

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

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

Also Present: Chief James Canon, Captain Robert Palmer, First Selectman Moll, Lieutenant Burrell and Recording Secretary Susan Smyth.

Vice Chairman Greco called the Regular Police Commission meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and recognized all commissioners and staff in attendance. Vice Chairman Greco asked for a moment of silence to honor fallen officers from Bristol, Connecticut. Sgt. Dustin Demonte and Lieutenant Alex Hamzy. Also, injured Officer Alec Iurato.

Public Comment:

None

Juvenile Review Board Update:

Chairman Mel Chavetz and a member of the JRB attended the meeting to discuss the Juvenile Review Board process. Mr. Chavetz expressed he believes the JRB has been very successful in keeping Juveniles out the court system. There was discussion about the members of the JRB and also how the JRB process is handled. Mr. Chavetz answered questions from the Board.

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

Communications and Announcements:

Commissioner Joseph Blake read aloud a card received from the Junior Girl Scouts Troop 10990 thanking ACO Ryan Selig for speaking with the group about animal habitats.

Commissioner Joseph Blake read aloud a card thanking ACO Ryan Selig for his help with the canine contest at the Suffield On the Green.

Commissioner Joseph Blake shared a Certificate of Recognition from State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture for serving as an Instructor at the 2022 Animal Control Officer Training Program.

Previous Minutes:

Vice Chairman Greco asked if there were any changes to the October 3, 2022 Special Meeting. Commissioner Kristina Hallett stated that there were. Vice President Anthony Greco tabled previous meeting minutes to the next meeting. Discussed and tabled to next meeting with revision.

DEPARTMENT / CHIEF REPORT

1. SRO Report – Submitted by Officer Randy Roman

- a) There were no comments from the Commission.

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

- a) There were no comments from the Commission.

3. Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell

Lieutenant Burrell’s report indicated the following:

Lieutenant Burrell stated that the mood in the agency has been slightly down due to the two Bristol officers killed in the line of duty. Lieutenant Burrell would like to thank Commissioner Hallett for coming into roll call and showing her support to the Suffield Officers.

Arrests:

- Officers made (4) Four arrests in the last month. (1) One arrest was for driving under the influence (1) One arrest was domestic related (2) Two arrests were by warrant for failure to appear.

Burglaries/Larcenies/Motor Vehicle Thefts:

- (3) Three Motor Vehicle thefts were reported in the last month including a tow truck. The tow truck is one of several tow trucks that have been stolen throughout the state. The tow truck was located in pieces and (1) One vehicle was found in Waterbury after crashing. There also has been more catalytic converter thefts.

Investigations:

- Officers responded to First Church of Christ Congregational for a report of Swastikas on the front steps. The case is still under investigation.
- Officers are investigating (7) Seven untimely deaths over the last month.
- Sgt. Miner and Ofc. Richards were dispatched to an unresponsive victim. Upon arrival they determined that the party had overdosed on fentanyl. Officers administered Narcan and due to the quick response, the person had been revived.

Internet Crimes/Scams:

- There have been a large number of internet and phone scams. A large number of complaints are regarding unemployment claims being fraudulently made.

Domestic / Mental Health Related:

- Officers responded to multiple domestic violence related calls and made (1) One arrest from those calls.

Equipment Update:

- The (2) Two Dodge Chargers have been completed and are on patrol. (3) Three new Ford Interceptors have been purchased and delivered. Fleet Auto Supply is working on getting the final parts for upfitting of the vehicles. A F-150 has been completed by Fleet Auto Supply and will be on patrol very shortly.

3. Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer

Captain Palmers report highlighted on the following:

a) Communications:

- Dispatcher Rawley is scheduled for final State mandated dispatcher training.

b) Training:

- Captain Palmers report stated Recert training required for all personnel to recertify for June 30, 2023.
- In 2023 5 more members will be required to complete Behavioral Health Assessment to maintain 5 year rolling schedule.
- Lesson plans are in development or complete for the training that is required for the balance of 2022. This includes firearms, Taser, OC spray, straight baton and handcuffing.

c) Animal Control:

- ACO Selig is busy handling both domestic and wild animal issues.
- ACO Selig now is providing a monthly report to the Police Commission.

d) Policy Development:

- Chapter 3 policies are being finalized at DLG and we are awaiting their return. Initial review of Chapter 4 has been forwarded to DLG. We are almost done with initial review of Chapter 5.

e) Promotional Exams:

- There is discussion about future promotional opportunities and identifying needs for a new Sergeant promotional process.

f) Police Accountability Act / Legislative Issues:

- Captain Robert Palmers report states that we are continuing to monitor bills and legislative action that impacts law enforcement.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

a) Budget Highlights:

- Currently, both the Police and ACO budget are on track.

b) Contract Negotiations:

- All collective bargaining agreements for agency personnel are expired and currently in negotiation process.

c) Grants

- JAG grant: A grant for \$20,000.00 has officially been approved. The funds are going to be used for (8)Eight portable radios. Current radios are reaching end of life. Also, the entire radio system needs to be addressed.
- COPS grant: Cops technology grant was applied for and submitted. The appropriations committee has yet to pass the bill required to release the funding and it is believed that funding will likely arrive anytime between now and December.

d) Board/Committee Meetings

- There will be a Pedestrian and Traffic Safety and Infrastructure Committee special meeting on Thursday, October 27, 2022. The meeting will further address the study that was recently completed and prioritization of the suggested projects.
- On behalf of the Local Traffic Authority Chief Canon has applied for additional signage within the school zones. Currently, they are only marked with a sign on either end for the school zone indicating that there is a school ahead.

e) Informational

- The department has been present at several community events including the ACO presentation with the girl scouts and the Trunk or Treat event.
- Members of the Department attended the funeral of the Bristol Police Department Officers who were killed on October 12, 2022. The services were well attended with approximately 18,000 -20,000.
- Chief Canon would like to thank Reverened Bailey and Commissioner Hallet for stopping by and offering their support and services to our personnel.

f) Future Projects

- There will likely be a need for a study to address what we will be needed once we are able to decide as the whether or not to join the state radio system.
- Research is continuing for the issue of LPR(License Plate Reader) cameras and their potential use in town. There have been several incidents lately in which such technology would have assisted our investigation.

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

New Business:

- a) None**

Meeting Minutes: Suffield Police Commission
Date: 10/26/2022

Chairman's Update:

Vice Chairman Greco stated there are no new updates.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to adjourn the October 26, 2022 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 8:20 pm, seconded by Krisina Hallet. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully, submitted by,
Susan Smyth
Recording Secretary