

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: November 13, 2023

Commissioners Present:

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

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 21, 2023 (special meeting). Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to approve the minutes from October 9, 2023 (for the record the correct date of the meeting is October 10, 2023). Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided copies of the Monthly Statistical Report, Training Report. He reported motor vehicle thefts have leveled off. There has also been an increase in broken windows to gain access to the items left in vehicles. He reminded residents not to leave valuables out where they can be seen. The problem is not limited to Branford it is statewide. Officers are out making efforts to deter and apprehend suspects. Theft from vehicles is up, arrests are up. Traffic Enforcement – infractions were up. Accidents are down a little bit. Officer Harrington and the detective division was involved in a recent drug investigation with DEA that resulted in arrests. The police boat has been taken out of the water for the season. Due to its age, while it's out of the water, the department will have a boat survey conducted to provide a full assessment of the condition of the boat. Some considerations for the upcoming budget and looking at possibly adding additional staff. They are looking at the current scheduling and possible changes to the scheduling to provide better distribution of officers. They have been analyzing the number and types of calls, amount of time on calls, etc. The Chief is preparing a draft report concerning scheduling and the need for additional officers. Currently, it looks like the proposal will be for two additional officers for the next fiscal year. Current staffing is allocated for 52 officers.

However, due to various types of leave, etc. The two additional officers will actually bring the department up to the actual 52 officers but when you look at the budget it will show 54 officers. It takes 12-14 months to get a new hire on board. There are 12 active members that can retire or leave. A detailed report will be forthcoming.

Police Department Renovation Project - Deputy Chief Alves reported that the project cost is estimated to be \$20 million based on the current scope. The plan now is to vacate the site to provide a faster project and potentially provide additional savings. The project is designed to address major deficiencies in the building, reallocate square footage to accommodate the growing number of female officers, provide a new roof and windows, update the systems to provide energy efficiency, increase parking which will require extensive site work, replacement of major mechanicals.

Building Renovation Update: Request for BOPC Endorsement - Motion made by Commissioner Austin to endorse the Police Department Renovation and Expansion building project to move the project forward to the next phase. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the 2024 Board of Police Commissioner's meeting schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Traffic Committee:

Request for Speed Bumps on Supply Ponds Road. The Committee recommends approval of additional speed bumps. The number and location of additional speed bumps to be determined by the Engineering Department

Request for Crosswalk and Speed Bumps on Club Parkway (PO Club; by Clubhouse). The Traffic Committee recommends the installation of the crosswalk. The location of the crosswalk to be determined by the Engineering Department.

Request for Hidden Driveway sign prior to entrance to Sybil Creek Landing – Line of Site issue. The Traffic Committee determined that there will be no action on the Hidden Driveway sign. There is a site line issue when turning left onto South Montowese Street however, the site line issue is associated with items located on the association property and therefore, the association needs to address the issue.

Request for sidewalks on South Montowese Street from Sybil Creek to Parkside Village. The Traffic Committee recommends sending a letter to our State Representatives supporting the installation of sidewalks.

Engineering Recommendations:

Leave the changeable speed sign where it has been placed on Mill Plain Road and place an additional Curve sign atop that sign in accordance with the MUTCD, Chapter 2C. The Traffic Committee recommends relocating the sign as recommended and determined by the Engineering Department.

In accordance with the CGS 14-451” No vehicle shall be permitted to remain parked within twenty-five feet of an intersection or an approach to a marked crosswalk”, Engineering recommends installing a “No Parking Anytime” 25 feet from Meadow Street/Church Street intersection with the arrow pointing toward the intersection and enforcement of this sign if a vehicle is parked there.

Motion made by Commissioner Ciociola to accept the Traffic Committee’s Report. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chair – Reminder as holiday season is approaching to lock vehicles and keep valuables out of sight.

Citizens Comments – Ashley Phan asked follow-up questions concerning the staffing and renovation project concerning changes to the facilities for the female staff.

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,


Trista Milici, Clerk