

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: May 9, 2022

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Richard Goodwin
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins
Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis
Commissioner John Sousoulas
Commissioner Patty Austin

Also present was Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves.

The meeting called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Acting Chair Richard Goodwin

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Sousoulas to approve the minutes from April 11, 2022.
Seconded by Commissioner Austin.

The commission and the Chief extended their condolences to Chairwoman Marcus for the loss of her husband and extended sympathies to the families of the victims of the fatal motor vehicle accident on Hosley Avenue. An investigator has been assigned to work with the families. There will be a detailed investigation and it will take some time.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided the Compstat Monthly Statistical Report. The number of theft of motor vehicle parts numbers are significant and some of the increase is due to coding changes. Mental Health calls continue to increase. The number of family disputes are down but there is an increase in domestic violence calls with violence and that is concerning. Accidents are down but there will be an increase in traffic during the summer months.

Forfeiture Report – nothing to report

Personnel – Sgt. Carney is on light duty, Sgt. O'Connor on long term sick leave and Officer Gonzalez is on light duty. This will cause a shortage in staffing. This will drive a little spike in overtime expenses.

The department's Employee Assistance Provider has sold part of that business and will no longer be our front line EAP provider. We will now be part of KGA for our officer wellness and employee assistance provider they have retained the former EAP liaison to assure that the transition goes well. The new provider will provide other services that we didn't have before.

South Central Regional SWAT, Hostage Negotiators, Crisis Negotiators and some of our support staff assisted in the hostage situation in Guilford.

The Chief mentioned that looking at long term planning the department is interested in looking into obtaining a Mobile Command Post Center to assist at the scenes when needed. The cost is estimated to be between \$300,000-\$350,000. Having a vehicle like this would help the department with a variety of scenes. It would bring officers out of the elements and provide better communications at the scene. This would also be available during large town events. The Chief stated that he would like to take \$100,000 out of Asset Forfeiture and would be part of the 5 year Capital Plan. The commission recommended that he research options and report back to the commission.

Letters of Recognition – Chief mentioned a letter received from a family thanking Dominick Eula and the Detective Bureau for their assistance; a letter was received from UNH thanking Sgt. Carney for bringing K-9 Arrow to the school and spending time with the students; a thank you letter was received from an elderly resident thanking officers for their help with a tow truck and a thank you letter was received thanking Mike Loftis for his efforts. A parent of a Special Olympian sent a letter thanking Detective Herten and Officer Harrington for their contributions to the Special Olympics.

Traffic Committee:

Request for sidewalks along Indian Neck. The Traffic Committee recommends no action on this item. A crosswalk was previously approved at Toole Drive and it is just waiting on funding from the town.

Request for Stop Sign on Featherbed Lane. This is not a new issue it has been brought before the traffic committee previously. Lt. Ramey will get in contact with the construction company concerning the speed of the trucks. The Traffic Committee recommend no action on this item.

Request for signage and Traffic Calming measures on Hosley Avenue. The Traffic Committee recommends that an independent study is conducted regarding the volume of traffic and use on the road and looking at it from a town wide perspective.

Report of the Chair – No report

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Motion made by Commissioner Austin to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk