before construction begins.

2014 Grant BVP – Chief Kehoe reported that the Department received Grant approval for its bullet proof vest program. **Training for CTI** – The Chief announced there will be CTI training held in Southbury on October 29, 2014. He suggested that it was useful training for the Board and asked that any members who are interested contact him or Mary, his Executive Assistant.

CAD/MRS – The Chief indicated that they were moving forward with the contract and that from an IT perspective the system would be implemented before March next year. **No Turn On Red Update** – Chief Kehoe was pleased to report that the additional “No Turn On Red” sign at the traffic light in Sandy Hook Center was given the OK and was up now. He added that they had to take down the Church Hill Road sign to put it there. Next, he stated, the department would tackle the Sandy Hook “No Parking” signs issue.

CAPTAIN’S REPORT: Calls for Service Reports for August 2013 to August 2014 – Captain Rios reported that for the month of August there were 9 DUI arrests, 19 cell phone infractions issued and 30 written warnings. **Monthly Detective Division Report for September 2014 – Written report by Lt. Robinson** – Captain Rios stated that there were 5 burglaries and 11 larcenies in September. He added that detectives were busy with their investigations. The Captain also noted that the SRO’s were operational. **Grants Update – High Risk Rural Roads Speeding Enforcement** - Captain Rios reported that over the last 6 weeks, from the middle of August 2014 through September 30, 2014, the Department ran radar on Town roads in 4 hour blocks. He stated that over 200 tickets were handed-out.

Chairman Mangiafico suggested it had been reported nationwide that major crime had decreased significantly and he asked the Chief and Captain if that was true in Newtown. Chief Kehoe noted that in 2013 there was a decrease reported. He stated that it was not just law enforcement but a statistic noted straight across the board. The Chief said he believed it was due to all the agencies working better together to reduce recidivism and violent crime. He added that the Federal Government reported homicides were down 11% and violent crime was down 9%. Captain Rios stressed that these were very favorable reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Discussion and comments for additional Traffic Calming on Key Rock Road – Chief Kehoe handed out additional information to the Board and turned the discussion over to the Director of Public Works.

Mr. Hurley reminded the Board that they have been talking about Key Rock Road for about 5 years now. He indicated that the speed tables that are out there now were not directly part of the conversation.

Mr. Hurley stated that speeding upper level of Key Rock Road and the condition of the road are the two issues, indicating that half the residents on the road say pave it and half the residents say don’t or the speeding will increase.

He announced that the Town is scheduled to do something about Key Rock Road in this budget to fix the drainage and fix the road.

Mr. Hurley indicated that at the Route 302 end of the road there is a concern of speeding. He believes that people speed off Route 302 onto Key Rock Road because the Westside hill infringes on the sightline. The Director of Public Works acknowledged that Key Rock road is an important road linking Route 302 to Hattertown Road and added that they don’t have easy simple answers.

Mr. Hurley stated that most of the residents they have talked in detail to, understand the issues. Commissioner Budd referred to the 25-mph speed tables on Queen Street and stated he would be comfortable with putting in more 20-mph speed tables on Key Rock Road.

Mr. Hurley reminded the Board that the Town’s first generation speed tables were put in on Key Rock Road, the second generation on Queen Street as well as two additional third generation speed tables. He said they have learned what works and have the ability to fine-tune the speed tables.

Commissioner Faxon said he finds the speed tables on Queen Street better than the ones on Key Rock Road.

Mr. Hurley brought out a large aerial map depicting the 1000 ft section of Key Rock Road from Route 302 to the first of the speed tables and placed it on the table in front of the Police Commissioners.

Chief Kehoe said they have the money to ask the engineer to come out and measure out the risks for them.

Commissioner Sachs suggested they invest in a study as Key Rock Road is a major artery.

Commissioner Budd asked what kind of time frame they were looking at for the study and the Chief said the spring.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and comments on car wash addition at 62 Church Hill Road – Chief Kehoe reported that a local business at 62 Church Hill Road wants to put in a small one-bay car wash. He suggested that with the realignment of the road this makes sense now more than ever as it won't have much more of an impact on traffic. The Chief added that the business would be using the existing cuts (cuts in curb for access and egress) for the gas station.

Chairman Mangiafico asked if they thought it would increase traffic and the Chief said hypothetically no.

Commissioner moved to approve the request for a car wash addition at 62 Church Hill Road as submitted. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Mangiafico asked for a motion adding an item concerning Town Constables to the agenda.

Commissioner Faxon moved that the Board add an item to the agenda concerning the Town Constables in Newtown. Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Town Constables in Newtown – According to Chairman Mangiafico, the Board received a request from Jeff Capeci, Chairman of the Charter Revision Committee, asking the Board of Police Commissioners to discuss the idea of Town Constables. He added that the Constables are appointed by the Board of Selectman and once appointed report to the Police Chief. Chairman Mangiafico said he was confused about what the Constables do and asked the Chief. Chief Kehoe said basically nothing.

The Chairman said he had a feeling the Town has a system in place based on a requirement that no longer exists and said that after research he is inclined to say the Town no longer needs this. The Chief indicated that the Town Constables have arrest authorities from the Resident State Trooper program when they appointed Constables.

Commissioner Faxon suggested they eradicate the Constable program as there are 45 sworn police officers serving Newtown.

Commissioner Budd reminded the Board that even when 12-14 happened the Town received plenty of mutual aid and didn't need the Constables.

Chairman Mangiafico stated that they will let Mr. Capeci know they have discussed this and they don't see any need for Town Constables absent something significantly different.

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATION: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Faxon made the motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Commissioner Sachs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Ted Swigart, Clerk

Subj: **Re: Commendation**
Date: 10/2/2014 2:18:32 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
From: PJM215@aol.com
To: erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us
CC: pat.llodra@newtown-ct.gov

Dear Joe:

Your note below will be shared with the entire Commission at our meeting on 10/7. Thank you very much for taking the time out of, I am sure, extraordinarily busy days to convey your feelings about the cooperation and interaction of our Police Agency with your needs. As Chairman of the Commission I would like you to know that I have been quietly awaiting a good time to write to you and extend a desire to meet with you face to face for an introduction and short chat.

Please let me know when it is a good time for you.

Paul Mangiafico

In a message dated 10/2/2014 12:45:39 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, erardij@newtown.k12.ct.us writes:

Paul

I am hoping within your leadership role on the Police Commission you can pass on my remarks to your entire commission:

Although I have only been in town for seven months I have the need to interact with the leadership of our police department numerous times for a wide range of issues (both proactive and reactive on my part).

In all instances I have felt enormously supported, and perhaps, never more so than yesterday as Sandy Hook went through a painful evacuation.

Chief Mike Kehoe and Lieutenant Richard Robinson offered extraordinary time sensitive advice during the critical decision making time of the evacuation. In addition, they remained at the site until there was no further safety concern, and finally, had a presence at a community forum the same evening which was so important in the parent debrief.

Although not on site yesterday, Captain Joe Rios has done everything possible to move our safety and security protocols to a user-friendly point of best practice and understanding.

I have worked with a number of high quality officers.

Mike, Joe, and Rich, in my experience, represents three of the absolute best.

In our present culture of commenting only on the negative I share this with you to simply let you know that the "new" superintendent has felt only extraordinary support from the executive leadership of your department.

Respectfully,

Dr. Joe Erardi, Jr.
Superintendent

Copy - NBOE, Pat Llodra

</pre><i>This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and

Thursday, October 2, 2014 AOL: PJM215