

**MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
Police Headquarters - 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078
February 28, 2024 – Regular Meeting**

Commissioners: Chairman Anthony Greco, William Boucher, Kristina Hallett, Michael Siegel, and Joseph Blake.

Also Present: Chief James Canon, Susan Smyth and Lieutenant Ryan Burrell.

Chairman Greco called the Regular Police Commission meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Public Comment:

None

Communications and Announcements:

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud a note from a resident that resides next to the Suffield Police Department. She would like to thank Chief Canon for the relocation of the light fixture outside the Police Department and its positioning toward her home.

Captain Palmer played an audio message from a resident thanking Lieutenant Burrell for helping her change a flat tire on February 7, 2024 when she had pulled in to the Police Department. She was very grateful for his help.

Chairman Greco asked for a motion to go out of Agenda order and discuss New Business. Motion was seconded by Joseph Blake. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Flock Group shared a presentation on LPR System/Cameras. Questions were asked by the Commission.

Previous Minutes:

Chairman Greco asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the January 24, 2024. Commissioner Joseph Blake made the motion to approve the submitted minutes of the regular meeting with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kristina Hallett. 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. ACO Report – Submitted by Ryan Selig

a.) There were no comments from the Commission.

There was no Detective Report for the month of February.

Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell

Lieutenant Burrell's report indicated the following:

Arrests:

- Officers made 6 arrests in the last Month. Lieutenant Burrell also wanted to share that the previous weekend had been very busy for Officers and that Officers had to use Use of Force due to an individual assaulting one of the officers. Commissioner Hallett asked if all the Officers were ok. Lt. Burrell said that the Officers were ok.

Burglaries/Larcenies/Motor Vehicle Thefts:

- In the last month Suffield Officers responded to several motor vehicle burglaries on multiple streets. A shed was also broken into and a dirt bike was stolen.

Fraud:

- For the first time in over a year, we saw a reduction in Fraud complaints compared to this time frame last year. Only two fraud complaints were made in the last month. Hopefully this reduction will continue.

Domestic / Mental Health Related:

- Officers responded to approximately 6 domestic violence related calls in the last month and no arrests were made. In the last month Suffield Police Offices responded to multiple mental health related calls and completed 2 Emergency Examination Requests. Two Risk Protection Orders and Warrants were completed and several firearms were confiscated.

Equipment Update:

- We are currently maintaining the fleet we have. The Tahoe's are experiencing oil loss in between oil changes.

Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer

New SPD Trainers

- Officer Donnelly completed MOI and will be attending the Basic Firearms Instructor Program through POST in the near future. We are working on expanding the instructional areas for all of our people to widen skill sets and get more in house training.

Community Engagement/Social Media

- We have dates scheduled for the Citizens Academy and currently have 7 interested persons. We are reaching out to community members in order to solicit more interest.
- We have some updates to make to the Department webpage after the new year to include FAQ's from the community and the story of the Department.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

New Hires:

- Dispatch Rice has nearly completed the CTO(FTO) portion of his training. He continues to be evaluated by the current Dispatching staff in all regards of his probationary performance. Tyler Hinckley is currently at the Police Academy and is scheduled to graduate on July 8, 2024. He reports is doing extremely well and he has all the necessary resources for continued success.
- Additional oral interviews for sworn officers to replace Off. Sullivan who left the Agency.

Recruitment/Retention:

- As a result of our low numbers in our recruitment efforts, is a nationwide issue, I am currently conducting a review of regional police contracts and will be doing a comparative analysis in an effort to determine what, if any, of our recruitment-retention issues may be.

Grants:

- We are collecting the final signatures for a State of CT DOT grant that has been approved to outfit all of the patrol vehicles with MDTs with e-citation printers. This will result in significant efficiencies and expand the Patrol Officers ability to provide services to citizens the point of interaction.
- Local Traffic Authority-after having attended training a CT State DOT with respect to the Local Traffic Authority, I will be looking to the Police Commission for assistance in confirming the practices of the Traffic Authority and reducing them to writing.
- On Wednesday, February 21, 2024 Captain Palmer and I were present at the Board of Selectman meeting. The Fire Department is asking to move Fire Dispatch services to an outside vendor, Tolland County Dispatch (TN). The Police Department supports the move to TN on the basis of limiting some of the liability and efficiency of dispatch, but the matter remains a budgetary issue for the Fire Department and Town leaders. The issue has no bearing on the Police Department other than what our Dispatchers would need to do if fire call were to occur. I would also like to state our Dispatchers are quality Dispatchers and do a great job. This ask should not be taken as an issue with our staff, it is solely about limiting liability and creating efficiency of process.

Executive Session

None

New Business:

None

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 Hallett. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Smyth