

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

**Commissioners:** Chairman Kenneth Pascoe, Vice Chairman Anthony Greco, Jason Trombly, Joseph Blake and Kristina Hallett.

**Absent:** Terrence Plakias

**Also Present:** Chief James Canon, Captain Robert Palmer and Administrative Assistant Susan Smyth.

Chairman Kenneth Pascoe called the Regular Police Commission meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and recognized all commissioners and staff in attendance except for Terrence Plakias.

**Public Comment:**

There was no attendance for public comment. Commissioner Hallett read aloud an email from Ted Ruddick of 15 High Street about his frustration with the continued noise level from a vehicle that travels on High Street weekdays at 6:00 a.m. Mr. Ruddick had spoken to Sergeant O’Toole who informed him that he had no probable cause to stop the car.

**Local Traffic Authority:** Chief Canon reported that there are no updates.

**Communications and Announcements:**

Commissioner Joseph Blake read a card received from PMC Kids Ride expressing appreciation to Officer Thomas Kieselback. Commissioner Blake also read a card from RISE thanking the Suffield Police Department for spending time and explaining what it is like being an officer with the Suffield Police Department.

Chief James Canon commended Sergeant Miner and Officer Fuller for their outstanding work with locating a suicidal party. Sergeant Miner and Officer Fuller went above and beyond in their attempt to locate the individual and likely prevented a suicide.

**Previous Minutes:**

Chairman Kenneth Pascoe asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the May 25, 2022 Commission meeting.

Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to approve the submitted minutes of the regular meeting held on May 25, 2022 with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kristina Hallett. With no discussion, the vote carried with Vice Chairman Greco, Joseph Blake and Kristina Hallett, 3-0-2 in favor, Jason Trombly and Chairman Pascoe abstained [they were not in attendance at the May meeting.]

**DEPARTMENT / CHIEF REPORT SRO Report – Submitted by Officer Thomas Kieselback**

- a) Commissioner Joseph Blake inquired who would be the new SRO. Chief James Canon stated Officer Randy Roman has been assigned to the SRO position.
  - b) Captain Palmer had one addition to make to the SRO Report. Captain Palmer stated that on June 17, 2022 himself and SRO Randy Roman assisted the Suffield School District with a Professional Development Day. This was for an overview of the ALICE Program. The ALICE Program is the Critical Response Program that the Suffield District chose. The presentation was well received.
- 1. Detective’s Report – Submitted by Detective Shawn St. John**
- c) There were no comments from the Commission.
- 2. Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell**  
Lieutenant Burrell’s report indicated the following:
- a) **Arrests:**
    - Officers made (3)Three arrests in the last month. (1)One arrest was made by warrant for Animal Cruelty, (1)One arrest was by warrant involving a motor vehicle collision that occurred on 01/15/22. (1)One arrest was made by warrant from a motor vehicle stolen from driveway on Willow Creek on 11/29/19.
  - b) **Burglaries/Larcenies**
    - There have been several larceny complaints in the last month. Some from motor vehicles and (1)One complaint from a theft from a storage unit.
  - a) **Sexual Assault Investigations:**
    - Several sexual assault accusations are being investigated.
  - b) **Internet Crimes/Scams:**
    - There have been a large number of internet and phone scams. Several complaints regarding romance scams. This is from victims having online relationships and giving money to a person that does not exist.
  - c) **Domestic / Mental Health Related:**
    - Officers responded to (8)Eight domestic violence related calls and multiple mental health related calls with (6)Six Emergency Examination Requests.
  - d) **Equipment Update:**
    - Delivery has been taken of 1 Dodge Charger. The vehicle has been assigned and is in now in service.
- 3. Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer**  
Captain Palmer highlighted on the following:
- a) **Communications:**
    - Dispatcher Rawley has one year to get through formal DSET/State required class. Captain Palmer also stated that the schedule has not been posted as of yet for the 2022-2023 FY.
  - b) **Training:**
    - Captain Palmer stated that he completed his Behavioral Health Assessment. He will be forwarding (4)Four other Suffield PD members the paperwork

and instructions to complete their screening prior to November 30, 2022. Each year 20% must be screened.

- There will be one Officer that will be attending the Certified Child Car Seat class.
- The Department successfully conducted Firearms Training in May.

**c) Animal Control:**

- There continues to be bear sightings and encounters on nearly a daily basis in town.

**d) Policy Development:**

- New policies and their review are still moving forward.

**e) Records Management:**

- Captain Palmer stated Christine Meyerhans has started her position as the new Records Clerk and doing a great job catching up on the backlog.

**f) Staffing:**

- Captain Palmer stated there has been 2 interested candidates in the response to the lateral move position with the Department. Pending future retirements make recruiting and hiring a priority.

**g) Police Accountability Act / Legislative Issues:**

- Captain Robert Palmer stated that the CT Legislature has passed SB-135 and it has been signed by the Governor. This allows for either State Accreditation or CALEA.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

**a) Budget Highlights:**

- There was a Board of Finance meeting held on Monday, June 13, 2022. There was also a Board of Selectman meeting held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 to discuss the budget overage and answer questions. Also, to have both boards vote to allocate contingency funds to cover the overage.
- ACO budget is on track. ACO Officer will move from a “management” processed employee to a member of the Police Union.

**b) Contract Negotiations:**

- All contracts are up for negotiations.

**c) Grants**

- JAG grant: A grant for \$20,000.00 has officially been approved. (8)Eight portable radios have been ordered and awaiting notice on a date of completion.
- COPS grant: Cops technology grant was applied for and submitted. More to follow in the coming weeks on whether or not the grant was approved.

**d) FY 22-23 Budget:**

- The current agreement with River Valley Animal Hospital is still under negotiations.

Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to accept the Department / Chief Reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Jason Trombly. With no discussion the motion carried with Chairman Kenneth Pascoe, Vice Chairman Anthony Greco, Jason Trombly, Joseph Blake and Kristina Hallett 5-0-0 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:** There have been no new meetings.
- d) **Civilian Review Board Training for Commissioners:** There was no information to discuss.

**New Business:**

- a) **2022-2023 Budget Process Discussion:** This item is carried over from previous discussion from the Chiefs Report.

**Chairman's Update:**

Chairman Kenneth Pascoe stated there are no new updates.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to adjourn the June 22, 2022 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 8:24 pm, seconded by Jason Trombly. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully, submitted by,  
Susan Smyth  
Recording Secretary