



THOMAS H. KIELY
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN
ALFRED LIGGINS, COMMISSIONER
ROGER MCGOVERN, COMMISSIONER
LINO COSTANTINI, COMMISSIONER
PHILIP DIGENNARO, COMMISSIONER
ALBERT ZAMARY, COMMISSIONER

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Trumbull Police Department – Chief's Conference Room
Tuesday, July 16, 2013

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission Meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm.

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

Also Present: Chief Thomas H. Kiely
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes
Deputy Chief Michael Harry
Lieutenant Thomas Savarese

Absent: Alfred Liggins
Philip DiGennaro

Public Comments

Opened at 6:49 pm.

There being no public comments Chairman Jack Testani closed the Public Comments at 6:50 pm.

Approval of June 11, 2013 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2013 as presented. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Zmary, 2nd by Commissioner McGovern. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION, COMMISSIONER COSTANTINI.

Correspondence

- Letter from Captain James Viadero of the Bridgeport Police Department regarding a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian. It was determined that the incident, which resulted in one fatality, could possibly be a domestic homicide. The Bridgeport Traffic Division was working on the train crash investigation at the Fairfield/Bridgeport townline; therefore the Trumbull Police Traffic Division was contacted for assistance in the investigation. Officers Thompson, Richard and Millington assisted the Bridgeport Police. Without their assistance the investigators may have missed crucial evidence that was required to sustain a murder charge. The Bridgeport Police Department thanked the officers for their dedication and professionalism.
- Letter from the Trumbull Police Union regarding building issues to be rectified. Deputy Chief Harry has addressed the issues with Allen White and they are being worked on.
- Memo from Detective Sergeant Scinto commending Detective Testi for his investigation on the Radio Shack robbery. Detective Testi was informed that East Haven experienced a similar robbery and the employee's phone which was stolen in the robbery was pinging at an address in Bridgeport. East Haven PD and Detective Testi responded to the area and observed a vehicle similar to the vehicle involved in the Trumbull robbery. An anonymous tip was received of the persons involved in robbery. Detective Testi worked hard and diligently in gathering more information and was able to obtain a search warrant for the apartment in Bridgeport. This was a multi-agency cooperative effort which culminated in a successful outcome with the arrest of several dangerous suspects. Chief Kiely also commended Detective Testi for his work.
- Letter from CooperSurgical thanking the Trumbull Police Department for participating in their 5th Annual CooperSurgical Health Fair on June 12, 2013. As a token of gratitude a donation of \$300.00 was made to the Trumbull Police Department Motorcycle Unit for use for the purchase of traffic enforcement equipment.
- Article from the Trumbull Times on the retirement of Sergeant Philip Hynes.

Chief Kiely's Report

- Chief Kiely provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation regarding the Radio System upgrade and Building Renovation project for the Trumbull Police Department. Chief Kiely informed the commission that the total project cost is approximately \$4.2M. The current communications center was established in 1981 and the radio system is now 16 years old.

Commissioner Costantini asked if the Board of Finance and First Selectman are in agreement with the upgrade of the Communications Center. Chief Kiely responded he has received positive feedback from the Board of Finance and the First Selectman.

Chairman Testani asked if there are any grants to help offset the costs for the Radio System and Building renovation. Chief Kiely indicated at the present time there are none but they continue to look.

Commissioner Zmary asked what is the time frame to complete the project and also stated he is concerned about there being any interruptions with the dispatch center while renovations are being done. Chief Kiely responded there will be a temporary dispatch center. At this time there is no time frame of when the project will be completed as he still needs to go before the Board of Finance to get approval for the bond of this project. Chief Kiely indicated they are dealing with an architect who has experience with renovations on dispatch centers. Therefore there will be no issues with the dispatch center.

Chairman Testani asked if the Chief has spoken to other departments regarding cost involved and their experience with the renovated dispatch center. Chief Kiely has spoken to several other police agencies that have renovated their dispatch center through the architect and he has received great feedback. As for the cost each police department is different. The Department's goal is to have a combined dispatch, to include EMS, Fire Department and Police Department.

Chairman Testani asked if there is a copy of the bond for the project. Chief Kiely responded that he does not have one as it has not been put out. Chairman Testani would like to see how everything is broken down in cost and asked if the Commission can receive a copy of the documents. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated that the presentation will be sent to them via email.

Chairman Testani asked what the time frame of the project is. Deputy Chief Byrnes indicated they are not sure as they are still working on the preliminaries with Motorola but he hopes that the project would be done within a calendar year.

Chairman Testani asked what the next step is. Chief Kiely said that they will prepare all the information so they can present to the Board of Finance.

- Chief Kiely reported that the lieutenant and sergeants promotional test is moving forward. Dr. Jetmore met with all the officers that will be taking the test for a preparation session.
- Alarm Ordinance-town residents have been mailing in their registration forms for their alarms. The Alarm Ordinance is with Nexgen who are the providers for the records management system. Chairman Testani asked for an update at the August meeting as he saw on the Calls for Service Report there were 248 alarm calls last month.
- Chief Kiely reported that the Dive Team is currently on "stand down" due to the retirement of Sgt. Hynes as he was the supervisor. Another officer will be having surgery on his shoulder and the others are out on medical leave. Therefore, it leaves the Dive Team with only two (2) divers and it cannot function. Chief Kiely has contacted Chief Gaudett from the Bridgeport Police Department and Deputy Chief Nardozzi requesting the assistance of their Dive Team should the help be needed. The Bridgeport

Police Dive Team will assist with any emergencies in Trumbull. In the meantime, the department will look into training other officers.

Deputy Chief Byrnes Report

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that there were approximately 1,500 calls for the month of June. Deputy Chief Byrnes focused on two (2) specific topics: Medical calls and Drugs & Narcotics.

Under the Medical Calls the officers are doing an exceptional job. There were 144 Medical Calls for the month of June. Year-to-date there has been over 900 medical calls. This year there have been circumstances that the AED has had to be used six (6) times, two (2) of which were successful, one being in February and the other just this past month on June 26th where a 78 year old male was working in his yard (not far from police headquarters) and he collapsed. His wife called 911 and was directed to initiate CPR with help of the dispatchers. Officers responded immediately, including Sergeant Hynes, Officer Perkowski, Officer Sota and Field Training Officer Coutinho, who took over CPR. EMS responded quickly behind them also with the application of the AED they were able to revive the gentleman.

Deputy Chief provided a list of the Drug & Narcotics incidents that occurred for the month of June.

- June 4th-basic car stop on Old Town Road & Route 25, a 22 yr old male was arrested for heroin.
- June 5th-female employee at the Westfield Shopping Center making purchases of cocaine from someone making deliveries on a regular basis. She was apprehended with the help of mall security.
- June 17th & June 24th- two (2) different car stops, officers found crack cocaine in the cars.
- June 24th-25 yr old male and 24 yr old female where found unconscious in car in the parking lot on Quality Street; both suffering from heroin overdose. Successfully resuscitated by the officers and the response of EMS.
- June 25th-basic car stop on White Plains Road & Lindberg, 42 yr old male was arrested for crack.
- June 26th-heroin overdose, a couple of young men returning from Bridgeport on their way home to Monroe stopped and asked an officer for help on Main Street & Route 15 because the passenger was passed out due to a heroin overdose.
- July 2nd- an officer came across a suspicious car on Putting Green & Scenic Hill with three (3) teenagers. They had a selection prescription pills, marijuana and methamphetamine. This is the first case involving methamphetamine in town.
- July 2nd-overdose of PCP at a home on Main Street which originated as a medical call. The officers found substance which was thought to be bath salt but was tested positive for PCP.
- An additional seven (7) marijuana cases, with ten (10) individuals charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Chief Kiely shared with the Commission that the Task Force Officer a few days ago made an arrest where they found 16.7 pounds of cocaine in Bridgeport. The drug problem involves the greater Bridgeport area.

Commissioner Costantini asked what is the percentage of the drug increase in the town. Deputy Chief Byrnes responded that it is hard to say since the department has put more of an effort into enforcement. That is why the report reflects a higher number of arrests. Deputy Chief Byrnes said that it is unheard of the crack/heroin being used by the young people in Trumbull and now the drug methamphetamine which was never seen before. PCP was unheard of years ago but has now seen several cases within the past year.

Detective Bureau Report

Deputy Chief Harry reported that the detective bureau has taken on 20 new cases aside from the normal fingerprinting. Detective Coppola is working on probate cases, Detective Testi is working on the Radio Shack case, Detective Schwartz has been working on the Pawn Records. Recently there was a shed robbery in town with over \$20,000 worth of merchandise stolen on Chatfield Road. While the detectives were at the Pawn Shop recovering the bikes, the suspect was in the front of the store trying to sell more items. The detectives were able to apprehend the suspect. The detectives also recovered jewelry from a Fairfield burglary. The pistol permits have decreased. Chairman Testani asked how Detective Allen is doing. Deputy Chief Harry responded that he is doing excellent, he fit right in, and he is very knowledgeable and very particular with what his job requires.

Chief Kiely commended Deputy Chief Byrnes for assisting Stratford Police with locating and apprehending a suspect in a burglary that had just occurred on Broadbridge Avenue. The suspect was later found to be responsible for a burglary on Huntington Turnpike in Trumbull earlier in the day.

Lt. Thomas Savarese Traffic Report

Lt. Savarese provided an update on the Towing Policy applications received. There have three (3) applications which are Buds Towing, Family Garage and Mid Town Garage. Officers Thompson and Richard have reviewed the applications, visited the facilities and are waiting for the background checks. Lt. Savarese hopes that next month there will be a completed list of the towing companies so the Commission can review.

Chairman Testani asked the gentleman from Buds Towing to introduce himself as he was present at the meeting. Mr. Tommy Hate was present from Buds Towing as he was present to get an update on the towing applications. Lt. Savarese informed him he would keep him posted with an update as they are still working on the applications. Commissioner McGovern asked if Knechts had submitted an application. Lt. Savarese indicated that no application has been received from them.

Lt. Savarese provided an update on Rails-to-Trails. On July 2nd, a meeting was held with Town Engineers and DOT at Town Hall regarding the Route 111 Rails-to-Trails crossing. CT DOT Officials presented a preliminary concept that included two overpass plans and one tunnel plan for the trail to cross Route 111. Any such project is estimated to be 2 to 3 years out and DOT encouraged the town to explore control options in the interim. Chief Kiely provided some information on the "BlinkerSign" pedestrian crosswalk system which was forwarded to the Town Engineering for consideration at the Rails-to-Trails crossings. Enforcement continues to be done on Whitney Avenue and Route 111.

Chairman Testani mentioned since there was a resident that attend meeting and spoke under public comments, the Commission should make a vote on installation of the blinking light on Whitney Avenue. Chief Kiely mentioned that information on a blinking light was forwarded to the Town Engineer and since the light is solar they need to determine where it is best to install. Lt. Savarese mentioned that the Town Engineer is still considering what type of light to install. Commissioner Costantini mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for August 9th which is a few weeks away. He does not see that anything will happen quickly; therefore he suggested the Commission wait until the August meeting and see if the Engineering Department will have a suggestion and then the Commission can make a vote. Lt. Savarese said he will have an update at the August meeting.

Merritt Boulevard update, Town Highway has started the process of posting the speed limit signs. This included contacting Call Before You Dig for sign post location approval. It is estimated the project should be completed in a week or two.

The department received six (6) complaints regarding speeding which are being addressed with Patrol and the Traffic Division.

The 2013 DUI Enforcement Grant began on January 19, 2013 and will continue through September 5, 2013.

Forty-Six (46) cases were assigned to the Traffic Division Officers during the month of June. These cases included 6 motor vehicle complaints, 24 motor vehicle arrests (including DUI Grant), 7 car seat installations and 3 escorts.

Lt. Savarese also updated the Commission on the hiring process. The department will be joining the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association for the entry level testing for hiring. The department will be advertising within the next month or so and will be testing for certified officers as well as entry level officers. The CPCA already has a couple of dates for testing which are in August and September. The benefit of this testing is that anyone who takes the test and registers through the CPCA will be eligible for application through the Trumbull Police Department.

Recruit Pysz will be graduating from the New Haven Police Academy in early August. Recruits Ruiz and Lusniak will be graduating from Meriden Police Academy in mid September.

Chairman Testani asked if the department will be able to bring new officers on board in January. Lt. Savarese mentioned that the advertising process will begin possibly end of September, there are still some things that need to be discussed with Human Resources and in having our own testing in town.

Chairman Testani asked again about the lieutenant and sergeant promotional testing, and when one will be chosen. Chief Kiely responded that the test is in August and after the results are received the department will need to choose a Lieutenant and Sergeant within 45 days.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Chairman Testani provided a copy of an article he found on Brand Channel regarding "Police Veteran Bratton Launches Social Network for Police Officers to Collaborate". Chairman Testani read that this police veteran created the network through his company, "Bratton Technologies with the hope that it will engage younger police officers who share a shocking amount of information on public networks,"...He thought this would be something that can be looked into for training or outlet for other officers. Deputy Chief Byrnes mentioned that this program is still not out yet. Chief Kiely mentioned there are other networks out there that police officers do use that are similar.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting. MOTION made 1st by Commissioner Costantini, 2nd by Commissioner McGovern to ADJOURN the Trumbull Police Commission Meeting at 8:21 pm. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted,



Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission