

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: June 12, 2023

Commissioners Present:

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

Also present was Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves. Commissioner John Sousoulas was absent.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to approve the minutes from May 8, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

Executive Session:

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to enter into executive session at 5:32 to conduct and interview for the position of Entry Level Officer. Candidate Julie Kustra was invited to attend the executive session.

Present in Executive Session were: Commissioners Austin, Wiel-Wilkins, Heggie-Margolis, Ciociola and Nash. Also present were Chief Mulhern, Deputy Chief Alves and Julie Kustra.

Return to regular meeting at 5:52 p.m. For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion made by Commissioner Ciociola to extend a condition offer of employment to Julie Kustra to the position of Entry Level Officer effective June 26, 2023. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided copies of the Monthly Statistical Report and provided a brief overview. He thanked Debi Mirto, IT Director for her assistance in preparing this month's report. He reported that there has been an increase in purse snatchings at high target areas such as gas stations and grocery stores and advised the public to take precautions. He again reminded the residents to lock vehicles, lock belongings out of sight in the trunk and be alert and aware of your surroundings. Most times these cases involve stolen cars and multiple juveniles. Patrols

have been increased. A new Crime Analyst will begin on June 19, 2023. Coming into the summer they are getting the police boat as much as possible and the Community Service Officer will be out on the weekends. The overtime account will be over budget mostly due to the RPO process. Officer Amarante has been assigned as the point person for RPOs in an effort to streamline the process. The RPO process has become very time consuming and significantly affecting overtime costs. The Chief will be conducting a staffing and time analysis to determine if resources are or can be changed to provide better efficiencies. The LED site lights bid has been awarded, 2 day training will be held for each officer.

Letters of Recognition and appreciation were received recognizing the following: Officer Johnson, LT. Roach, Officer Johnson and Abely, Det. Herten, Officers Rubano and Kenney, Sgt. Loftis (Honor Guards), Det. Kendzierski, Sgt. Loftis, Officers Massey and Morgan, Sgt. Carney and Telecommunication Alyssa Shultz.

Deputy Chief Alves reported that the department has opened a rolling application process. Currently there is on vacancy and another is expected in October.

Police Department Renovation Project - Deputy Chief Alves reported that the Public Building Commission met to receive an update on the project from Brian Humes and Downes Construction. Brian Humes expects design development phase to be completed in early July; Downes Construction cost estimators are working on cost estimated which will be completed in August. They are looking to make the building as energy efficient as possible and are looking at possible incentive programs through Eversource.

Discussion took place concerning the meeting schedule.

Traffic Committee:

A meeting was held concerning the Route 146 Corridor Management Plan. Deputy Chief Alves, Lt. Ramey and Commissioner Austin attended the meeting.

Requests for Traffic Enforcement on Court Street – Cars continue to park in no parking areas. The Traffic Committee recommended that Lt. Ramey will discuss the ongoing issues with the local business owners and evaluate ways to alleviate the problems.

Traffic Committee recommendations approval of the following recommendations contained in the Pawson Park Traffic Feasibility Report prepared by the Engineering Department: Installation of a permanent digital speed sign, center and fog lines on Pawson Road; Installation of additional “stop” sign at the intersection of Old Pawson and Pawson Road in front of 33 Old Pawson Road; Installation of a “stop bar” and “oncoming traffic does not stop” sign at both the existing stop

signs and the new “stop” sign and a “stop ahead” sign placed in advance of the new recommended “stop” sign; The Engineering Department also recommends the removal of a tree located on the town owned parcel at 16 Summer Island Road and tree trimming and maintenance of the vegetation along Summer Island Road between 69-101 to address the site line issues along Summer Island Road; and the installation of a digital speed sign on Linden Avenue.

Traffic Committee recommends approval of all the recommendations from the Engineering Department as outlined above with the understanding that the radar signs will be moved around.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to add the following to the agenda: Installation of a permanent digital speed sign, center and fog lines on Pawson Road; Installation of additional “stop” sign at the intersection of Old Pawson and Pawson Road in front of 33 Old Pawson Road; Installation of a “stop bar” and “oncoming traffic does not stop” sign at both the existing stop signs and the new “stop” sign and a “stop ahead” sign placed in advance of the new recommended “stop” sign; The Engineering Department also recommends the removal of a tree located on the town owned parcel at 16 Summer Island Road and tree trimming and maintain the vegetation along Summer Island Road between 69-101 to address the site line issues along Summer Island Road; and the installation of a digital speed sign on Linden Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Ciociola. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Ciociola to approve the Traffic Committee’s recommendations as outlined above. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to add a request for a flashing stop sign on Eastwood and Leetes Island Road to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous.

The Traffic Committee recommends approving a “stop ahead” sign and repainting of the “stop bar” on Eastwood and cut back the brush along Leetes Island Road to improve the site lines. Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to approve the recommendation from the Traffic Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Ciociola. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolic to add request for another Engineering Traffic Feasibility study on Linden Avenue for the installation of solar speed signage on the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Ciociola. There was no action on this item.

Motion made by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins to approve the radar speed signage and traffic enforcement with the understating that it will be moved around, there is no action on the solar power flashing stop sign. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

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Report of the Chair – No report.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk