

**MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION**  
**Police Headquarters - 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078**  
**August 23, 2023 – Regular Meeting**

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

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

Chairman Greco called the Regular Police Commission meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Communications and Announcements:**

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud a letter from a resident thanking Sargent Miner, Officer Roman and Officer Severns for helping them rescue their horses who had gotten free.

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud a letter from a retired Officer thanking Officer Reagan for being so comforting to him while he waited with him for an ambulance.

A post from the Suffield Forum was read out loud praising Officer Severns for being such a down to earth and cool cop while he stayed with a resident who had a problem with his car.

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud an email thanking Officer Donnelly for his quick response responding to him when he had fallen in front of his home.

A card was shown from Kids Korner thanking the Suffield Police Department.

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud an email from Chief John Spencer of the Suffield Volunteer Ambulance showing appreciation for Sargent Miner going above and beyond at an emergency call and assisting with a patient.

**Previous Minutes:**

Chairman Greco asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the June 28, 2023. Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to approve the submitted minutes of the regular meeting with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Michael Siegel. Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **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 Fuller**

- a) There were no comments from the Commission.

### **3. ACO Report – Submitted by Ryan Selig**

- a.) There were no comments from the Commission.

### **4. Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell**

Lieutenant Burrell’s report indicated the following:

#### **Arrests:**

- Officers made 19 arrests in the last Month.

#### **Burglaries/Larcenies/Motor Vehicle Thefts:**

- In the last month only 1 car burglary was reported. There was a report of a John Deere tractor being stolen from a house. There were 2 dirt bikes were stolen from a residence.

#### **Fraud:**

- 27 Fraud complaints were made in the last month. That is a 295% increase compared to 2022.

#### **Domestic / Mental Health Related:**

- Officers responded to approximately 13 domestic violence related calls in the last month. There was 1 arrest made. The department is experiencing a 65% increase compared to 2022.

#### **Equipment Update:**

- Three Ford Explorers have been picked up and are awaiting upfit. The parts have been ordered and we are waiting on their delivery before we can have the cruisers built.

### **Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer**

Captain Palmers report highlighted on the following:

#### **Communications:**

- Current proposal will have desks upgraded along with the larger radio project. August 22 there was PD walkthrough with consultant.

#### **Training:**

- Eight members are due for POSTC Recert by June 2024. These are members that have a short turnaround from COVID extensions through POSTC.
- Behavioral Health Assessment will be scheduled next in 2024 for members of the Agency to maintain the 5-year requirement.
- Drone Training will be be scheduled for 6 members and there is room for two outside agency members (for a modest fee).

- Officer Sullivan and Officer Severns are currently taking the final exams for the EMR certification. They finished the practical skills on 8/19 and they have to schedule the national exam as soon as possible after that.

**Other Projects:**

- We will continue to meet with various community groups and provide “classes” for avoiding fraud and scam criminal activity. We have partnered with Kelly Giannuzzi from Youth Service to attend a series a “Bowl with the Blue” events at Spare Time in Windsor Locks.
- The upgrades have been finalized and now the Police Commission can hold hybrid meetings to provide access to more town residents through Zoom. This will bring the Commission in line with the other important Commissions in town and provide a greater transparency for the Agency.
- The assessment of the current town policy regarding tow trucks needs to be reviewed and updated in conjunction with the Town Attorney.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

**Budget Highlights:**

- The budget appears to be on track with projections at this time. The ACO budget appears on track at this time There may be some adjustments at the end of the year based upon that position being unionize now and differing rules being applied based upon OT expenditures.

**Grants:**

- At the beginning of August, the Department entered in to an agreement to allow for a Social Worker intern to begin working at the Police Department. The intern will have some limited abilities to conduct follow – up and aid some of our town residents. The internship is new in the region and believed to be the first of its kinds in the country.
- We will be submitting a grant for the renewal of the K-9 program. The grant will cover the start-up and training costs, as well as the first three years of the program if awarded. The submission is anticipated to go within the next month.

**New Business:**

Chief Canon went over Departmental Goals. Commissioner Joseph Blake thanked Chief Canon for this and the job well done and this will be very helpful when the Board is conducting the evaluation. Commissioner Kristina Hallett also commended Chief Canon and Captain Palmer on an impressive list of Department goals.

Commissioner Hallett inquired about the recognition program that had been discussed. Chief Canon had stated that this will be implemented in the future.

Meeting Minutes: Suffield Police Commission  
Date: 08/23/2023

Discussion was made on having a Special meeting to discuss Sargent Oral Interviews. A date of September 13, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. was decided on for this meeting.

**Old Business**

None

**Chairman's Update:**

None

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Greco asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Police Commission Meeting. Commission Blake made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Siegel. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Smyth