



THOMAS H. KIELY
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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
Long Hill Conference Room – Town Hall
September 18, 2014

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Jack Testani, Chairman
Philip DiGennaro
Alfred Liggins
Roger McGovern
Albert Zamary

Absent: Lino Constantini

Also Present: Chief Thomas Kiely
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes
Deputy Chief Michael Harry
Lieutenant Thomas Savarese
Officer Michael Gonzalez
Detective Robert Coppola
Sergeant Brian Falkenstein
Officer Nicholas Van Fleet
Officer James Marino

Public Comments

Public Comment opened at 7:01 p.m. Seeing no public present, Public Comment is closed at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of the August 19, 2014 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion to accept the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2014 as presented. Motion made 1st by Commissioner McGovern, seconded by Commissioner Zamary. There was no further discussion. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Correspondence

None.

Chief Kiely's Report

Chief Kiely introduced the two newest officers for the department to the commissioners. Officer James Marino and Officer Nicholas Van Fleet graduated from the academy last night. The ceremony took place at Central Connecticut State University. Officer Marino was awarded the Gold Hat which is given to an academy recruit during range week who shoots four qualification rounds with perfect scores. There were 43 officers in their academy class and all passed.

Officer Marino put together the video for their academy class and brought it to show the meeting attendees.

Officer Bartosik will be graduating from the New Haven Academy on October 3, 2014.

Officers Federowicz and Bachiocchi will graduate from Waterbury Police Academy on December 28, 2014. Chief Kiely spoke to the Waterbury Chief and he said our recruits are doing well.

Chief Kiely informed the commission that there was a fatal accident on Sunday at Route 127 (Church Hill Road) and Quality Street. It was the first in a couple years. Officer Millington has taken the lead on the case and has been trying to notify next of kin but they are out of the country so this has posed a challenge.

Chief Kiely sent the letter to the State DOT about lowering the speed limit on Route 111 but has not received a response. He will forward the letter to the commissioners.

Public Safety Day at the mall was a great success. The Eagle Scout candidate whose idea it was to host the event is part of our Police Explorer Cadet program. He and Officer Fedor did a great job coordinating the various departments and groups that participated.

Eagle One helicopter out of Stratford PD came to the event, piloted by Captain Wilcoxson. Eagle One is soon going to be outfitted with a FLIR system, and with that new technology will have the ability to look for missing and/or injured people in darkness. Chief Kiely said that Trumbull has an increased number of older people that go missing due to medical conditions like Alzheimer's and Dementia and this could really help find them more quickly. In addition the valley has become much more popular with residents, students from Sacred Heart and visitors to the area.

Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes has been working with Fire, EMS and Emergency Management to create a response plan for rescue situations in the valley and the assistance of Eagle One and its new FLIR system will save the town many man hours.

Deputy Chief Byrnes – Operations Report

Deputy Chief Byrnes compared call levels at this time last year to our current call volume, and reported that we have seen a 13% decrease in alarm-burglary calls compared to last year. Also, numbers of note include a 5% increase in both accidents and medical calls. Deputy Chief Byrnes reported that officers spend the most time on accidents, medical calls and arrests, and considering that those types of calls are increasing, they are unfortunately occupying the patrol force a great deal of their shifts.

There has been a 25% increase in shoplifting and Deputy Chief Byrnes attributes to factors outside of the department. Many stores have improved their security force and have apprehended shoppers and employees involved in thefts. Commissioner DiGennaro inquired whether the department does any analysis of thefts from the mall compared to the rest of the community. Deputy Chief Byrnes shared that the mall represents less than 10% of our call volume. But the amount of patrol time spent responding to arrest calls is significant which would make the time spent on just that 10% takes much of the officers time. The simplest shoplifting call at a minimum takes approximately one hour and thirty minutes. Many cases at the mall though involve much more complex situations which could take an entire shift.

Commissioner DiGennaro inquired about staffing around the upcoming holiday season and areas of town that have been prone to thefts. Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that the sector system we use and the amount of manpower we currently employ are set by using our own data and other data that we have collected from other towns that have the same types of stores we have.

Deputy Chief Byrnes informed the commission that the lease for the substation at the mall has ended and we have vacated the space at the request of the mall management as of two to three weeks ago. We were given only a couple of days notice but obliged understanding that they needed to start construction with the space immediately and that the landscape of the mall is always changing and that construction is happening all over the property making more space for new stores and restaurants.

The email from the General Manager will be forwarded to the commissioners for their review. Commissioner McGovern asked if there is a plan for a new space at the mall and Deputy Chief Byrnes said that it was mentioned but that a space has not been identified yet and we will be notified when an adequate space is found. All the equipment that had been housed in that leased space is currently being stored at headquarters except for some hardware that the mall is storing for us.

Commissioner DiGennaro inquired about who outfitted the most recent space and Deputy Chief Byrnes informed him that Westfield provided all the furniture and the department just brought in its own computer and changed the lock on the door. At the October meeting of the commission Deputy Chief Byrnes will have more information regarding any new developments with the substation as he stays in touch with mall management.

The Police Department Communications Center Project is now underway. It is a two-part project.

1. Upgrade of the radio system with Motorola
2. Renovations at Police Headquarters

The contract with Downes Construction and Humes Architects was finalized last week and they came to headquarters today for the first preconstruction meeting and walkthrough. They are both experienced with public safety facilities and Deputy Chief Byrnes is confident in their ability to provide the department with what they need.

The money currently allocated for this project by the Board of Finance is just for the design and more accurate bidding of the final cost of all renovations required. The upgrade to the radio system has already been funded and equipment and assembly of the new system is already underway. \$200, 000 has been approved for the project so far and the \$2.6 million dollar radio system has already been purchased and is being stored until the full projects completion hopefully sometime next year.

Dispatch operations while construction is underway will be relocated to the former fire dispatch room located within headquarters. The fire department has left some hardware and other things for us to utilize that will be returned to them when renovations are complete and we no longer need them.

Commissioner Zamary asked about what the priority is of this project and Deputy Chief Byrnes said that the overall priority was the need for better radio coverage and functioning without failure.

Commissioner DiGennaro asked what the next steps in the project are. Deputy Chief Byrnes said that the next step is detail design followed by the final approval of the project and its budget by the Board of Finance, with final approval by the Town Council. The final project cost estimates are due by January 8, 2015. Construction will follow soon after approval is given.

Commissioner Liggins brought up the antennas/radio towers that will be necessary for the new radio system to function to its full capacity. Deputy Chief Byrnes has been in touch with Northeastern, our Motorola vendor, about the 8 different sites that will be utilized throughout the town. Some preliminary approvals from businesses to use their space have been withdrawn and alternate sites are now being explored. Additional height, which is needed on the antennas/towers, is also under construction at this time.

Deputy Chief Harry - Detective Bureau Report

The Detective Bureau has added a temporary Detective Sergeant to meet the need for additional supervision. This role will be given to Sergeant Brian Weir.

Alarms in town buildings are going down but are still pretty consistent throughout the month but they are being addressed, especially with the schools.

Traffic Report

There were 2 speeding complaints from residents.

One complaint was about Church Hill Road in the area of Edison Road. A traffic light was also requested at this intersection. DOT has reviewed this area in the past and it did not meet state guidelines for a traffic light. Officer Thompson spoke with the complainant. This area will be added to the speed awareness trailer location list and the monthly traffic enforcement list.

The second speeding complaint was about speeding vehicles on Moose Hill Road. Officer Thompson spoke with the complainant. This area will be added to the speed awareness trailer location list and the monthly traffic enforcement list.

It was also reported that there were vehicles disregarding the stop signs at the intersection of Lafayette Drive and Frederick Street. Area residents were concerned for the safety of children at bus stops and a request was made for stop bars to be painted on the road. Town Highway does not paint stop bars at all locations, only major intersections. Lieutenant Savarese spoke with the complainant. The Patrol division was notified to monitor the area during the morning and afternoon bus stop times.

The 2013/2014 DUI Enforcement Grant began on October 3, 2013 and continued through September 12, 2014. Three hundred and forty three (343) citations were issued during the eighteen (18) day enforcement period for August, and included one DUI arrest.

175 total cases were assigned to the Traffic Division Officers during the month of August. These cases included: 3 motor vehicle complaints, 147 motor vehicle arrests, (Includes DUI Grant), 8 car seat installations, and 2 escorts.

The TPD motorcycle unit participated in the CT United Ride on Sunday September 7th, which benefits the Uniform Fire Fighters Association.

The Town of Trumbull is participating in the Redflex Student Guardian bus video violation program which started this school year. Vehicles passing school buses are identified through a video system mounted on school buses. The Traffic Unit will be processing citations. Which are mailed to vehicle owners.

Commissioner Zamary asked about the intersection of Strobel Road and Daniels Farm Road and the potential for a traffic light. Lieutenant Savarese said an engineer has been hired to look into the intersection further.

The Trumbull Police Department is participating in the 2014 Distracted Driving Enforcement Program from September 3rd, through September 24th. The objective of this program is to decrease fatalities and injuries as a result of crashes caused by driver distraction, especially the use of hand held mobile phones. We have set up spot checking at Main Street and Route 15 and have ticketed 251 violators.

Commissioner Testani said that he has seen in Stamford the use of a ruse by Stamford PD to catch cellphone violators. One officer has been set up on the downtown exit ramp dressed as a surveyor radioing to officers that are set up around the corner prepared to issue tickets.

The Speed Awareness trailer has been set up at the following locations in August. (1) Whitney Ave (westbound) near Rails to Trails, (2) Merritt Blvd (3) Whitney Ave (east bound) near rails to trails, (4) Daniels Farm Rd near school zone.

St. Joe's will be playing Fairfield Prep on Saturday. It is the MSG High School Football Game of the Week and also a renewed rivalry so it is expected to be highly attended. Eight officers have been hired for the game. 5,000 people attended last year's game that was played at Prep.

Unfinished Business

The towing contracts for Family Garage and Bud's Towing have been finalized. They have both submitted their checks and applications as well as an updated list of their tow truck operators.

New Business

Lieutenant Savarese informed the commission that we are continuing the hiring process and that an oral board will be conducted on October 8th, 9th and 10th. Civil Service will then create an eligibility list. Applicants on the old list were reviewed and it was determined that there were no viable applicants to continue in the process.

Chairman Testani received a complaint from a resident about the firearms qualification that is happening at Indian Ledge. Chief Kiely passed out literature to the commission to be discussed at next month's meeting. He briefly discussed its contents. The first being the importance of the training and the fact that it is required and essential to keeping the town safe. Chief Kiely suggested the potential for sound proofing and the possibility of using a sound engineer who could be brought in to see what could be done with the space at Indian Ledge. Chairman Testani will contact the resident and will inform the resident about what was discussed and if they have any further questions or concerns they will be passed to the Chief.

Commissioner Zamary asked whether Joe Laucella from EMS could attend the next meeting and the Chief said he will let him know. He is doing a great job at EMS and they are now handling

90-95% of medical calls compared to the 70% they were handling previously. This helps the police department a great deal because officers don't have to wait up to 25 minutes like they have in the past for AMR to respond.

There being no further business to discuss, and upon motion made by Commissioner McGovern, seconded by Commissioner Liggins, the Trumbull Police Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Serafino