

MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
Police Headquarters - 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078
25 May 2022 – Regular Meeting

Commissioners: Vice Chairman Anthony Greco, Terrence Plakias, Joesph Blake and Kristina Hallett

Also Present: Chief James Canon Jr., Captain Robert Palmer, Colin Moll and Susan Smyth

Absent: Chairman Kenneth Pascoe and Jason Trombly

Vice Chairman Anthony Greco called the regular police commission meeting to order at 7:00pm and recognized all commissioners and staff in attendance except for Chairman Kenneth Pascoe and Jason Trombly. Vice Chairman Anthony Greco asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the school shooting in Texas on May 24, 2022.

Public Comment:

Paul Christian of 281 Hill Street expressed his concerns about speed issues on Hill Street. Ted Ruddick of 15 High Street/ also expressed his concerns of speed and noise from a specific vehicle and motorcycles in the area of Bridge Street.

Local Traffic Authority: 1st Selectman Moll reported that there was a Local Traffic Authority Meeting and the final report will be online at the end of the week.

Communications and Announcements:

Commissioner Joseph Blake read a thank you card from family #41 showing appreciation for holiday basket that was donated to the family.

Previous Minutes:

Vice Chairman Anthony Greco asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the April 27, 2022 meeting.

Vice Chairman Greco made the motion to approve the submitted minutes of the regular meeting held on April 27, 2022 with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hallett. With no discussion, the vote carried with Vice Chairman Greco, Blake, Plakias and Hallett, 4-0 in favor.

DEPARTMENT / CHIEF REPORT *[All reports are available on the Suffield.gov Website].*

1. SRO Report – Submitted by Officer Thomas Kieselback

a) Commissioner Hallett expressed thanks for the elevated police presence at the schools due to the tragedy in Texas yesterday.

2. Detective’s Report – Submitted by Detective Shawn St. John

b) There were no comments from the Commission.

3. Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell

Lieutenant Burrell's report indicated the following:

a) Arrests:

- Officers made 9 arrests in the last month. (3) Three arrests were Domestic related, (4) Four arrests were made for driving under the influence (1) One arrest was from a warrant for Failure to Appear, (1) One arrest was for Breach of Peace.

b) Burglaries/Larcenies

- There have been several larceny complaints. (3) Three involved scrap metal. Multiple complaints of motor vehicle larceny.

c) Sexual Assault Investigations:

- There were (4) Four new sexual assault allegations. Homeland Security is involved in (1) One investigation due to the crime being committed in multiple states.

d) Internet Crimes/Scams:

- There have been a large number of phone scams. Elderly residents have reported getting phone calls saying to send money or they will be arrested.

e) Domestic / Mental Health Related:

- Officers responded to (6) Six domestic violence related calls. (3) Three arrests were made from those calls. There were multiple mental health related calls with (8) Eight Emergency Examination Requests.

f) Equipment Update:

- Delivery has been taken of (2) Two Dodge Chargers and (1) One Ford F-150. Fleet Supply is working on getting the final parts to be fitted for emergency equipment. (1) One charger is close to completion.

4. Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer

Captain Palmer highlighted on the following:

a) Communications:

- Dispatcher Rawley has settled into her position and is doing very well. She is now working solo.

b) Training:

- Captain Palmer stated that all personnel that required recertification through POST have successfully completed the process. Personnel continue to request training and a yearly calendar has been created to ensure that not too many are training at the same time. Training for certified car seat personnel will be scheduled.

c) Animal Control:

- ACO Selig has been very busy handling both domestic and wild animal issues. ACO Selig also doubles as a one of the firearm trainers.

d) Policy Development:

- New policies and their review are still moving forward. Policies 2.01 through 2.10 have been posted and Power DMS is being successfully used by personnel.

e) Records Management:

- Captain Palmer states there is a large number of Records requests. The new Records Clerk has accepted an offer of employment. And will be starting in approximately 2 weeks. Susan Smyth started her employment on May 10 and is being trained by Karen Doyon on the administrative roll for the department.

f) Staffing:

- Captain Palmer stated while department is fully staffed, there are retirements in the future. Recruitment will be started in order to be prepared for filling retirement vacancies.

g) Police Accountability Act / Legislative Issues:

- CT Legislature has passed SB-135 and awaiting the Governor's signature. This allows for Agencies to choose CT POSTC Accreditation or CALEA.
- Work continues on a plan to establish yearly benchmarks from 2022 through 2025 to fulfill the required "proofs" for the standards.

5. Commission Meeting Report/Police Budget and ACO Report – Submitted by Chief James Canon

Chief Canon reported on the following:

a) Budget Highlights:

- As previously discussed the salary budget is significantly over budget due to retro pay out due to contract. Chief Canon to go to the Board of Finance to seek funds for remainder of year
- ACO budget is on track.

b) Contract Negotiations:

- All contracts are up for negotiations. Negotiations for Police will start the 2nd week of May. There is no time frame for Dispatch and Clerical contract negotiations.

c) Grants

- JAG grant: An application was submitted for \$20,000 for the purchase of (8) Eight portable radios. Notice was received that the grant has been officially approved. Three portable radios have already been ordered.
- COPS grant: Cops technology grant was applied for and submitted. On May 17, 2022 Congressman Joe Courtney called to inform that (75) Seventy-Five applications were received and that Suffield is (1) One of (15) Fifteen that are moving forward to the appropriations committee.

d) FY 22-23 Budget:

- A successor agreement with River Valley Animal Hospital is still under negotiations.
- Next years budget has been approved by the Town. No stationary LPR cameras were approved. ACCE funding was approved for new CAD/RMS System. ACCE funding approved for (3) Three of the (4) Four vehicles.

Vice Chairman Greco made the motion to accept the Department / Chief Reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Hallett. With no discussion the motion carried with Commissioners Blake, Greco, Plakias, and Hallett 4-0 in favor.

Old Business:

- a) **Dispatcher Update:** This item was carried over from previous discussion.
- b) **Town Traffic Committee Update:** This item was carried over from previous discussion.
- c) **Fire Commission Supplemental First Responder Update:** Chief Canon discussed that himself and Chief Spencer have made some recommendations for changes. Those changes were adopted and added into policy. It has been sent to The First Selectman for review.
- d) **Civilian Review Board Training for Commissioners:** There was no information to discuss.

New Business:

a) **Chief / Department Goals 22/23 – Presentation and Discussion:**

- Chief James Canon would like to recognize Officer Kieselback for his great work as SRO officer. Officer Kieselback created a great relationship with staff, students and parents. Officer Kieselback will return to patrol.
- Officer Randy Roman has been selected as the new SRO Officer he will be integrated into the position in August.
- Commissioner Hallett discussed the Youth Needs Assessment results. The assessment was for students in Grades 6-12. 89% of students who were able to take the survey participated. Full results of survey is on Town of Suffield website.

Chairman's Update:

Chairman Kenneth Pascoe was not in attendance. Vice Chairman Anthony Greco had no update.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Vice Chairman Greco made the motion to adjourn the May 25, 2022 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 2020 pm, seconded by Commissioner Hallett. The motion passed unanimously. The next scheduled meeting is June 22, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,
Susan Smyth
Recording Secretary