

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: October 10, 2023

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins was absent. Also present was Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the minutes from September 11, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided copies of the Monthly Statistical Report, Training Report and the 2022/2023 Annual Report and provided a brief overview of the Monthly Statistical Report. He reported that accidents are up a little bit, arrests are slightly down. We are still experiencing stolen cars and larcenies from motor vehicles. He reminded residents not to approach any individuals and to call the police. He also recommended that key fobs are not left near doors or exterior walls, newer technology is allowing thieves to replicate the fob signals.

The four new recruits are at the Police Academy to complete their 28 weeks of training. Currently, operationally they are five officers short. There may be a spike in the overtime account to backfill vacation days, training, etc. Officer Mike Paleski retired as of today after 28 years of service. Officer Harrington will replace him on the DEA Task Force.

Letters of Recognition and appreciation were received recognizing the following: Officers Clyburn, Richardson, Luzzi, Burghart, Abley, the Branford PD and Branford PD Telecommunicators.

Police Department Renovation Project - Deputy Chief Alves reported that Design Documents have been received. There is a working group meeting on Thursday. Downes is working on cost estimate and logistics plan.

Training Report - There was a significant amount of training during the month of September. Highlights include: All officers received a legal update training synopsis on the 2023 Legal Acts; All officers completed Pursuit Policy annual review; Sgt. Emery completed a week-long First Line Supervisor Training Program; Officers Clyburn and Erdos completed a week-long Interview and Interrogations course; Officer Coutu completed a Child Safety Installation course. Officer Glifort and Coutu completed their third phase of Accident Reconstruction Training and are now certified Accident Reconstructionists; Sergeant Carney participate in the K-9 Olympics and also completed mandatory in-service training and Sgt. Loftis and Dispatcher Davis attended Read Across America and read books at Sliney Elementary school.

Traffic Committee:

Request for a handicap parking space in front of Common Grounds on Main Street. The Traffic Committee recommends no action.

Request to limit the vehicle height, weight, width, length and tonnage on Linden Avenue. The Traffic Committee recommends no action.

Request to eliminate the first parking space on the corner of Church and Meadow Streets. The Traffic Committee recommends deferring this item until a recommendation is received by the Engineering Department.

Request to remove a school bus sign on the corner of Dorr Street and Pawson Road. The Traffic Committee recommends approval.

Request to eliminate a line of sight issue in front of 1111 Main Street caused by overhanging tree branches blocking the Intersection Walk Sign. The Traffic Committee recommends approval and referring this item to the Department of Public Works.

Request to move the speed sign on Mill Plain by the first curve. The Traffic Committee recommends deferring this item until the Engineering Department completes a speed study.

Recommendation from the Engineering Department to install a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Matthew and Brainerd Roads. The Traffic Committee recommends approval.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to accept the Traffic Committee's Report. Seconded by Commissioner Ciociola. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chair – none

Citizens Comments - none

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Motion made by Commissioner Austin to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Ciociola. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk