

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: November 8, 2021

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Jill Marcus
Commissioner Richard Goodwin
Commissioner John Sousoulas
Commissioner Patty Austin
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins

Also present were: Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the minutes from October 12, 2021.
Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the annual meeting calendar. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided the compstat report. He reported that larcenies have remained unchanged during the month of October. He reported cases of significance including a carjacking at Motel 6 followed by a robbery, and other crimes in other towns. The perpetrators have been identified as 14 and 15 year old juveniles and another 16 year old has since been identified. This same group is responsible for other crimes in Clinton, New Haven and Fairfield. There was a robbery at Liberty Bank. The money was placed in a bag with dye packs and at least one dye pack was activated. This is believed to be tied with other bank robberies. Theft from auto have shown a decrease. The Chief urged residents to continue to lock their vehicles. There has been a minor decrease in motor vehicle accidents.

Deputy Chief Alves provided training and mental health call reports. He reported that the he and the Chief attended the John Bailey Seminar for Chief's training on legal updates; Detective Eula attended Advanced Sniper Training; Officer Erdos completed a 40-hr Method of Instruction Course to teach additional courses for In-service training; Officers attended Death Scene Investigations course; Detective Moynihan and Officer Rubano attended a 40-hr Crisis Intervention course, nearly 100% of the department has received this training; Lieutenant Roach attended a Simunitions Instructor Course, this is helpful in regional training efforts; All officers that are up for recertification attended a 7 hour Legal Update course; 12 Officers that are up for

recertification attended a 40 hour recertification In-service course; Officers continue with monthly SWAT training; and K9 Sergeant Carney completed training/tracking course with K9 Arrow. He expressed his appreciation to Training Officer Lieutenant Corangelo for keeping the department on track with all the training.

The Police Social Worker took on a domestic violence case, assisted with a safety plan including safe shelter, assisted with the locksmith, monitored the case, and assisted with a safety plan post release. Helped a family through a Conservatorship case with Probate Court. She worked with a resident that repeatedly called 911 due to mental health issues. She is now sitting on a panel called “Branford Families”. She assisted a family of a 15 year old overdose victim by getting them services at the Branford Counseling Center.

Chief Mulhern provided a brief report on the hiring of officers. In the past, we have been very fortunate to attract certified officers which is fastest and more cost effective. The pool of certified officers is dwindling. Some of the issues include law enforcement officers are retiring, current officers don't want switch departments and the timing of the recruit classes. They have vetting a couple of officers but, they didn't meet our specific standards. On the recruit side, where we need to sponsor and send them to the academy. There were 134 candidates and now it is now down to 10 for interviews. This is a long process that may result in longer openings as officers retire.

Forfeiture report – no report

Letters – Letter of appreciation was received regarding Officer Kendzieski and Officer Cope. A letter of appreciation was received from the Town of Ridgefield thanking Captain Galdenzi for participating on an Oral Board.

Officer Richard Kenney retired after 35 years of service. Beverly Cooke retired after 40 years.

Request for additional signage at 59 Parish Farm Road due to line of sight issue. No action.

Request for Private Road/no outlet sign on Cocheco Avenue. No action.

Follow- up on Rt 146 Bridge Improvements. No Action.

Follow-up on request to remove stanchions on Linden Ave. Deferred to the next meeting.

Follow-up on line of sight issue at the corner of Isabel Lane and South Montowese St. Lt. Ramey spoke to the resident. The resident has two weeks to trim the hedge back, if it is not completed within that timeframe it will be referred to the State DOT for action.

Report of the Chair:

Chairman Marcus reported that Commissioner Lasala submitted a letter of resignation due to health issues. The commission and the Chief thanked him for his service and wished him well.

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to enter executive session at 6:12 p.m. to discuss Supernumerary Status and hear an update on current police candidates. Seconded by Commissioner Goodwin.

Present in executive session were: Commissioners Marcus, Goodwin, Sousoulas, Austin and Wiel-Wilkins. Also present were: Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves

Return to regular meeting. For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to appoint Richard Kenney as a Supernumerary Officer. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Austin. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk