

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
46 CHURCH STREET
BRANFORD, CT 06405
MINUTES OF MEETING: April 14, 2025

Commissioners present:

Commissioner John Sousoulas
Commissioner Patty Austin
Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis
Commissioner Christine Ciociola
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins
Commissioner Robert Nash

Also present was Police Chief Jon Mulhern.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Sousoulas at 5:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to approve the minutes of March 10, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the minutes of March 26, 2025 (special meeting). Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Commissioner Heggie-Margolis abstained.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern reviewed highlights of the monthly statistical report. The month of March was busy with arrests. Up 21 from February. The Chief expressed his appreciation to the East haven Police Department for the use of their facilities. Mental Health/Behavioral calls are down about 40% for this month compared to this time last year. Drug overdoses are down however, there was a bad batch causing a trend of overdoses in Branford and the surrounding area. A suspect was arrested for entering occuppies and unoccupied units in Jefferson Woods with the use of a license plate reader the officers were able to identify an individual from East Haven and made an arrest for these burglaries. The investigation continues as he is suspected in other burglaries. Driving While Intoxicated included 6 arrests for the month of March. Larcenies remain consistent. Motor Vehicle Theft is up. The Chief again reminded the public to remove their keys from the vehicle and lock car doors. The weather is getting better and as such officers are out as often as possible targeting high traffic complaint areas. Personnel overview: Officers Healy and Manware have graduated from field training. Two new officers have started at the Meriden Academy. Adranna Carrasco is still on field training. One dispatcher in training. One retirement coming in July.

A brief discussion took place concerning the use of AI technology with body cam footage to generate police reports. The department has been testing this new technology. It cannot be used for reports that are used in investigations or arrests or for cases involved in the use of force.

There are still cases that is could be used for, but it is a very costly add on to our current contract. Right now it's about 50/50.

Correspondence and Letters of Recognition included a letter from Chairman Massey of the Fire Commission concerning repairs at Fire Department when the department vacates. A letter was

Training Synopsis: Detective Lt. Dominck Eula attended the FBI-NAA Connecticut command college at Foxwoods; Multiple Officers and Supervisors attended DraftOne training concerning the use of AI technology; and Accreditation Manager Michael Smith completed Accreditation Manager Certification Training.

Letters of Recognition included: A letter recognizing Dt. Kendzierski, Dispatcher Schultz(2), Dispatched Coon, Dispatcher Numberg, Officer Abely, Dispatcher Sands, Dispatcher Faust, Officer McCone, Officer Carrasco, Officer Manware, Officer Healy, Officer Pomales and Sergeant Carney.

Building Renovation Update: Chief Mulhern reported that the project is moving along on schedule. Selective demolition is almost complete. The slab will be poured in the next couple of weeks. A lot of site work is happening. April 22 the building will need to be vacated due to the gas line changeover. They have been working with the state. Dispatch will need to be relocated to Meriden for 8 hours. The PBC did approve the lower-level furniture package for the storage and armory items. The remining items will be considered at a later date.

Chief Mulhern also mentioned that they are trending a little high in overtime expenses. There will be a need to make transfers within the budget to various line items.

Traffic Requests:

Request to remove one parking spot on Crescent Bluff Avenue, northside in front of #10. The traffic committee recommends no action.

Request to add a no parking sign in front of 29 Bradley Avenue, northside. The Traffic Committee recommends no action.

Request to add 2 stop signs at the intersection of Cherry Hill Road and Todds Hill Road. Signs to be placed in front of #147 and #145. The Traffic Committee recommends that this request is approved. Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Vote unanimous.

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Commissioner Sousoulas acknowledged the recent passing of former Commissioner Anthony Lasal and expressed condolences on behalf of the Police Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk