

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
46 CHURCH STREET
BRANFORD, CT 06405
MINUTES OF MEETING: May 12, 2025

Commissioners present:

Commissioner John Sousoulas

Commissioner Patty Austin

Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis

Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins

Commissioner Robert Nash

Also present was Police Chief Jon Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves. Commissioner Christine Ciociola was absent.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the minutes of April 14, 2025. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern expressed appreciation for everyone's support during the homicide investigation of 12-year-old Anthony Esposito. The suspect was apprehended within a ½ hour with assistance from a license plate reader from North Branford and assistance of CT State Trooper DiLauro. He spoke about the surviving sister and what a remarkable young lady she is. He also expressed appreciation to the CT State Police, North Branford Police Department, New Haven State's Attorney's Office, First Selectman Cosgrove, the Board of Police Commissioners, the community and all of our partners for their assistance. The family is in everyone's thoughts and prayers.

He was happy to report that this month's report does not include any car break-ins or burglaries, larcenies are trending average and no motor vehicle thefts. Family violence from March to April has gone down. Overall mental health calls stayed equal. Notable arrests included an individual for threatening a staff member with a gun resulting in a Felony Traffic Stop and multiple charges and an individual from out of state on an older Negligent Homicide charge.

Training Synopsis: The department continues with mandatory training but also with advanced training. Officers Sean Healy and Jack Manware completed Field Training. Officer Adriana Carasco is on Field Training, Officers Kenneth Erdos and Michael Vitale attended a two-week SWAT School after being selected through a competitive process, and Micheal Smith completed Alpha Group Crime Analysis Training. Personnel Overview – Nothing has really changed since the last meeting. There are two officers that will be leaving at the end of June, beginning of July. There is one opening and they are vetting a certified candidate. There are two budgeted positions that go live July 1.

Letters of Recognition included: Letters were received recognizing Sergeant Romanello, Officer Johnson and Officer Mitchell-Carter. Letters were also received recognizing the department from the Board of Police Commissioners and the First Selectman.

Chief Mulhern mentioned that there is just under \$130,000 in the asset forfeiture account. There was an opportunity to continue the license plate reader program, and they are looking to expand it to Cedar Street and East Main Street at a cost of \$12,466. In addition, he is requesting to upgrade active shooter kits in some of the vehicles at a cost of \$15,340. He is recommending these purchases using asset forfeiture funding in the amount of \$27,806.90. Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the purchases. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Vote unanimous.

Building Renovation Update: Deputy Chief Alves reported that the project is moving along and on schedule. Anticipate being back to the building January or February 2026. The building had to be completely vacated due to gas utility shut down. Dispatch was temporarily relocated to the Police Academy for one day. It took a lot of work to make that happen with multiple agencies to make that happen. But it went very smoothly. He expressed his appreciation to dispatchers Coon, Sands and Russo. The job site has been very busy with a lot of activity with a variety of trades. Working with the interior designer to finalize all the furniture packages for submittal to the Public Building Commission. Coordinating and working with the neighbor regarding site line issues and fencing and any other concerns that they have. The budget overall has been on track. As with building projects, there are unanticipated challenges, but they've been able to work through those challenges to this point.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to add Traffic Requests to the addenda. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Request for a crosswalk, vertical signage, rumble strips or flashing "Beach Crossing" signs on Hotchkiss Grove Road area. The Traffic Committee recommends no action at this time.

Request for the reinstallation of No Parking signs and a One-Way Sign on Sound View Heights. The Traffic Committee recommends approval of both signs. Motion made by Commissioner Sousoulas to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Chairman Sousoulas commented that we are very fortunate to have such a incredible Police Force and leadership to get through this terrible tragedy.

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Motion made by Commissioner Austin to adjourn the meeting at 5:55p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk