

**SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on September 29, 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: Superintendent Anthony Riello, Deputy Chief Rick Brown, and Recording Secretary Karen Doyon

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Armata called to order the meeting at 7:30 pm and an attendance was taken.

II. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Vice Chairman Quinn stated that there is one typographic error shown on the pre-meeting handout of the August 24th regular meeting minutes, but reported that the error has already been corrected by the Administrative Assistant. With nothing further, Chairman Armata requested that the minutes be voted on consecutively.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the regular minutes from 08/24/2016 and the special minutes from 09/07/2016 consecutively with no changes, seconded by Commissioner Stromoski. Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A card of sincere appreciation was received from Evelyn and Eamon Moran of Hill Street, addressed to all Suffield Police Officers for their service to the Suffield community.

Thank you card received from Catherine Smith to K-9 Officer Peter Osowiecki for his promptness, and help during a recent call to their residence.

Thank you email received from Lisa Yamilkoski to Officer Jeff Reynolds for his professionalism during a recent traffic stop.

Congratulations email received from First Selectman Melissa Mack to Officer Tom Kieselback and his sidekick Sue Flynn for placing 1st place in the Guns & Hoses Division of the Southwick Chili Cook-off!

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Barbie Baker [supported by Sergeant John Trovato], and her service dog Magie came to share a refreshingly good story involving the help of Officer Robert Dabkowski during a medical call. Ms. Baker stated that Officer Dabkowski went beyond the call to help her and her service dog, especially during these racial times and wanted Officer Dabkowski to get the recognition that is deserved.

- Jackie Mahanna of Dianne Lane asked if there is any possibility that speed-bumps could be placed on Dianne Lane. Deputy Chief Brown responded that a recent report has been completed regarding all the roads in Town; this includes Dianne Lane. The report will be reviewed and details will follow.
- Amy Raye Suffield resident wanted to discuss a project researched by Don Miner of the SVAA which provides a safer alternative way to cross at crosswalks. The project, which proved to be successful involves: buckets which are attached to crosswalk signs, inside the buckets are large orange fluorescent, reflective flags. People who wish to cross at the crosswalk will take a flag and carry it on their person, and then drop the flag off in the bucket after crossing. Discussion followed. Deputy Chief Brown responded saying that the Town is waiting for DOT's approval to install larger signs with yellow flashing lights which would resolve the issue. First Selectman Melissa Mack is behind the process in implementing these positive changes.
- Clerk Pascoe stated that he read in the paper that the Town of Newington is also promoting "Coffee with a Cop". A positive reinforcement!

V. LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

A submission was received on September 16, 2016. Suffield resident Larry Myers of 880 Mather Street is the requestor. The request submitted on the form is for the installation of a stop sign, and repairs to the railroad crossing to eliminate the double dip in the road at the location of 880 Mather Street. Chairman Armata accepted the request.

Commissioner Stevenson asked about the statues of Cane Street. Commissioner Quinn responded, and Deputy Chief Brown responded that DOT denied the proposal. More research is being conducted.

A Traffic Update dated 09/28/2016 was handed out to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. This report was submitted by Officer Mark Sargent.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

K-9 Report: Officer Osowiecki submitted his report for the month of August 2016

SRO Report: Covered August 29th through September 29th, 2016.

Superintendent Riello asked to address the Chairman; to discuss and explain why changes have been made in the presentation of department reports. Super Riello stated that this time last year he had asked officers to present their reports in person to the Commission, the results were positive, but at a financial cost. Since then Super Riello asked the officers not to attend unless there is a matter of importance. Super Riello asked Chairman Armata, if it is the pleasure of the Commission to cease having the officers attend these meetings on a regular basis in order to keep the cost down. The Commission unanimously agreed; unless there is an important matter that needs to be presented.

Operations Report: The operations report was submitted by Lieutenant Burrell dated 09/15/2016. Deputy Chief Brown reported:

- Crime analysis / traffic data
- Drug task force / narcotics concern
- Traffic concerns update

- Equipment update
- Training update
- Employee status
- Community policing.

With nothing further, Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the department reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE SERVICES REPORT

- Budget is on target with the ability to move forward with new projects.
- Increase in the Repairs and Maintenance Vehicle line time. There was about \$2900 increase in unexpected [non-warranty] repairs in the police cruisers. D/C gave explanation.
- Superintendent Riello spoke on vacancies within the Department.

Chairman Armata asked to amend the agenda by moving the executive session to the bottom of the agenda. Commissioner Stevenson made the motion to move the executive session to the end of the agenda, seconded by Clerk Pascoe. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS -None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Vote to accept retirement letter “in good standing” submitted by Officer John Kowalski.

Vote to accept retirement letter “in good standing” submitted by Officer John Chevalier.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to consecutively accept the retirement letters from Officer John Kowalski and Officer John Chevalier in good standing, seconded by Commissioner Stromoski. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Armata asked for a motion to form a sub-committee for Suffield Local Substance Abuse Council; dealing with substance abuse. The Chair nominated Commissioner Stromoski to Chair the sub-committee. Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to accept the nomination for Commissioner Stromoski to Chair the Suffield Local Substance Abuse Council, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Chief Brown reported that the State of Connecticut is now requiring first responders to carry Narcan | Nalozone. The SVAA is gracious enough to supply the Narcan for our agency and in the quarterly firearms training which will begin in two weeks, all the Officers will be certified to carry. In roughly three weeks all the Officers will be equipped with Narcan.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to go into executive session to discuss personal matters at 8:13 pm, seconded by Clerk Pascoe. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to come out of executive session at 9:18 pm. Commissioner Stevenson made the motion to promote Officer Geoffrey Miner to the rank of Sergeant, effective October 1, 2016, motion was seconded by Clerk Pascoe. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to adjourn the September 29, 2016 regular meeting at 9:20pm, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Kevin Armata