

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
September 27, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Joseph D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner David Monz

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the June 28, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Spader made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Calafiore 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 June 2016. The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Spader; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

The next order of business was the approval of the minutes from the August 23, 2016 meeting, both regular and executive sessions. The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Spader; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for August 2016. The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Lazaroff; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence

A Thank You letter was received from a resident thanking Dispatcher Midolo, Officer's Martin and O'Keeffe and Sergeant Falcon for their assistance, compassion, and respect during an emergency situation with a family member.

Chairman's Report

Old Business: Chairman D'Errico commented that the Board of Police Commission is the sole traffic authority for the Town of North Haven. From this point forward, he advised all resident's that all traffic signage requests must be written and sent to the Police Commission via Chief McLoughlin. Chairman said that a brief written request is all that is needed and no verbal requests will be considered any longer.

Chairman D'Errico emphasized that criminal activities have escalated lately and he again asked residents to lock vehicle, home, and shed doors.

Chairman D'Errico had nothing for new business.

Commissioner Larry Lazaroff wanted to make everyone aware of an upcoming event at the middle school which is the first of a four part series related to the new middle school drug education program. The event is called Rachel's Challenge and will be held on October 5th at the middle school. He also wanted to express that there is an evening program for parents and siblings to attend, free of charge to begin a 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the middle school. Commissioner Lazaroff thanked Nancy Leddy, Sergeant Matt Falcon, and Middle School principal Phil Piazza for helping coordinate the program.

Chiefs Report:

Chief McLoughlin publicly wished retired Captain Hayes Gibson a Happy 90th Birthday last week. Chief said Captain Gibson was instrumental in the professional development of several officers, some of which are still at the Police Department today.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin reported the budget is right where it should be for this time of year.

Support Services/Traffic:

Chief McLoughlin advised the Board that he is anticipating a written request for "slow child sign" placement at the intersection of Mill Road and Patton Road. There is a bus stop at this location and the resident has safety concerns. Chief explained to the board that they will need to vote on it at next month's Commission meeting, but wants to move forward with the preliminaries to speed up the process and avoid placement delays especially with the upcoming winter season.

The unmarked black traffic vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle accident at the end of last month. There were no reported injuries to the parties involved. Chief expects the car to be back in service by the end of next week.

The two new black and white Ford Interceptors are expected to be delivered near the end of November. Chief explained that due to budget cuts the department will not be getting a third vehicle this year.

Planning and Zoning

Chief received several planning and zoning requests this month, and stated that none of which need to be addressed by the Police Commission for any traffic concerns.

After reviewing the plans for the new distribution facility that will be located at the former site of Pratt and Whitney, Chief said he does not see any impact on traffic flow. He explained that Washington Avenue is a State road, and if there are traffic problems the State DOT will be responsible for implementing any changes.

Chief received a written signage request last minute just prior to tonight's Commission meeting from a resident and provided the Board members with a copy.

Chairman D'Errico said the traffic light southbound in the right hand lane fronting the Cinemark Theaters has a green arrow for right turns only and it needs to be addressed.

Chief McLoughlin spoke regarding the traffic study conducted last year by V & N Engineering in the Ridge Road Elementary school area. Several recommendations were made in the report, and Chief explained that they have started to move forward on implementing the changes. The following are highlighted recommendations from the study:

- To change the yellow signage to the higher visibility lime green signs. This change has been completed.
- To re-paint all the crosswalks white, and that detail has been turned over to the Public Works Department. Another crosswalk recommendation is to change the crosswalk located at Forest Hill Road and Wayland to a 90 degree angle.
- To establish a "No Parking" zone on Forest Hill near Wayland Street.
- To add signage on Ridge Road as you approach the school one Northbound, and one Southbound to read "School Ahead". Chief McLoughlin explained that the Board would need to consider and vote on this request. Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to place "School Ahead" signs approaching Ridge Road Elementary School North and Southbound. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.
- To remove the crosswalk on Buell Street that ends at a resident's driveway and add a "Slow Children" sign. Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to remove the crosswalk on Buell Street fronting the residence of 132 Buell Street and add a "Slow Children" sign. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.
- Requested in a letter that Chief received prior to tonight's meeting, was to add some type of signage on Forest Hill Road and Wayland to deter the parents that are dropping off or picking up children from parking too close to the corner. Chief suggested a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign be placed. Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to place a "No Parking Here to Corner" sign on Forest Hill Road at Wayland. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.
- The study also suggested that a handheld stop sign be used by the crossing guard at all times. The sign will be ordered this week and utilized as soon as it is delivered.

Commissioner Lazaroff asked that residents dress in light reflective type clothing when walking jogging or running on the streets. With the upcoming autumn season it becomes dark much earlier in the evening.

Professional Standards:

Chief said next week there will be department wide participation with a nationally recognized speaker to discuss and talk about mental wellness; “Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement”. Chief explained that this is very hot topic throughout the country and of late there has been a spike in police officer suicides. Chairman asked who is covering the cost; Chief said it will be paid with the departments training line.

Uniformed Services/Patrol

Chief explained that larcenies from vehicles and sheds are still continuing. Chief again reminds residents to lock their cars and buildings. This has been reiterated month after month to the public. Chief also reminded residents to call if they see something suspicious.

There has been an uptick in telephone scams towards the elderly. Chief McLoughlin asks anyone with elderly friends, family or neighbors, to please reinforce to them that the Federal Government will never call and ask for money, or gift cards. Also, predators are using the scam of asking for bail money for grandchildren usually out of the state. These are not legitimate and residents need to hang up the phone.

Investigative Services:

Detectives have been busy over the past few weeks following up on the recent shed and garage burglaries. Recently a 90 year old resident was street robbed, and through further investigation detectives were able to develop four suspects who were instrumental in the mini crime wave that has been hitting the town. Arrest warrants have been submitted to court.

Walter T Berniere Scholarship:

There were no scholarship requests this month.

Building and Equipment updates:

Chief reports that the drug drop off box in the lobby has had great results and recently another 23lbs of drugs were emptied and destroyed by the property officers.

Last month Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Mulhern presented the police headquarters building renovation project along with the and radio communications project to the Board of Finance, and Board of Selectmen.

The Police Department’s Command Staff will host a series of community meetings for members of the community to present a proposed radio communications project and police headquarters renovation project. Following the presentation, the Command Staff will be available for a question and answer segment to engage in dialog regarding any concerns the public may have. The next meeting will be held on October 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Ridge Volunteer Firehouse located at 1331 Ridge Road.

Also, on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 7:00p.m., the Command Staff will be at the Montowese Volunteer Firehouse located at 181 Quinnipiac Avenue.

The Command Staff will also be visiting the Senior Center on October 5th, at 11:00 a.m.

Chief advised those present that the Referendum is tentatively scheduled for the 25th of October.

Chief explained that the bid for the body cameras opened on the 22nd of September and they received two proposals. A vendor has been selected and the contract has been sent to the Finance Department and the Town Attorney for review. Chief mentioned that nearly the 90 % of the price for the first year will be reimbursed by the State of Connecticut, and after that it will become a line item in the budget.

For public safety, Chairman D'Errico asked residents who are walking, running or exercising to utilize sidewalks and stay off the streets.

With nothing further, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Lazaroff, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claflin