



Town of Trumbull

TRUMBULL POLICE COMMISSION

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POLICE COMMISSION

RAYMOND G. BALDWIN, JR., CHAIRMAN
ANGELO MAGLIOCCO, VICE CHAIRMAN
JOHN VAZZANO, SECRETARY
LISA LABELLA, COMMISSIONER
ALBERT ZAMARY, COMMISSIONER
CHRIS TREFZ, COMMISSIONER

Trumbull Police Commission Meeting
Trumbull Police Department
July 14, 2020

MINUTES

The Trumbull Police Commission meeting was called to order via virtual at 6:02 p.m.

Members present: Raymond G. Baldwin, Jr., Chairman
Angelo Magliocco, Vice Chairman
Lisa Labella
Chris Trefz
Albert Zamary

Also Present: Chief Michael Lombardo
Assistant Chief Glenn Byrnes
Deputy Chief Leonard Scinto
John Knuff, Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg & Knuff, LLC
Michael Dion, BL Companies
Scott Loventhal, Garden Homes
John Schmitz, BL Companies

Absent: John Vazzano

Public Comment

Opened Public Comment at 6:03 pm.

Dawn Cantafio, 72 Tait Road. Ms. Cantafio said the following "I am Dawn Cantafio, I live at 72 Tait Road. I am a member of Town Council, but tonight I am speaking as a resident of Tait Road.

"I would like to thank, Chairman, Ray Baldwin and his commission for allowing me to speak this evening.

"I would also like to acknowledge First Selectman Tesoro, Chief Lombardo, Assistant Chief Byrnes, the Trumbull Police Department, the Traffic Division and the Traffic Authority for their help enforcing safety in our neighborhood. Not always an easy task, especially on nice weekends.

"Some of our concerns are keeping sight lines clear for everyone entering and exiting the Pequannock Trail and Tait Road. Some parents have had cars pull into driveways with checking for children.

"Parking was on both sides of the street at times and we would have to pull over to make room for a vehicle to pass. Parts of the road where some cars are parked are not wide enough for two-way traffic and emergency vehicles may not be able to pass.

"During the past few months, we have seen a decrease in the amount of traffic traveling up and down our street. For the first time in many years, children have had the freedom to safely ride bikes, walk up and down our road and they can play in their driveways.

"Please consider granting the parking restrictions for our street, so we will be able to keep our residents safe and the roadway clear for two-way traffic."

There were no further public comments. Public Comment was closed at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of the June 9, 2020 Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion made to accept the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2020 as presented. Motion made first by Trefz, seconded by Magliocco. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chief's Report

Correspondence

Email from Anthony Krushinski a Fairfield Police Officer, commending Officer Leos as he was patrolling the parks and trails to trail and assisted Mr. Krushinski's grandson while he was having issues with his fishing equipment.

Letter from a resident of Easton whose brother unfortunately is paralyzed, and his brother and his wife were involved in a hit and run accident. Officer Fortunato was assigned to assist them and determined who hit their car. Officer Fortunato was kind and compassionate and she solved the case.

Card from Chuck and Leslie Pavel, thank you note to the officers for protecting, serving the community and appreciate the work the officers do and how professional they are and conduct themselves.

Card from Alison Cordia, thank you and appreciation note as she needed the assistance from police officer and EMS during the middle of the night when she was experiencing a medical problem. Ms. Cordia delivered LIFEsavers to the officers because they are LIFEsavers. The officer that assisted was Officer O'Connor.

Email from Roberta Bartek thanking the Police Department for making the Trumbull High School graduation parade a huge success.

Email from Mike Cetrangola thanking the police officers for the work they do and Mr. Cetrangola had lunch delivered.

Card thanking Officer Pysz as he assisted Trumbull resident as someone struck their mailbox. Officer Pysz within a short period of time was able to find the person responsible.

Card from a Fairfield resident, she came to the Department for assistance when was not able to get a hold of her friend. Officer Massa assisted and unfortunately, it was not a good ending but she was very appreciative for Officer Massa's kindness and compassion.

Thank you email to the Trumbull Police Officers and staff for protecting and serving the community each and every day.

Thank you email from a Trumbull resident thanking Chief Lombardo, First Selectman Tesoro, Town Council Chair Thornton and Chairman Baldwin for the joint statement regarding the George Floyd incident.

Correspondence from the Department of Justice regarding the recently awarded grant (COPS Hiring Program) that was awarded to the Trumbull Police Department for hiring an additional officer to the department. This officer will be work at the Westfield Trumbull Mall. The Department was awarded \$125,000 to cover the cost of the officer and will begin July 1, 2021. AC Byrnes, Lt. Lopes, Rina Bakalar and the Finance Department all worked together on the grant.

Operations

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Calls-for-Service report for the month of June, which showed 1921 cases.

The Motor Vehicle Enforcement showed 83 cases for the month of June. Chief Lombardo indicated he could not stress enough to Trumbull resident to please lock their vehicles, do not leave valuables or leave their keys or key fobs inside their vehicles.

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Criminal Incidents report for the month of June, which showed 84 cases. There were 114 Alarms for the month of June.

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Incident Statistics Report for the month of June, which showed a total of 1919 alarms.

The Arrest Summary Report Adults showed there were 26 arrests for the month of June.

The K-9 Report showed the activity and training for the month of June.

Traffic Division

The Traffic Report showed 61 cases for the month of June that Officer Siljamaki handled.

Detective Division Report

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Detective Division Monthly Activity report for the month of June. The division opened 18 new cases; 11 cases were closed and have 27 open cases. The Detective Division has resumed fingerprinting for residents. For the months of March-May due to the pandemic there, fingerprinting was suspended due to an executive order from the Governor. Chief Lombardo also reviewed the Monthly Status Report for the month of June with the different type of investigations/call outs. Chief Lombardo brought to the attention to the Commission a couple investigations/calls out, one of them being a Community Policing incident. There was a video that was posted on social medial regarding a young resident playing basketball and stepping behind a parked vehicle as the Trumbull Police cruiser drove by. The Department has made multiple attempts to communicate with the family and officers have made contact with them. Lt. Weir has recently spoken with the family and some officers will be visiting the family and spend some time with the young resident and get to know the officers. Chief Lombardo also commented on a case that is listed as Swatting. A call came in with someone reporting a serious crime within the home to garner a large rapid response from the Police Department including the SWAT team if needed. Officers responded and it was determined that nothing had occurred within the home. The Detective Division is actively investigating this incident.

Chief Lombardo commented that during the month of June there were thirty-four (34) motor vehicles report to have been entered. There were also seven (7) vehicles stolen, six (6) of those vehicles were recovered.

Training

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Training Report for the month of June. The report showed the type of training and the officers who attended the training and some of the classes that were canceled due to COVID-19. The report also showed the type of community policing events the officers took part in; there were also Graduation Parades and Gratitude Parades.

Cadet Report

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Cadet Activity Report for the month of June, which included several Zoom meetings.

Sick/Injury Report

Chief Lombardo reviewed the sick/injury report for the department for June.

Budget

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Budget Report in which the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2020. He was happy to report the Department ended the year under budget, he believes this would be the sixth year in a row. Chief Lombardo mentioned that the Overtime Budget was slightly over by \$4,300. There were a good amount of officers that did not use their vacation time due to COVID for March, April and May. The officers still have vacation time and will probably begin using their vacation time. There might be a slight uptick in the Overtime Account in the new Fiscal Year budget. There was training that was also canceled so there will also be a slight uptick in the Training Account. Overall the 2019-2020 Budget was under by 2%. Chief Lombardo indicated that the credit for handling the budget goes to AC Byrnes and Lt. Lopes who monitor the budget for the Department.

Old Business

Discussion and Consideration of 5085 Main Street

Mr. John Knuff attorney for the applicants of the 5085 Main Street project. They appreciate the opportunity to present once again to the Commission. Mr. Knuff commented at last month's Police Commission meeting there were a number of concerns that were raised in Sgt. Coutinho memo that was submitted to the Commission. Mr. Knuff met again with DC Scinto and Sgt. Coutinho last week. They have also met with EMS, Fire, and John Schmitz who submitted a letter on July 8 2020. They met DC Scinto on July 9, 2020 with results of the changes they have made with the comments from the Police Department along with comments to EMS and Fire. Mr. Knuff believes the letter from Sgt. Coutinho was positive regarding the various concerns. Mr. Knuff extended his appreciation to DC Scinto and Sgt. Coutinho for taking the time to meet with them again as they took all the concerns from the all the Emergency Services to heart in particularly from the Police Department.

Chairman Baldwin asked if the report from Sgt. Coutinho was available to the Commission.

Mr. Knuff indicated that Commission has a copy in their packets, which is very detailed, and it concludes that the developers have made every attempt to rectify the concerns brought to them and that the adjustments will be adequate.

Chairman Baldwin asked the Commission to refer to the letter under Old Business in their packets. Chairman Baldwin indicated that there is an approval from the Traffic Division.

Chief Lombardo has reviewed the letter and recommendations from Sgt. Coutinho and feels comfortable with the updates.

Chairman Baldwin asked if there were any questions from the applicant or Deputy Chief.

There was none and no, there was no further discussion.

A motion was made by Chairman Baldwin to approve the modification of the plan for 5085 Main Street as described in the report from Sgt. Coutinho from the Traffic Division, seconded by Zmary. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Trumbull Police Station Renovation Update

AC Byrnes provided the Commission and indicated that everything with the project is going well. This week the dedication plaque is expected to be mounted in the front lobby of the Trumbull Police Department. The only item that is pending on the Town side is fencing around the ventilation unit for the Shooting Range. Overall, there is very minimal things that need to be completed.

Commissioner Labella did not have anything further to report.

Chief Lombardo asked AC Byrnes to expand further on what is being done to cover the HVAC System and the sound.

AC Byrnes reported that he has been working with Director of Public Works Mr. Estrada, who met with some of the neighbors and has come up with a plan to install evergreen plantings along the perimeter line and replacement of fencing along the property line that was damaged when some trees came down last year. The Town will replace the fencing between the properties; in addition, there will be separate section of fencing that will act, as an enclosure immediately surrounding the ventilation unit that is adjacent to the police building. With the planting and fencing, the Department hopes that it will help alleviate the concerns from the neighbors.

There were no further questions.

New Business

Discussion and Consideration of “No Parking” signs on Tait Road and Tait Mill Road

Chairman Baldwin asked if there was input/report for the Traffic Division pertaining to the “No Parking” signs.

DC Scinto indicated that in March of this year there was a Traffic Study done. There was recommendation of “No Parking” on one side of the road. A petition was received from the residents requesting “No Parking” signs in front of all the homes on both sides of the street. The only issue DC Scinto sees which might occur is an inconvenience for the residents, as there has already been several requests for consideration for work being done at their homes and residents having parties that they be exempt regarding the “No Parking”. DC Scinto indicated the other consideration would be “No Parking, Dusk to Dawn”, but he has the understanding of “No Parking” at all times.

Chairman Baldwin has spoken to several of the residents on Tait Road and Tait Mill Road and they understand that they are all subject to the same restrictions of “No Parking” and they are satisfied.

Commissioner Labella asked if the petition that was filed, was it for 24-hour “No Parking” signs.

DC Scinto indicated that it was suggested back in the March report for “No Parking, Dusk to Dawn”, but the petition requested “No Parking” all time around.

Chairman Baldwin asked Ms. Cantafio to rejoin meeting to discuss further.

Ms. Cantafio joined meeting and Chairman Baldwin shared with her that the Traffic Division has suggested the ban of “No Parking” be from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and asked if that would that be something the residents would consider?

Ms. Cantafio indicated that it was discussed and she can bring back to the residents if they would like. The only concern she sees is the enforcement people are at the trail as early as 5 a.m. and if they stay at the trail later than 8 p.m. and then the residents would need to call the Department, as they would not be adhering the parking restrictions.

Commissioner Magliocco commented to Ms. Cantafio that with the “No Parking”, if the residents have a party, will there be adequate space for parking? He would like to make sure that once the signs go up, it is for everyone.

Ms. Cantafio indicated that the residents are aware and they have all agreed they would share their driveways and they have opened up the space of where there are no houses for people to park there as well.

There were no other discussions or questions.

A motion was made by Chairman Baldwin to approve the “No Parking” signs installed on Tait Road and Tail Mill Road, seconded by Trefz. There was no further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Baldwin asked to say the following message prior to adjournment of meeting.

“It is with regret this evening that I announce that long time Police Commissioner Lisa Labella is stepping down after many years of service on this commission dating back to 2001.

“Lisa first became involved with the Trumbull police department while championing the installation of AEDs in all police cruisers following the tragic death of Trumbull resident, John Heher Sr., while he was refereeing a THS basketball game. Lisa was steadfast in her efforts to provide the proper first responder’s equipment to our officers for the benefit of our community despite harsh criticism from some town officials. Over the past 20 years, countless lives have been saved not only by our police officers but also by individuals using the AEDs Lisa helped fundraise for which are now in all of our municipal buildings, schools and parks.

“Lisa has most recently served as Chairman of the building committee for the renovation of the police pistol range, locker rooms and cellblock and, as is typical with Lisa, she performed her duties professionally and with much attention to detail. Not surprisingly, the project came in on time and on/under budget.

“Lisa’s service to this town however has not been limited to the police department. She also served on the Trumbull Board of Education where she assisted with the construction and renovation of several of our schools and helped champion improvements to our schools’ curriculum.

“Lisa has been a champion for many causes in our community and always does the hard work necessary for them to be successful. She has been a valued friend and confidant and the town of Trumbull owes her debt of gratitude for the many contributions she has made.

“She and her husband Dan will be leaving Trumbull but Lisa’s footprint will be with us for a very long time.”

Commissioner Labella thanked Chairman Baldwin for the message. She thanked Chairman Baldwin and the rest of the Commission as it has been a pleasure to serve with Chairman Baldwin and honor. It has also been an honor to work with Chief Lombardo, his staff and exemplary department.

Commissioner Magliocco said he has served with Commissioner Labella on the Police Station Renovation Committee and the Police Commission Board and appreciates everything she done for the community and has learned a lot from her. Commissioner Magliocco wished her the best.

Chief Lombardo thanked Commissioner Labella for all her support with the Department and staff. Chief Lombardo wished her the best.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Labella and seconded by Magliocco to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Munoz
Clerk of the Commission