

MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
Police Headquarters - 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078
May 22, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Commissioners: Chairman Anthony Greco, William Boucher, Kristina Hallett and Terrence Plakias.

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

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

Public Comment:

None

Communications and Announcements:

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud a note from a child that drew a picture thanking the department for taking care of everyone.

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud a note from Chris and Denise for help with the PMC kids ride.

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud an email from a resident who attended the Citizens Police Academy. Thanking Sgt. Miner for the excellent experience.

Previous Minutes:

Chairman Greco asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the March 27, 2024. Commissioner Anthony Greco made the motion to approve the submitted minutes of the regular meeting with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner William Boucher. 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.

3. Detective Report – Submitted by Erin Fox/Shawn St. John

a.) There were no comments from the Commission.

Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell

Lieutenant Burrell's report indicated the following:

Arrests:

- Officers made 29 arrests since March 22, 2024 **Burglaries/Larcenies/Motor Vehicle**

Equipment Update:

- We are currently maintaining the fleet we have.
- Ford has issued a Special Field Action for all of our Explorers due to a concern that the driver seat belt can wear out and break due to the Police equipment rubbing on it. At this time the only resolution for the problem is to give a free inspection every 6 months or 5000 miles.

Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer

Training

- 8 Members are due for POSTC Recert by June 2024. These are members that have short turnaround from COVID extensions.
- Drug Analysis Testing was completed accordingly for all POSTC recerts on March 18, 2024 that are due in June.
- There are 6 members with the appropriate license to fly the drone.
- Sargent Miner, Officer Scata and Officer Donnelly are not POST certified instructors and they have their teaching areas locked in.

Community Engagement/Social Media

- The Citizens Academy was a great success and we will make this an annual event. We continue to make updates to our webpage to provide greater access to Department info. We are looking to make an interactive section for crime/crash/motor vehicle and other operational info from the agency.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

New Hires:

- As of May 17, 2024, there is still a vacancy in Patrol. On May 20, 2024 the newly hired dispatcher started and began training.

Recruitment/Retention:

- As a result of our low numbers in our recruitment efforts, is a nationwide issue, the Chief is 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.

Budget Highlight:

- The Police Department is currently projected to finish just under budget. Although overtime expenditures are up this year. The Animal Control Officer budget is also projected to finish under budget.

Grants:

- The Joe Courtney Grant application has been submitted, as a matter of process, even though its been approved through the appropriations bill.

Executive Session:

Board went into Executive Session at 6:36 pm to interview possible Police Officer candidate. Board came out of Executive Session approving offer to new Police Officer candidate at 6:56 pm

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 7:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hallett. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Smyth