

Board of Police Commission
Regular Session
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
August 25, 2015

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Present: Chairman Joseph F. D'Errico, Commissioners Dave Monz, Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, Walt Spader, Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Jon Mulhern

Absent: All were present

Chairman D'Errico informed those in attendance that he was adjusting the order of the meeting to swear in a new patrol officer Stephen Sudac.

At 7:03 pm. Chairman D'Errico read Stephen Sudac the Police Officers Oath. Sudac's mother pinned on his badge.

The meeting paused for a brief recess by the Chairman to allow Sudac and his family the opportunity to take photographs.

At 7:15 p.m. Chairman D'Errico reconvened the meeting back to regular session.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the July 28, 2015 meeting, Regular and Executive sessions. Commissioner Spader made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lazaroff seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for July 2015. The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Monz; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

There was no correspondence this month.

Chairman's Report:

Old Business:

Chairman noticed overtime is up this month for dispatchers, Chief explained to him that this is normal for this time of year due to summer vacations.

Chairman D'Errico inquired about the status of the shooting range. Deputy Mulhern said that he and Chief recently met with the architect who is working with an environmental company and they are running secondary tests. They are waiting for the results of the inspection to determine the scope of work that will be derived from the results.

Chairman asked Chief about the broken front steps to headquarters. Chief reported he had not heard anything yet regarding the renovations.

New Business:

No new business

Chiefs Report:

Public Service Announcement:

Chief reminded all residents that school will be back in session tomorrow, (August 26) and he asked that the public be cautious of children walking to school, waiting at bus stops and obey all speed limit signs. Chief also reminded everyone to stop for flashing red signals on school buses. The violation for this will result in a \$465.00 fine.

Chief reports the budget is right on target and there were no unexpected expenditures this past month.

Support Services/Traffic:

Chief met last week with the new principal of Ridge Road School, Patrick Stirk as well as an engineer from VN Engineering. Chief reports the SRTS (Safe Routes to School) traffic study will start at the beginning of this school year. Chief said the results should be ready near Thanksgiving time.

Regarding the future renovation work on the Basset Road Bridge, Chief asked the Chairman and Commissioner Lazaroff if they would like to brief the Board on the meeting held recently with the DOT.

Chairman D'Errico stated that the Basset Road Bridge over I-91 will be closed for about 7 months. The detour will involve Pool Road and Blakeslee Avenue. Chairman has asked the DOT to post "No Thru Trucks" signs on Pool Road stating that on Pool Road alone there are three Senior Centers and the town does not need all those trucks doing a cut through, in this residential area. Chairman said it will take roughly four months for approval from the DOT. This construction project will start in the Spring of 2017.

George Street stop sign request:

Lifelong North Haven resident Ty Kamp of 26 George Street brought forward her concerns regarding the traffic speed on George Street. She asked the commission to consider putting a stop sign half way down on George Street to slow the traffic flow. Following the discussion it was recommended that additional speed data be obtained with the recorder in "Stealth Mode". If it is determined that speed is an issue, then added radar will be deployed. The Commission was opposed to stop signs on George Street as proposed by the resident.

Windsor Road request for no thru traffic sign:

A resident wrote to the Commission requesting a "no thru traffic" be placed on his street. The resident was not in attendance. Discussion followed relative to the resident's request. Commissioner Monz made a motion that a "Slow Children" or similar sign be installed in front of the resident's home. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

Training:

Officer Pacileo completes his field training this week and will be on patrol by himself starting September 1st.

The two recruits currently at the Academy are doing well and are in to their 8th week. They have approximately 14 weeks left of training.

The new officer sworn in tonight, Stephen Sudac, is a certified Police Officer from another town in Connecticut. Sudac's employment will have immediate impact on staffing starting September 1st. Sudac is originally from North Haven, he did his college internship at the North Haven PD, and he is familiar with the building, the software, as well as the town. He will need little field training. This will save the Department significant dollars in training.

Patrol:

Patrol has been relatively quiet as it relates to major incidents.

Chief explained that vehicles are still being broken in to at night, and once again, reminds all residents to lock their vehicle doors at all times, and do not leave any valuables visible.

K-9 Zeus had a find of 2 pounds of Marijuana last week. No more details are available as the incident is still under investigation.

There was a serious motor vehicle accident involving a car and a motorcycle last weekend. The driver of the motorcycle is expected to survive.

Chief wanted to make the Board aware of some new Public Acts that are or will soon be in place which are important to Law Enforcement.

- FOI Act which has been modified.
- Case law updates regarding Police K-9's and how vehicle searches are conducted
- Excessive use of force: PA15-4 . These are regarding physical force by police officers, and use of body cameras
- Hiring of minorities in Law Enforcement
- Acts effecting crime and Public Safety
- Notification to Day Care Centers by Police Departments during circumstances of dangerous issues/incidents.
- MOU for Police and the Board of Education regarding SRO's working in a school environment.

Some of these acts will be effective October 1, 2015, some were put in to effect on July 1, 2015.

Investigative Services:

Lt. Glenn has provided another very detailed report. It has been a very busy month again for the IS Division.

Walter T Berniere Scholarship:

There were no scholarship requests this month.

Chief asked the Commission for their position on the use of body cameras. Chairman D'Errico said he prefers to follow the State Police lead on this issue and he is waiting to hear what the ACLU does before making any decisions regarding the use of body cameras. Chief explained that the department is currently testing body cameras and the feedback from the officers has been very positive. Deputy Mulhern said that currently throughout the country there is not a lot of public support for police officers. With the public exposure videoing officers, these cameras will allow the officers to show a true version of their side of the story. With the presence of body cameras, use of force, as well as citizen complaints will go down thus protecting the agency and the officer. Officers are asking for the cameras, the ones who wear them now, love them. These cameras give credit to the officers who go out there every day, and show a true snapshot of all the incidents the officer's encounter on a daily basis. Chief said by the next meeting he will need an answer from the Board. Commissioner Calafiore wanted it noted that he is in support of the body cameras. Commissioner Spader agreed with Calafiore. Commissioner Monz asked if there was a policy in place. Deputy Mulhern explained that it is just about completed.

Building update:

The new boiler has been installed which was a result of the energy program throughout the town recently conducted by Johnson Controls. Chief was advised that the Department should see significant savings this winter with the new unit.

Old Business:

Chief asked the Board where they stand regarding last month's invitation to join the towns of Wallingford and Cheshire as part of a Regional Communications Center. Chairman D'Errico stated he is opposed to joining Wallingford and Cheshire. Commissioner Spader said he supports regionalization in different aspects, and asked the board if they should explore it as it would be beneficial to the department.

Chief explained this regionalization will be a seamless operation utilizing shared resources, personnel, and equipment as well as operational benefits. Currently there is a sergeant on each shift overseeing the dispatchers, and this would allow for the sergeant to be on the road.

Chairman D'Errico questioned the fact that there was no cell phone tickets issued in the past month. The Chief explained that although zero is an unacceptable number, enforcement may have occurred by the means of a warning or perhaps the officer may have stopped violators for a cell phone violation and then issued a citation for a subsequent violation

With no further discussion, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn to move in to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader, seconded by Commissioner Monz. All were in favor. The time was 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,