

**SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on February 24, 2016 at 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT.

Present: Chairman Kevin Armata, Vice Chairman Jack Quinn

Commissioners: Rick Stromoski, Jeff Davis, Linda Stevenson, and Clerk Ken Pascoe

Also Present: Chief Anthony Riello, Captain Rick Brown, and Recording Secretary Karen Doyon

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Armata called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and then asked the recording secretary to take a silent roll.

II. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk Pascoe read into the record a thank you letter from John & Elizabeth Cannone dated February 8th, thanking Detective Fuller and Officer Lacic for helping the family during a very difficult time. The accolades were for their professionalism, commitment, and compassion.

III. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chairman Armata asked the Board if they had a chance to review the January 27, 2016 regular meeting minutes.

With no changes, Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

K-9 Report: K-9 Officer Osowiecki gave his report dated January, 2016.

Detective Report: Detective Fuller gave his report dated January 22, 2015 through February 19, 2016.

School Resource Officer Report: SRO gave his report dated February, 2016.

Operations Report: Captain Brown gave his report dated 02/17/2016, highlighting the following:

- Crime Analysis/Traffic Data:
- Significant Cases
- Drug Task Force/Narcotics Concern
- Traffic Concerns Update
- Equipment Update

- Training Update
- Employee Status
- Community Policing
- Mission Statement for Police Commission

V. CHIEFS REPORT

Chief Riello gave an overview of the upcoming Assessment Center process for the new lieutenant and sergeant positions:

The first assessment will be held on February 27, 2016; three sergeants are applying for the Lieutenants position.

The second assessment will be held on March 26, 2016 for the sergeant's position. The candidates must first pass a written test, after which, they are subjected to the assessment center. Four candidates have applied for the Sergeants position.

Following the Assessment Center process, candidates for both the lieutenant and sergeants position will meet with the Commission in Executive Session [a date is yet to be determined].

Chief Riello reported that the cruiser decals are being redesigned; design input was implemented by the officers. Chairman Armata has graciously offered to do the job. The cost for stripping and reapplying is \$600.00 per cruiser.

- ACCE projects [antiquated equipment needing to be replaced]: Radar units, tough books [computers for the cruisers], patrol rifles, security and locks for facilities [Police, Town Hall, and Fire Station]. Chief Riello stated that the projects were presented to the ACCE committee on February 10th; the projects were well received.
- Budget [current and future]:
 - Payroll-on target
 - Consultant fee-over budget
 - Uniform and Cleaning-over budget
 - Telephone; adjustment to be made with reimbursements from the IT Department.
 - Gasoline-over budget
 - Cruiser-over budget [selling three cars to bring the line items in the positive].

Current budget-Chief stated that increase spending was necessary to benefit the community and the Department, and that services will not be cut.

Proposed budget-After looking at priorities, the numbers still come in at the 8-8.5% range. Meeting with the Board of Finance is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th at the Town Hall.

First Selectman, Melissa Mack reported that the Department has submitted a most comprehensive rationale [budget] for what is being asked for.

Chairman Armata asked if the Commission had any questions on the budget.

Commissioner Davis stated that he relies on the Department Head to bring to the Board what is needed. Chief responded that the plan works well for what the Town is trying to do.

Commissioner Stromoski stated based on what Commissioner Davis said, if any cuts should need to be done, it should be under the guidance of the Department Head.

First Selectman, Melissa Mack stated that the Department Head will also receive the same courtesy from her. First Selectman Mack said she is not so much hung up on the percentage increase as the dollars, when looking at the Town budget as a whole; removing wasted money first, then prioritizing where the money should be wisely spent.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the submitted reports, seconded by Clerk Pascoe. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS-Covered under Department Reports.
VII. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Armata asked for comments/input on the draft mission statement presented by Captain Brown.

Vice Chairman Quinn was concerned that the terms for hiring and firing were not incorporated in the statement. Chairman Armata said that it does state it in a professional manor.

Commissioner Stromoski read the mission statement in its entirety as follows: *“The mission of the Suffield Police commission is to assist the Police Department in ensuring that the citizens of the Town have dependable and efficient police protection. The Commission oversees the Administration of Department policies and finances. We seek to recruit and retain police officers who display the highest degree of skill, courage, and integrity. We encourage Department programs that enhance the quality of life in our community.”*

Commissioner Stromoski made the motion to accept and implement the new Police Commission Mission Statement, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Mahanna of Diane Lane asked for clarification on the amount of patrol officers on duty per shift. Chief Riello responded.

Amy Raye Suffield resident asked the Commission to reiterate the date for the Board of Finance meeting for the police budget. First Selectman, Melissa Mack responded.

IX. AJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to adjourn the February 24rd regular meeting at 7:55pm, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully, Chairman Kevin Armata