

**SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2016**

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

Present: Chairman Kevin Armata, Vice Chairman Jack Quinn

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

Absent: Jeff Davis

Also Present: Superintendent Anthony Riello, Deputy Chief Brown Rick Brown, Lieutenant Ryan Burrell, and First Selectman Melissa Mack.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Armata called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm and an attendance was taken.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

First Selectman Melissa Mack was invited to join the Commission in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner Stevenson made the motion to go into executive session at 6:59, seconded by Commissioner Stromoski. Motion carried unanimously

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to come out of executive session at 7:16pm with no votes taken, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

III. PREVIOUS MINUES

Chairman Armata asked if there are any changes to the pervious minutes submitted for review. With none, Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion the accept and approve the minutes submitted for the regular meeting of June 30, 2016, and the special meeting of July 29, 2016, seconded by Commissioner Stromoski. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you note from State Representative of the 61st General Assembly District Tami Zawistowski, to Superintendent Riello and the Suffield Police Department, in appreciation for the opportunity to ride-along for a couple hours with Officer Terry Antrum. The time well spent gave her a better understanding of the community's needs.

Thank you letter from The Loaves and Fishes, for the donation of hamburgers and hotdogs. This donation was given by the Suffield Rotary, in lieu of the National Night Out.

Gift card donation to Zanto's from Christine Jette, Suffield Business Owner, to our Suffield police officers for their service, and dedication.

Thank you letter from the Chapman family to all Suffield Police Officers for their service and for putting their lives on the line every day. The Chapman family donated homemade brownies.

Thank you letters and gift bags filled with goodies, from three young children of the Suffield community to all Suffield Police Officers, and Dispatchers for their service and dedication.

Thank you letter from President Michelle Abdel of Market Mentors to K-9 Officer Osowiecki for his involvement in the 8th Annual Kids Expo.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bruce Millick of Newgate Road had questions regarding the search for a new Chief; is there a plan and could it be addressed.
- First Selectman Melissa Mack thanked Superintendent Riello for his decision to stay and continue to lead the Police Department. Also, thank you to the Suffield Police Department for stepping up and taking care of the issue of vandalism at Babbs Beach in West Suffield. First Selectman Mack addressed the status of the Police Union Contract, this entailed the following: Currently the Police Union has two National Unions disputing over representation. Accordingly, it is not legally permitted for negotiations to start until a Union is established. Once the dispute is over and the Police Union has representation, negotiations will begin. Meanwhile, First Selectman Melissa Mack has agreed to meet informally with President Fuller the week of September 5th to begin talking, and to get familiar within the current contract language.
- Clerk Pascoe commented on the National Night Out stating that it turned out to be a great event and looks forward to an even bigger outing next year.

VI. LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Vice Chairman Quinn gave a brief update, stating that Officer Sargent is still in the information gathering process and should have a report at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Requests are being worked on at this time.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Detective Report [no submission]
- Operations Report [Submitted by Lieutenant Burrell]
 - Monthly States
 - Traffic Updates: Traffic study. Surveying has been completed.
 - Equipment: New/used cruiser for K-9 Officer Osowiecki. Radars.
 - Officer Kelly has resigned.
 - Community policing
 - National Night Out.
 - Big cases and noteworthy events.
- K-9 Report [Submitted by K-9 Officer Osowiecki]

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SERVICES REPORT

Superintendent Riello asked Deputy Chief Brown to present the budget. Deputy Chief discussed overtures and how they were obtained from the past fiscal year. Deputy Chief presented his current budget report, stating that it is unremarkable at this time being a month into the new budget.

In addition he discussed the following:

- Hiring and staffing: received a resignation letter from Officer Kelly, a notification of the intent to retire from Officer Chevalier, and a resignation/retirement letter from Dispatcher Bergdahl. The Department is currently down two patrol officers, and with the pending retirement of Officer Chevalier and a fourth officer still needed to cover the narcotics investigators position, four positions will be needed in the near future. A process has begun for the hiring of two patrol officers, and dispatchers. This process will inevitably impact this year's budget.
- ACCE update: speed measuring equipment, MDT project, patrol rifle project, and door locks/cameras.
- Additional training for Dispatchers for the Everbridge mass notification system.
- Installation of additional monitors in the Dispatch Center.

Superintendent Riello provided additional information regarding the candidate process for police officer; he thanked Commissioner Quinn for his involvement and dedication with the traffic study, and the Rotary for their participation with the National Night Out event, and he defined certain conditions of employment when first hired by the Town of Suffield with regards to his accommodations.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to accept the Superintendent of Police Services Report, seconded by Commissioner Stromoski. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Armata spoke in depth regarding the direction of the agency, with regards to leadership and guidance. The progression of a new Police Chief is moving forward with the guidance of Superintendent Riello and with Deputy Chief Brown playing a major role in the succession.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding Superintendent Riello's police certification and the conflictions that followed.

Chairman Armata asked about License Plate Readers. Lieutenant Burrell responded by telling the Commission that Officer Reynolds has put in a grant and the agency is waiting to hear what the results will be.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Motion to accept resignation and retirement letters submitted.

The Commission will need to accept the resignation letter from Officer Timothy Kelly, and a retirement letter form Dispatcher Patricia Bergdahl.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to accept the resignation letter in good standing for Officer Timothy Kelly, and retirement letter in good standing for Dispatcher Patricia Bergdahl, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the August 24, 2016 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 8: 21 pm.

Chairman Kevin Armata