

MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
Police Headquarters - 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078
18 January 2023 – Regular Meeting

Commissioners: Vice Chairman Anthony Greco, Jason Trombly, Joseph Blake, Michael Siegel, Kristina Hallett and Terrence Plakias.

Also Present: Chief James Canon, Captain Robert Palmer and Christine Meyerhans

Vice Chairman Greco called the Regular Police Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Public Comment:

None

Communications and Announcements:

Commissioner Joseph Blake read aloud a letter from Suffield Community Aid thanking those who participated in the Holiday Basket collection. There were 48 families who received holiday baskets. Also, 35 Seniors who had received baskets.

Commissioner Joseph Blake read aloud a letter from Family #61. The family would like to express their gratitude to those who provided such a generous holiday basket to their family. Commissioner Joseph Blake read aloud a letter from Judy Holcomb with the Quilts of Valor. She wanted to thank Captain Palmer and the Suffield Police Department for the generous donation.

Commissioner Joseph Blake read aloud a letter from the Suffield Senior Center. They would like to express gratitude to the Suffield Police Department for hosting the annual Senior Christmas lunch.

Previous Minutes:

Acting Chairman Anthony Greco asked if there were any changes to the November 16, 2022 meeting minutes. There were none. Motion to approve the November 16, 2022 meeting minute by Joseph Blake, 2nd by Kristina Hallett. Motion passed 5 in favor and 1 abstention.

DEPARTMENT / CHIEF REPORT

1. SRO Report – Submitted by Officer Randy Roman

a) Commissioner Jason Trombly inquired about whether having an SRO at all schools has been considered. Captain Palmer stated that the Board of Education has hired security officers to be in the schools. At this time there is not discussion to add another SRO. Captain Palmer also states that SRO Roman continues to be extremely busy. He has been available day and night for any issues that need attention.

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

- a) Detective St. John has been busy with multiple juvenile cases. Detective St. John is also in the process of organizing and cleaning the Evidence Room.

3. Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell

Lieutenant Burrell's report indicated the following:

Arrests:

- Officers made (6) Six arrests in the last Month. (1) One of the arrests was made for a warrant of Sexual Assault in the 4th degree to a minor. This has been a lengthy investigation.

Burglaries/Larcenies/Motor Vehicle Thefts:

- Officers have responded to multiple motor vehicle burglary complaints. Several items were stolen from inside of vehicles including cash, bicycles, I pads, etc.

Investigations:

- Officers responded to (3) Three untimely death investigations in the last month including one on Christmas month.

Internet Crimes/Scams:

- Community members are still reporting a large number of internet and phone scams. Most of the ones made in the last month have been unemployment claims.

Domestic / Mental Health Related:

- Officers responded to approximately (18) Eighteen domestic violence related calls in the last month and (1) One arrest was made.
- Officers responded to multiple mental health related calls and completed (7) Seven Emergency Examination Requests.

Equipment Update:

- A 2014 Ford Explorer was sold through a silent auction process and sold for \$7000. Acting Chairman Anthony Greco asked if that money needs to be turned over to the town? Lieutenant Burrell stated no that if does not. Lieutenant Burrell stated that there are (2) Two more cruisers will be sold in the same manner in the near future.

Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer

Captain Palmers report highlighted on the following:

Communications:

- Dispatch desks are broken and not reparable. We are looking to upgrade the desks so that the standing components work for the dispatchers.
- Transition to a new CAD/RMS started and IT is taking the lead on data transfer. Data migration continues and is happening every 24 hours. Training will commence in January for System Administrators, the Trainers from the PD, Users and finally Dispatchers prior to going live.
- Captain Palmer asked the Commission if they would be interested in adding Police Commission Meetings to the Twitter page once it is up and running. Commissioner Hallett stated she believes that is a great idea and we should. Commissioner Hallett also inquired about having all Commission meetings done on Zoom and in person. Chief

Canon believes this is possible but will need to look into a camera from the IT Department.

- Acting Chairman Anthony Greco asked if there were still resumes being received. Captain Palmer stated that the Department is always recruiting.

Training:

- Captain Palmers report stated there is Recertification training required for all personnel to recertify for June 30, 2023. POST requires 60 credits tri-annually.
- In 2023 (5) Five more members will be required to complete Behavioral Health Assessment to maintain 5 year rolling schedule. They have been identified and will be notified in January. The reviews will be completed by February 2023.
- Drug Analysis Testing will be completed in March of 2023 for all POSTC recerts that are due in June.
- Lateral Cert has been granted for Probationary Officer Dylan Sullivan. He is currently in the Spector Lateral Cert Class. Our next Officer will have his training presented to the POSTC in February for review and the potential granting of lateral certification.

Policy Development:

- We have all 10 Chapters now in our Power DMS System and we are working through Chapters 7-10. These will be forwarded to Chief Canon for final review as soon as possible.

Promotional Exams:

- There is discussion about future promotional opportunities and identifying needs for a new Sergeant promotional process. There is a CBA aspect to this process so we are engaging the Union in an effort to provide the most effective evaluation process for new Sergeants in the Suffield Police Department.

Other Projects:

- FY 23-24 budget work has been submitted by Chief Canon and are ready to provide supporting documentation by decision makers.
- We continue to meet with various community groups to further our efforts at becoming interactive with the community. These include the Senior Center, Suffield Local Prevention Council. BOE and others. These meetings continue as we move forward.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

Budget Highlights:

- Currently, both the Police and ACO budgets appear to be operating within budget.

Contract Negotiations:

- The Town has settled multiple labor agreements with only the Police Contract remaining to be settled. Any adjustments for retroactivity, if any, has yet to be seen within budget.

Grants:

- Chief Canon stated that the Suffield Woman's Club donation of a drone has been received. And the Department is very grateful for the donation. Four members of the department have already requested to be trained to pilot the Drone.
- We are continuing to research the issue of LPR(License Plate Reader) cameras and their potential use here in Town. There have been several incidents lately in which such technology would have assisted our investigation. We have included this request in the ACCE budget request for next year.
- Congressman Joe Courtney visited the Department today. He took a tour of dispatch and discuss the Nexgen system.

Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to accept the Department / Chief Reports as submitted, seconded by Kristina Hallett. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Update:

Vice Chairman Greco opened nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Communications Clerk and SLPC representative. Nomination by Joseph Blake for Anthony Greco for Chairman, 2nd by Kristina Hallett. All in favor. Nomination by Anthony Greco for Joseph Blake for Vice Chairman, 2nd by Kristina Hallett. All in favor. Nomination by Anthony Greco for Jason Trombley for Communications Clerk, 2nd by Joseph Blake. All in favor. Kristina Hallett will remain SLPC representative. Commissioner Hallett informed that there will be a Substance Abuse Speaker that the public can attend on March 8, 2023.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Acting Chairman Anthony Greco made the motion to adjourn the January 18, 2023 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 7:15 pm, seconded by Kristina Hallett. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully, submitted by,
Susan Smyth