

**SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on January 27, 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 7:02 pm and asked the recording secretary to take a silent roll.

II. COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thank you card/letter of appreciation dated 12/17/2015, to all Police personal for their service and sacrifice from Salina.
- Thank you note dated 12/2015 from Paul Grinnon thanking Officer Reynolds for his assistance.
- Email dated 12/15/2015 from Deb Krut of the Suffield Housing Authority, thanking Chief Riello for staying on as Suffield Police Chief, and to congratulate Rick Brown on his promotion as Captain.
- Email dated 12/29/2015 from Jack Muska thanking the responders [Officer Justin Nelson and Officer Geoff Miner], along with the SVAA members who responded to a call on Christmas morning to assist a family member who was injured.
- Email dated 01/18/2016 from Officer Ken Stern of the Green Country Sheriff Office to Captain Brown, thanking him for Officer Osowiecki's assistance in training a group of over twenty police K-9.

I. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Chairman Armata asked what the Commissions pleasure was for approving the minutes presented. Discussion followed to approve the minutes simultaneously.

November 18, 2015 regular meeting minutes. No changes to the minutes.

November 27, 2015 special meeting minutes. No changes to the minutes.

December 1, 2015 special meeting minutes. No changes to the minutes.

December 9, 2015 special meeting minutes. Commissioner Davis asked to add wording [*a word was removed to grammatically correct the sentence*] in the first paragraph, second sentence

to Section III. “...and in light of everything that has taken place, *a majority of the Commission has agreed...*”

Commissioner Quinn made the motion to approve the November 18, 2015, November 27, 2015, December 1, 2015, and the December 9, 2015 minutes as presented, to include changes made to the December 9, 2015 special minutes, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

II. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Chief Riello asked Chairman Armata if he would approve moving the Budget Report and Operations Report [*Submitted by Captain Brown*] to Section V on the agenda. Chairman Armata agreed to the request.

Detective: Detective Fuller gave his report dated November 17, 2015 through January 22, 2016.

School Resource Officer: Officer Tom Kieselback gave his report dated December 27, 2016.

K-9 Report: K-9 Officer gave his report dated December 2015.

III. CHIEFS REPORT

- Chief Riello reported that the 2015 Senior Center Christmas party went very well with a huge turnout. Chairman Armata, Ken Pascoe, Captain Brown, Fire Chief Flynn, Fire Marshal Cpt. Mike Thibedeau, Tom Kieselback and Chief Riello were some of the few that volunteered their time. The Police Department would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Senior Center Director, Paula Pascoe and Assistant Director, MaryLou Brewster for their continued support year after year.
- Chief Riello reported that the unsolicited Good-guy notes continue to pour in.
- Chief Riello reported briefly on the narcotics K-9 sniff conducted at the Suffield High School.

Operations Report: Captain Rick Brown gave his report dated 01/27/2016, highlighting the following:

- Crime Analysis/Traffic Data
- Significant Cases
- Drug Task Force Narcotics Concern
- Traffic Concerns Update
- Equipment Update
- Training Update
- Employee Status
- Dispatch Improvements
- Union Business
- Community Policing
- Budget as of 12/31/2015)
- Fleet Roster as of 01/20/2016

Commissioner Davis asked if traffic complaints being received are a result of findings by Officer Mark Sargent and the Traffic Engineer. Captain Brown responded that the complaints are being

received mainly from the First Selectman's office, and then streamlined to us. Chief Riello reported that the work being done by Officer Sargent to address traffic concerns are effectively being dealt with.

Commissioner Davis asked about the effectiveness surrounding the speed tables at South Stone Street. Captain Brown responded that nothing has been reported to date.

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Davis. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Stevenson stated that based on a meeting between the Board of Selectman and Chairman Armata, Commissioner Stevenson feels that the Board should make a motion to ratify Chief Riello's agreement.

Chairman Armata stated that he is in the process of structuring two agreements with Chief Riello. Both of which are six months long. The first structure will end at the end of this fiscal year at \$45,000.00. The second structure will end at the end of December for another \$45,000.00 to provide for the leadership during the rest of his tenure.

Commissioner Stevenson made the motion to ratify that agreement as proposed above, seconded by Vice Chairman Quinn. Motion carried unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Review of 2016/2017 budget *Chief Riello and Captain Brown simultaneously reported the budget to the Board.*

A budget meeting with the First Selectman and Deborah Cerrato is scheduled for tomorrow, January 28, 2016.

Chief Riello stated that there is an increase in the budget in an effort to move the Department forward.

Presented in the budget were as follows:

- **Objectives:** Reduce liability to the Town of Suffield [training], increase customer service and proficiency in the workplace, provide for adequate manpower on the road to improve safety and increase programs, properly position the agency to move towards accreditation, and address ongoing and emerging community concerns.
- **Goals:** Increase training and staffing. Staffing increase would include increasing Administrative Assistants hours from 35 hrs./wk. to 40 hrs./wk., create a Records Keeper position [currently none], promote a fourth Sergeant to increase supervision, create a dedicated traffic unit, create a Narcotics Investigator position.
- **Financial Summary:**

FY 2015 – 2016

Payroll \$1,955,543
Benefits \$149,599
Operating Costs \$320,808
Total Budget: \$2,425,950

FY 2016-2017

Payroll \$2,128,561
Benefits \$162,835
Operating Costs \$337,375
Budget: \$2,628,771
8.36% Increase

- It's important to note an item highlighted in the presented budget overview: [CRITICAL] Retired Chief Manzi's payment this year and next five years being taken out of this year's budget.

Discussion followed regarding outside road jobs, equipment replacements, caller ID, level of service and staffing. It was reiterated that Chief Riello and Captain Brown will be meeting with the Board of Selectman and Finance Director Deborah Cerrato on 1/28/2016. The meeting with the Board of Finance has not yet been announced.

Captain Brown announced that the ACCE meeting is scheduled to take place on February 11th. Captain Brown then gave an overview of the upcoming projects, which are:

- Security Upgrade [Door lock and camera project to include the Fire Department and Town Hall]
- Patrol Rifles
- Computers for patrol vehicles
- Radars
- Motorcycle

Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to support the presented FY 2016/2017 proposed budget, seconded by Commissioner Stromoski. Motion carried unanimously.

Grievance over overtime pay. Clerk Pascoe read the grievance in its entirety. Chairman Armata stated that this is the third grievance which relates to the prior two grievance's submitted. Clerk Pascoe made the motion to approve the grievance to send up to the Town Hall, seconded by Chairman Armata. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Armata asked that a member of the Commission chair a First Responder Committee. Discussion followed. Chairman Armata nominated Commissioner Stevenson [Commissioner Stevenson accepted the nomination], seconded by Vice Chairman Quinn. Motion carried unanimously.

2016 Meeting Schedule. Vice Chairman Quinn made the motion to approve the 2016 Police Commission meeting schedule as submitted, seconded by Clerk Pascoe. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Mahanna of Diane Lane spoke in support of the Narcotics Unit. Ms. Mahanna thanked Officer Osowiecki for spending 3 hours showing the K-9 facility and functions to her daughter. Recognized and wanted to thank Officer Kieselback and other officers who work one on one with the children in Town.

Thomas Frenaye Warnertown Road spoke in response to Narcan. Wanted to know what streets the most recent burglaries were on. Detective Fuller responded: Kent Avenue and Russell Avenue. Happy to see the Police Log online.

Chief Chuck Flynn Suffield Fire Department spoke of his support for "A Coffee with a Cop". Made recognition to Detective Fuller on his State Fire Marshalls training, and is now a Certified Fire Investigator-this is a huge asset for the Town. Cooperation with Police, Fire and EMS has

progressed favorably, and relationships between the services have been phenomenal. Chief Flynn is impressed with the openness and professionalism of the police dispatchers when recruits come through.

Priscilla Sutula Hill Street spoke of her concern regarding a speed limit sign on Remington Street that has been vandalized, and the speed limit of 25 MPH is too slow.

Donald Miner Mapleton Avenue spoke in support of the budget, and its presentation. Mr. Miner advised the Board and Staff that it's important to be proactive in preparing for meetings with the Board of Finance.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

With nothing further, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the January 27, 2016 regular Suffield Police Commission meeting at 9:18 pm.

Chairman, Kevin Armata