

**SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 30, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on June 30, 2016 at 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT.

Present: Chairman Kevin Armata, Vice Chairman Jack Quinn

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

Absent: Linda Stevenson

Also Present: First Selectman Melissa Mack, Chief Anthony Riello, Captain Rick Brown, Lieutenant Ryan Burrell and Recording Secretary Karen Doyon

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Armata called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm.

II. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chairman Armata asked if there were any changes to the May 25, 2016 regular meeting minutes. Clerk Pascoe stated that there is a change to be made at the bottom of page two; under expenses. Change the dollar amount to reflect \$6,500.00. With nothing further. Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve changing the dollar amount to \$6,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you card from Kevin Armata and family, to the Suffield Police Association for the flowers sent after the passing of his father.
- The Police Department received a call from Michael Lewandowski the first week of June, offering recognition to Officer Richard Devin for his professionalism and kindness given during a medial call on Remington Street.
- Thank you card from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Chris and Denise to Officer Tom Kieselback for his time and assistance during the Kids Ride.
- Thank you email from Paula Pascoe/Director of the Suffield Senior Center dated 06/09/2016 to Sergeant John Trovato for his help in finding a missing senior, who turned out to be safe and sound at the Suffield House.
- Thank you letter addressed to the Commission from Kevin and Donna Amata and family, thanking the Commission for plants, and a memorial plaque in memory of Kevin's father.

IV. LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

The Commission is in receipt of one Citizen Request for Traffic Enforcement from William Taylor, and the residents of Cain Street. The residences of Cain Street are seeking approval to re-install the recently removed "NO THRU TRUCKS" signs.

Brief discussion followed regarding the history of Cain Street and the "NO THRU TRUCKS" signs. Vice Chairman Quinn, who was elected to the Traffic Authority Subcommittee, also gave a brief history.

It was agreed upon by the Commission [in its entirety] to sign and submit the request to Mark Sargent who is in charge of overseeing all traffic authority requests for the Suffield Police Department.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Detective Report: Detective Fuller's report covers from May 20, 2016 through June 27, 2016. At the time Detective Fuller was not available to give his report.

K-9 Report: Officer Peter Osowiecki gave his report covering April and May, 2016.

SRO Report: Due to School vacation, there is no submitted report.

Operations Report: Lieutenant Burrell gave his report dated June 20, 2016, highlighting the following:

- Crime Analysis / Traffic Data
- Drug Task Force / Narcotics Concern
- Traffic Concerns Update
- Equipment Update
- Training Update
- Employee Status
- Big Cases / Noteworthy Events

With nothing further. Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to accept the Department Reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. CHIEFS REPORT

- Chief Riello reported that the Police Budget for 2015-2016 f/y is expected to go over due to training, the assessment center, uniforms, and needed equipment.
- Captain Brown gave an overview of the added expenses that has put the Department over budget. Expense side is expected to be in the negative of approximately \$18,000.00. The salary side is expected to be in the negative at the end of the fiscal year of over \$70,000.00, due to: payouts, additional training, overtime coverage for training, additional uniforms, equipment, consulting fees for two training assessments, and for the hiring of a consultant for the promotional process.

With nothing further, Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the Chief's Report as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. OLD BUSINESS-None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Davis reported that landscaping vehicles and construction vehicles are more prevalent now that the summer months are here. It was stated that there are some landscaping contractors that are occupying the road in an unsafe manner, and some type of notification and enforcement needs to be brought to their attention. Lengthy discussion followed.

Chairman Armata asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Public Comment after New Business.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to add Public Comment after New Business, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Armata reported that during the past two meetings under executive session, it was discussed to change the structure within the Suffield Police Department. Upon the agreement of each Commission member, it was decided to create a new position and promote Captain Richard Brown to Deputy Chief. Chairman Armata made the motion to create and appoint Captain Brown to the new Deputy Chief position, seconded by Vice Chairman Quinn. With nothing further, the motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding increased traffic issues on Route 159 and Route 190, due to the seasonal re-opening of Six Flags. It has been reported that it can take up to forty-five minutes to an hour to get to Six Flags from the Enfield/Suffield Bridge.

Captain Brown and Chairman Armata tried meeting with the President of Six Flags in an attempt to discuss traffic concerns, but was unsuccessful. First Selectman Melissa Mack also tried to communicate with the President, and was also unsuccessful. Discussion followed regarding traffic patterns, and signal lights. Chairman Armata drafted a letter to the President, and his supervisor of Six Flag in hopes that it will prompt a response.

Discussion followed regarding a proposal to purchase a License Plate Reader [LPR] vehicle. Chief Riello stated that he would find out if there is a State Bid available, and would report back to the Commission at the next regular meeting. Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to have Chief Riello looking into the purchase of a new LPR vehicle, seconded by Clerk Pascoe. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Officer Osowiecki congratulated Deputy Chief Brown on his latest promotion.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION- Personnel issues.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues, seconded by Commissioner Davis at 8:02 pm. Chairman Armata invited First Selectman Melissa Mack and Chief Riello to stay. Motion carried unanimously.

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A motion was made and sectioned to come out of executive session at 9:05 pm, with no votes taken.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the June 30, 2016 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 9:08 pm.