

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING: October 13, 2020

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Richard Goodwin
Commissioner Peter Hugret
Commissioner John Sousoulas
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins

Also present was: Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves. Commissioner Jill Marcus was absent.

The meeting called to order at 5:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Sousoulas to approve the minutes from September 14, 2020.
Seconded by Commissioner Hugret.

Report of the Chief:

CompStat Report - Chief Mulhern reported the loss of Chris Manner. He reported that Joe Herten has retired from the Regional SWAT Team. Officer Morgan will fill the vacancy. Lt. Corangelo is taking an in depth look at training. The Tele Staff Software upgrade has been completed. The Axon Body cameras are all on line.

Deputy Chief Alves has been putting together a detailed report concerning the Police Accountability bill. He reported that there is a large number of mental health calls. They are looking at ways to respond to those calls and looking at different models. A task force has been formed to look at ways to move forward. They are favoring adding a social worker to the Police Department staff to assist. Currently, they are working with staff from BH Care or the Branford Counseling Center. Looking at Crisis Intervention Training.

Chief Mulhern reported that 3 speed trailers are out. Part I crimes are stable. During the month of September five cars were stolen, they were all unlocked and the keys were left in them. Car thefts are up 60% from last year. Cases of significance include a Robbery at the Days Inn involving a gun; Another robbery where the victim and the suspect were known to each other; Robbery at gun point on East Main Street, the victim was struck in the head and two arrest warrants were issued for a case in December 2019. Motor vehicle accidents are down 15%.

No injuries.

Forfeiture Report – There was a small expenditure.

Letters – Letter from Peter Jackson commending Officer Loftis.

Traffic Committee

Request for appropriate signage at the intersection of Cedar Street and Rose Street. (Carried over pending a traffic study and further analysis. (Combine with #2). The Traffic Committee recommended to conditionally approve, contingent upon funding, the installation of a right turn lane on Cedar Street just north of the entrance to the East Shore Catholic Academy with appropriate street markings and signage. Motion made by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Lasala. Vote unanimous.

Request for a larger sign on Cedar Street at its intersection with Rose St. identifying “ONCOMING TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP” sign. The Traffic Committee recommended the installation of two signs. One sign on Cedar Street “Oncoming traffic does not stop” and one on Rose Street “Traffic from right does not stop”. Motion made by Commissioner Lasala to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Request to remove 5 parking spaces adjacent to crosswalks near the Town beach in Stony Creek. The Traffic Committee recommends remove parking spaces 20 ft. back from the crosswalk on the oncoming traffic side of the crosswalk, painting the curb and the installation of “No parking here to crosswalk” signs. Motion made by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Seconded by Commissioner Lasala. Vote unanimous.

Request for a BLIND CORNER sign on the Branford and Guilford sides of Rt. 146. No action.

Request for Traffic Calming on Shore Drive (Rt. 142), Clark Avenue and Court Street. The Traffic Committee recommends the reinstallation of the traffic hump after the repaving. Motion made by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

The Commission extending their condolences to the Manner family.

Motion made by Commissioner Hugret to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk