



MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
Special Meeting – 28 September 2021
Police Headquarters – 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT

Commissioners: Chairman Kenneth Pascoe, Jason Trombly, Jeff Davis, Clerk Joseph Blake, and Anthony Greco

Also Present: Chief Richard Brown, and Lieutenant Ryan Burrell, and Recording Secretary Karen Doyon

Absent: Vice Chairman Jack Quinn, Captain James Canon, Jr.

Chairman Pascoe called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and recognized all commissioners and staff in attendance with the exception of Vice Chairman Quinn. Chief Brown and Lieutenant Burrell and Kristina Hallett were also recognized.

Public Comment:

- Kristina Hallett of 1211 Newgate Road, West Suffield was happy to see a fabulous showing at Suffield on The Green. She inquired about what support is available to the officers who responded to the two deaths by suicide. Chairman Pascoe responded to Kristina's comment that it will be addressed during reports discussion.

Executive Session:

a. New Police Officer Candidate Interview

Commissioner Davis made the motion inviting Chief Brown and Lieutenant Burrell and Police Candidate for the new police officer candidate interview at 07:03pm, seconded by Clerk Blake. With no discussion the motion carried with commissioners Pascoe, Blake, Greco, Trombly, and Davis, 5-0-0 in favor. The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:35pm.

b. Commissioner Greco made the motion to appoint the candidate to the position of probationary certified police officer with the Suffield Police Department; the appointment is contingent on the candidate successfully completing and passing all of the required pre-hire testing as determined by the Chief of Police, seconded by Commissioner Davis. With no discussion the motion carried with commissioners Pascoe, Blake, Greco and Davis, 4-0-0. Commissioner Trombly abstained, due to knowing the candidate.

Local Traffic Authority

- Chairman Pascoe asked if there was a recent traffic study from North Main and South Main Street. Lieutenant Burrell responded that data for speeding and counters can be downloaded at any time and made available.
- Lieutenant Burrell reported that patrol is making themselves more visible throughout the Town.
- Commissioner Trombly commented on a job-well-done at the rail-road tracks on Mather Street.

Communications and Announcements

- Thank you Card to Ofc. Kieselback & Sgt. Miner from Robin Chase-Murtha, for assisting her father during her mother's passing.
- Thank you card to Ofc. Roman from Ms. Katie Kardos for his assistance and calm support when a tree impelled through her car during a July storm trapping her in her vehicle. She sustained serious injuries.
- Thank you email from Jeremiah Dunn, Chief State ACO thanking Lt. Burrell for his continued commitment to train, and present information during the 2021 CT Animal Control Officers certification training course. Lt. Burrell always appears professional, knowledgeable and well prepared.
- Thank you email from Captain Canon to Dispatcher's Morelli and Fasano, for a great job handling a huge number of calls and incidents following the storm on 12 August.
- Thank you card to Chief Brown from Tracy Coppolo & Martha Clemens, for the respect, service and dignity provided by Sgt. Miner to their father/husband during his struggle with severe dementia.
- Thank you card to Officer Kieselback and the Explorers thanking them for all the support, excellent traffic control, and police services during Suffield on the Green.
- Thank you card from Danielle, Joey & Joe Roy to Sgt. J. Nelson, Ofc.'s Roman & Lacic for helping their 5yr old son with a medical issue to breathe easy again. For their quick response-and-knowhow they are truly grateful.
- Thank you email from Jeremiah Dunn, Chief State ACO to ACO Selig for volunteering his time to assist with a practical exercise during the final class of the 2021 ACO Cert course. In addition ACO Selig presented a nuisance wildlife presentation which was very informative and very well received. Overall his knowledge, experience, continued commitment to public safety training is excellent.
- Thank you letter from Doug and Ann Cymbala to the Suffield Police Department for all the assistance given during a call to their neighbor's house, and for the continued support the given to the community by the Suffield Police Department.

Previous Minutes

a. Regular Meeting – 23 June 2021

Chairman Pascoe asked if there were any changes in the submitted regular meeting minutes of 23 June 2021. With none, Commissioner Greco made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 23 June 2021 as submitted, seconded by Clerk Blake. With no discussion, the motion carried with Commissioner's Pascoe, Blake, Trombly, and Greco, 4-0-1 in favor. Commissioner Davis abstained, as he was absent for the meeting.

b. Special Meeting – 10 August 2021

Chairman Pascoe asked if there were any changes in the submitted special meeting minutes of 10 August 2021. With none, Commissioner Trombly made the motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 10 August 2021 as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Davis. With no discussion, the motion carried with Commissioner's Pascoe, Black Trombly, Greco, and Davis, 5-0-0 in favor.

Department / Chiefs Reports

- a. The SRO report is incorporated with the operations report [*report is available on the Suffieldct.gov website*]. Report was submitted by Officer Thomas Kieselback.
- b. The Detective's reports is incorporated with the operations report [*report is available on the Suffieldct.gov website*]. Report was submitted by Detective Shawn St. John.
- c. Operations Report-Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell [*report is available on the Suffieldct.gov website*].

Lt. Burrell addressed the following noteworthy items:

- Car thefts / motor vehicle burglaries
- Burglaries / larcenies
- Domestic Incidents
- Untimely Deaths
- Notable Arrests
- Sexual Assault Investigations
- Internet Crimes / Scams
- Crime Analysis / Traffic Data
- Equipment Update

Brief discussion followed regarding the status of new weapons and ammunition. Chief Brown reported that the new weapons have been ordered with a ninety [90] day window to receive them. The guns currently being used will be bought back by the supplier. In addition, all of the 40Caliber ammunition was sold to multiple FFL registered gun stores [not private individuals]. ACO Selig spearheaded the project-it was a job 'well-done' said Chief Brown. The remaining funds within the account will be spent on non-lethal programs [Taser cartridges, bean-bag rounds].

- d. Support Services Report-Submitted by Captain James Canon [*report is available on the Suffieldct.gov website*]. There were no comments or concerns.
- e. Budget: Police and ACO-Submitted by Chief Richard Brown [*report is available on the Suffieldct.gov website*].

Chief Brown addressed the following noteworthy items:

- Nothing overly remarkable. Payroll stays at 'on average' at this time.
- Dispatch hiring

Commissioner Blake made the motion to accept the Department / Chief's Reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Trombly. With no discussion, the motion carried with Commissioners Pascoe, Blake, Davis, Greco, and Trombly 5-0-0, unanimously in favor.

Old Business:

- a. Update New Officer Recruitment: Conversations were discussed earlier in the meeting and the Board is comfortable with the outcome.
- b. Town Traffic Committee Update: Items pertaining to this was covered under Section IV.
- c. Update on Chief's Replacement: Ongoing. Chief Brown reported that a meeting transpired last week-terms are currently being worked on.
- d. Charter Review Commission Update:

Proposed Charter Revision Recommendations:

The Suffield Charter Section 302H be amended to increase the number of members on the Board of Police Commissioners to seven beginning with the election in Nov. 2023, and shall the Special Act creating the Police Commission be adopted as an ordinance and updated to correspond with the increase in members.

And

The Suffield Charter Section 302H be amended to clarify that the Police Commission maintains its statutory authority over the Department and that the Chief of Police manages day to day operations of the Police Department and reports, as a Department head, to the First Selectman.

Commissioner Trombly stated that he would like to see the recommendation from the expert [meaning the Daigle Study], be used and not the recommendation of the Charter Review Board as it contradicts the Study.

Commissioner Davis stated that according to the Charter Review Board, the justification for the Chief to report to the First Selectman was based on availability, and that the Chairman of the Commission cannot act unilaterally without having a meeting.

The Board agreed that before the vote goes through, a letter of concern should be submitted for the record. Chairman Pascoe asked the Board to send him individual comments to comprise a letter.

e. Discussion of HB6004 – Requirement of Civilian Review Board.

Chief Brown commented that he briefed the Commission back in June with a several page memo.

New Business:

Discussion involving an email from the First Selectman regarding usage of basketball courts being used at the McAlister Middle School.

Chief responded by stating that the basketball court is a public court, and he can't ban someone from out of town from using it. If the town residents confront the people and have an issue and don't call the police, the police does not have cause to remove them.

Chairman's Update: None

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Clerk Blake made the motion to adjourn the 28 September 2021 special Suffield Police Commission meeting at 8:48 pm, seconded by Commissioner Greco. Motion carried unanimously 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted by,
Karen M. Doyon
Recording Secretary