

**SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on October 26, 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 Brown, First Selectman Melissa Mack, and Recording Secretary Karen Doyon

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE

Chairman Armata called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and an attendance was taken.

II. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chairman Armata asked if there were any changes to the previous minutes. Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 29, 2016 with no revisions, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

III. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you card from Peter and Rosemary Osowiecki to the Suffield Police Department for flowers sent for the passing of Officer Osowiecki's grandmother.
- Thank you letter from the CHILI-ON Committee for participation in the first community CHILI-ON competition.
- Thank you card from Mike Bosworth and Kathy Bielonko for the \$100.00 donation to the Suffield Athletic Hall of Fame Fran Aniello Memorial Golf Tournament.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Mahanna of Diane Lane, who is very active in the Suffield Local Substance Abuse Council, spoke about the upcoming presentation taking place at the Suffield Middle School on November 17th, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. She mentioned that Deputy Chief Brown will be a speaker at the presentation.

V. LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

No new submissions.

VI. FIRST RESPONDER COMMITTEE

Commissioner Stevenson reported that she met with Chief Groux and Lieutenant Burrell to discuss the need for our dispatchers to be familiar with the systematic program of handling

medical calls using Emergency Medical Dispatch [EMD]. Deputy Chief Brown reported that additional funding was forecasted and included into the training line budget to certify the dispatchers in following modules: software, fire and law enforcement using the company PowerPhone. Discussion followed.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

School Resource Officer-submitted for review and comments.

K-9-submitted for review and comments.

Clerk Pascoe made the motion to approve the minutes submitted without comment, seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

First Selectman Melissa Mack asked why September's overtime is significantly higher than the other months. Superintendent Riello and Deputy Chief explained that due to a three week pay period and coverage for an officer who is retired and using his accrued time.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's report was submitted by Superintendent Riello and Deputy Chief Brown as follows:

- Crime analysis / traffic data
- Local traffic authority / traffic concerns update
- Equipment update
- Training update
- Community policing
- Hiring status update
- Budget [as of 10/20/2016

First Selectman Mack asked what is planned for patrol for Halloween. Deputy Chief Brown responded.

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

IX. PERSONAL MATTERS

Chairman Armata stated that the Commission discussed finalizing the selection of a new Chief at the previous September 29th meeting.

Chairman Armata made the motion to name Rick Brown as the next Police Chief of Suffield; with all his hard work, and with the help of Superintendent Riello, who brought Rick through the transition as he has moved from Lieutenant to Captain to Deputy Chief; with a straw vote, Vice Chairman Quinn voted yes, Clerk Pascoe voted yes, Commissioner Stromoski voted yes, Commissioner Stevenson voted yes, Commissioner Davis voted yes, and Chairman Armata also voted yes, effective immediately, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevenson. Motion carried unanimously.

All at the meeting congratulated Chief Brown and an official invitation for the formal swearing ceremony was handed out. The swearing ceremony will take place on November 1st at the Suffield High School.

X. OLD BUSINESS - None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Captain Chris McKee will be joining the Department on Monday October 31, 2016.

Chairman Armata stated that a grievance was filed with the Department last week and a response was made by the Superintendent of Police Services.

Chief Brown stated that it is unfortunate that immediately after his appointment to speak of a grievance filed by the union body back on October 7, 2016, with regards to a management violation. The Union is claiming that we violated their contract by modifying and changing the work schedule by removing the Detective from the work schedule, without reaching a mutual compromise; in addition, they are also complaining in their grievance the Lieutenant is performing duties which are not within his job description. The Union's remedy being to reinstate the Detective position immediately, and mutually agree upon promotional testing criteria to determine who the next detective will be.

Superintendent Riello and Chief Brown gave a short response to the grievance. A lengthy discussion followed.

The Commission is requirement by the collective bargaining unit to now hold a separate meeting with the grievant to hear their complaint, and at that time render a decision [within 7-10 business days].

The Commission agreed to hold the special meeting on Wednesday November 2, 2016 at 7:00 pm to render a decision with grievance #16-2 filed by the union body.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the October 26, 2016 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 7:55 pm.

Chairman Kevin Armata