



THOMAS H. KIELY
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN
ANNA HENRY, VICE CHAIRMAN
ROGER MCGOVERN, COMMISSIONER
LINO COSTANTINI, COMMISSIONER
PHILIP DIGENNARO, COMMISSIONER

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Long Hill Conference Room – Trumbull Town Hall
Tuesday, January 8, 2013

The Trumbull Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Members Present: Jack Testani, Chairman
Anna Henry
Lino Costantini
Roger McGovern
Albert Zmary

Also Present: Chief Thomas H. Kiely
Deputy Chief Michael Harry
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes
Attorney Edward Walsh
Lt. Savarese
Joseph Balskus – Tighe & Bond

Absent: Philip DiGennaro

Public Comments

Opened at 7:09 pm.

There being no public comments Chairman Jack Testani closed the Public Comments at 7:10 pm.

Approval of December 11, 2012 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2012 as presented.
MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner McGovern). There was no further discussion.
MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION, COMMISSIONER COSTANTINI.

Correspondence

None.

Chief Kiely's Report

Bridgeport Hospital Parkway Campus – Joseph Balskus, Tighe & Bond

Joe Balskus from Tighe & Bond was present to provide a detailed report on the traffic re-design on the Bridgeport Hospital project that will be located on 5520 Park Avenue, Trumbull. Mr. Balskus indicated that if the Trumbull Commission and the Fairfield Commission approve of the new traffic plan, the next step for Tighe & Bond is to get approval from the State DOT. The Commission asked when the project will begin. Mr. Balskus replied that it is expected to begin within the next 3 months. Mr. Balskus is requesting approval from the Commission for the new traffic plan.

Motion was made to accept the plan as presented by Mr. Joseph Balskus of Tighe & Bond. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner Costantini). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Unfinished Business

Chairman Testani requested to move Unfinished Business as the next topic to discuss. A letter was received from Attorney Lawler regarding the Towing Policy. Attorney Walsh presented the Police Commission with a copy of the approved Towing Policy dated June 14, 2011. The Commission and Attorney Walsh discussed the changes that were made at the meeting on June 14, 2011. Chairman Testani asked the commission if a copy of the Towing Policy should be mailed to Attorney George Lawler in response to his letter of December 5, 2012. The Police Commission agreed.

A motion was made to send a letter to Attorney George Lawler with a copy of the Towing Policy, which they will provide to Midtown Auto. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner Zamarly). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Attorney Walsh asked to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Towing Policy.

Commissioner Henry made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss the towing policy. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner Costantini). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Entering into Executive Session: Commissioners Testani, McGovern, Henry, Zamarly and Costantini. Also in Executive Session: Chief Kiely, Deputy Chief Harry, Deputy Chief Byrnes, Lt. Savarese, Attorney Edward Walsh and Vivian Munoz.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. MOTION made (Commissioner Costantini), 2nd (Commissioner Henry). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A motion was made to make an announcement that the towing policy has been revised as of June 14, 2011. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner McGovern). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chief Kiely's Report (cont.)

Budget Proposal, FY 2013-2014

Chief Kiely provided the Commission with a DRAFT Budget Proposal for their review, and said it is a work in progress. The Chief sees meaningful changes to the 2013-2014 Budget. There are some items that may be appropriate for bonding. Chief Kiely informed the Commission that he would like to have 78 sworn officers budgeted. Chief Kiely showed the Commission a chart which showed that there are currently 9 officers with 30 years of service and 15 officers with 25-29 years of service, indicating that there could be several retirements soon. Deputy Chief Byrnes will provide the Commission with an updated copy of the Retirement Eligibility chart.

The Newtown Police Department is requesting officers from other towns to assist with covering their assignments. This will be considered a Special Duty Job and Newtown will be billed for officers that assist.

A Monroe School has re-opened for Sandy Hook Elementary School students. The ERT has been on standby and other officers have been assisting Monroe Police Department.

The overtime account has already been used up for the 2012-2013 fiscal year due to the storms and the tragedy in Sandy Hook. The Chief will be attending the Board of Finance meeting on Thursday, January 10th and requesting a supplemental, as they would like to know why the request is being made.

Commissioner Costantini asked if the department has applied for reimbursement from FEMA. Chief Kiely responded that he has and hopes to receive 100% reimbursement, but will not see the money for a while. Deputy Chief Harry informed the commission that we requested \$117,000.00 to be reimbursed, but will not see it for this fiscal year.

Chief Kiely informed the Commission that the department purchased \$10,000 worth of SIMS Guns for SIMS Training. The officers need to be trained should something occur at the mall, schools, or any other location that they go after a suspect. Unfortunately this has been a wake-up call for the community; the officers need the appropriate training. The Chief is looking to increase the training budget by 51% next year.

Commissioner Testani asked if the College Incentive is part of training. Chief Kiely responded that is a contractual item.

The department has the opportunity to trade-in the Glock handguns which are 10 years old and need to be replaced. Should the current guns be refurbished the cost of replacing the springs would be \$50.00 plus \$75-\$100 to replace the sites. If we trade-in the weapons, the new handguns would cost approximately \$79 each and the department can issue a new handgun to each officer. The Chief would also like to trade-in other weapons that have been confiscated which would provide approximately \$3,000 toward the cost of the new Glocks. The Chief asked the Commission for their approval.

Motion was made to trade existing department handguns and confiscated handguns to Amchar Wholesale Inc. so new handguns can be upgraded for the department. MOTION made (Commissioner Zamary), 2nd (Commissioner Henry). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The two (2) new recruits, Pysz and Sota, have started the Police Academy. There are two (2) additional seats at the Police Academy in April. There are still potential candidates on the list who may be considered for hire. Chief Kiely suggested that a new exam be given when we approach the end of the current list.

Chief Kiely informed the Commission that the Police Department is working with School Security. There was a meeting productive on December 27, 2012 with the Board of Education. Lt. Kirby and Bill Connelly are doing assessments of school security. Commissioner McGovern asked if there are still officers present at the schools. Chief Kiely responded that the officers are still at the schools this week, but will be fading out. Officers will be visiting schools on a rotating basis and will be stopping in to the schools to do a walk and talk. Chairman Testani asked if the officers will be in marked cars. Chief Kiely responded they will be, as we want the visibility. Traffic Division and the Detective Bureau will be asked to come in early in uniform and make their patrol to cover the schools.

The Chief said that the officers are very dedicated to their job. During Hurricane Sandy, 100% of the officers showed up for work and were hesitant when they were told to come in to headquarters when the winds increased. As soon as the winds decreased they went right back out on the road.

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that there were approximately 1,400 calls for the month of December with an average of 6 burglar alarms a day. In 2012 the department had 2,400 burglar alarms for the year. Commissioner Testani asked if this was the month that the Alarm Ordinance would take effect. Chief Kiely responded that is correct, but they do not have any officer to handle this. Therefore it has been placed on hold. There were 172 medical calls for the month of December, slightly higher than normal. This included a number of overdose cases. The drug problem continues to increase within the town. Nine (9) drug violations included marijuana violations, heroin possession and two (2) PCP cases. Commissioner Testani asked how many of the medical calls, were drug related. Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the Commission that there were 11 overdoses, all which are heroin, in addition to the drug violations. There have been 59 criminal arrests for the month of December for a variety of charges, several of which were narcotic violations.

Traffic

Lt. Savarese reported that Officer Thompson spoke with the complainant on Stonehouse Road about the speeding vehicles. Officer Thompson has recommended posting a speed limit sign going westbound from Main Street and the Traffic Division will do speed enforcement on Stonehouse Road. A few months ago Stonehouse Road was paved and the Town Engineer and Officer Richard assisted with the signage and markings on the road.

Lt. Savarese indicated that for the month of December one (1) traffic complaint was received: a) Parking complaint on Vista Place at the cull-de-sac, where the resident is having problems exiting his driveway. A Town Engineer and Officer Richard recommended a "no parking" sign on the southern part of the cull-de-sac and a "no outlet" sign posted at the entrance of Vista Place.

Motion was made to approve "no parking" and "no outlet" signs on Vista Place. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner Costantini). There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Lt. Savarese indicated that the DUI Traffic grant was approved which will run from January 17, 2013 through September 2014.

Training Report

Deputy Chief Harry reported that there was some training for the month of December, but due to the holidays it was limited. In January, February, and March officers will be sent also to Danbury for 1 week for their mandatory re-certification courses. All officers will also have a night shooting session and a low light shooting training session.

The Town Council approved a grant from the state for \$36,000 for interview rooms and video equipment. On January 1, 2014 it is mandated by the state that interviews to be recorded. The Chiefs of Police, State Attorney's Office and CT Police Academy formed a committee and discussed what would pass judicial muster and came up with a set of requirements for the equipment and how to handle, secure and process. There will be two (2) rooms set up, one in the Detective Bureau and the other in Patrol to comply.

Monthly Sick Report

Deputy Chief Harry indicated that once December has ended every officer's sick time will be reviewed for the year and those who exceed the average will be notified by their supervisor to make them aware that it is being monitored with the intention of controlling the abuse of sick time.

Detective Bureau Report

Deputy Chief Harry did not have much to report due to the holidays and the tragedy in Newtown. The pistol permits have doubled since last year. The department is up to 625 fingers printing cases last year.

Trumbull Police Department's Complaint Process

Chief Kiely asked Lt. Savarese to provide the Commission an explanation on how the Complaint Process works. Lt. Savarese informed the Commission that there is a formal complaint process in place which Deputy Chief Byrnes put together several years ago. In order to keep the trust of the community, the department needs an effective complaint policy. The department accepts all types of complaints, including formal written complaints, telephone complaints, and anonymous complaints. The majority of the complaints are made in person and are handled by the shift supervisor. Other complaints that are more serious such as civil rights violations or use of force, are handled by Lt. Savarese. The complainant is notified that the complaint will be investigated and there is a formal letter that the Chief sends that indicates that Lt. Savarese will be contacting them and investigating the complaint. By contract the officer involved must be notified within 15 days and the complaint must be completed within 90 days. The complainant is contacted with the outcome of the investigation by a formal letter from the Chief. Commissioner Testani asked if there is a policy, procedure, manual or guideline and whether the Commissioners have a copy of the procedure. Commissioner Testani asked Deputy Chief Byrnes if he wrote the policy. Deputy Chief Byrnes responded that he did not write it, he formalized the process when the office of Professional Standards was established about 10 years ago. Prior to that it was not formalized, it was dependent upon the Chief whenever a complaint came in to determine who would handle it. What Deputy Chief Byrnes put in place were the steps on how to handle, create the documents, database, etc. The formal policy is still in DRAFT stages along with a variety of other policies.

Chief Kiely informed the Commission that at next month's meeting he will provide a written policy for them to look at. Chief Kiely also indicated that the next promotion for Lieutenant will allow one to be assigned to work on the Policy and Procedures. Chief Kiely informed the commission that the Union and the Chief's will be meeting with a new testing company due to the fact that the one that was used is going out of business and they need to select a new one.

New Business

Commissioner Testani wished Commissioner Henry a Happy Birthday.

Unfinished Business

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting. MOTION made (Commissioner Henry), 2nd (Commissioner Costantini) to ADJOURN the Trumbull Police Commission Meeting at 8:35 pm. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission