

Equipment Update:

- One of the 2021 Ford Explorers is currently being upfitted as a K9 vehicle. This vehicle needs to be completed before Ofc. Roman attends the K9 Academy.
- We currently are in the process of replacing our 2008 ATVs with new machines. The department ATV's have assisted the Suffield Police Department as well as multiple other towns greatly since they were purchased in 2009. Due to their age, the current ATV's have been experiencing multiple mechanical issues.
- Ford has issued another recall for the 2020-2022 Ford Explorers for possible engine failure and risk of fire. There is currently no fix for the problem but we will be notified when a fix is available.

Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer

Community Engagement/Social Media

- 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. These info pages would be linked to our Power BI system and the Data would be updated automatically.

Communications/IT Infrastructure

- We are developing plans for critical incident responses where we need more than one dispatcher. These plans are for long term critical incidents that require an extended response.

New SPD Trainers

- We now have 7 Certified Instructors in the Agency with at least two more Officers interested in future opportunities.

FTO/CTO

- All members have successfully completed FTO program.

CT Alert Update/Set-Up

- We need to refresh our contacts with the CT Alert group to get the required training. We also need to create the pre-planned messages for the town to deploy as needed.

Captain Palmer shared CGA Bill Tracking Report. Commissioner Hallett stated that she would like to express her appreciation for sharing this information.

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

Chief Canon reported on the following:

Informational:

- We currently have two vacancies due to the retirements of Detective St. John and Officer Antrum. The two candidates we have in process have completed the majority of the background check process. Leaving only the medical exam. We are hopeful to finish the process within the next few weeks.
- We have completed an analysis on the costs associated with adding a fifth Sergeant to the PD.

- We are in the process of filling two vacancies on the Juvenile Review Board. Interviews were held on January 21, 2025 and we should have selections made within the next week. We are hopeful to have them in place for the February meeting.

Budget Highlights:

- The Police Department is now projecting just below or right on budget. On January 9, 2025 we attended the ACCE meeting and provided updates on this year's expenditures, the upcoming FY26 requests and the First Selectman and Finance Director on the proposed budget on January 24, 2025.
- The Animal Control budget is operating within budget and should remain that way for the remainder of the FY.

Local Traffic Authority:

- We are currently working with the Suffield Academy about relocating roadway signs for two of their roadways. This requires some documentation completion for State DOT. The documentation has been provided to the Academy for completion and submission.

Commission Boucher inquired about speed enforcement on Mountain Road and if it is done to alleviate the accidents that may happen and the areas of complaints. Also discussed was enforcement at cross walks on Mountain Road. Chief Canon responded to questions and discussion was had.

Executive Session

None

New Business:

None

Old Business

None

Chairman's Update:

Chairman Greco stated that he will be away in the month of February. Chairman Greco asked for a motion to cancel the February 2025 meeting. Commissioner Blake made a motion to cancel the February 2025 meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hallett. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Adjournment:

With nothing further, Chairman Greco asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Blake made a motion to adjourn at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hallett. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Smyth

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