

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
33 LAUREL STREET  
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644  
VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING: January 11, 2021

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Jill Marcus  
Commissioner Richard Goodwin  
Commissioner Peter Hugret  
Commissioner John Sousoulas  
Commissioner Valerie Wiel-Wilkins  
Commissioner Lasala

Also present was: 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 November 9, 2020 and December 9, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins.

**Report of the Chief:**

CompStat Report - Chief Mulhern reported the auto theft is up 77%, 98% of those cases the keys are left in the vehicles. Chief Mulhern reported that motor vehicle thefts and thefts of items from motor vehicles continues to be an issue. Unlocked vehicles are making it easy for criminals to steal items left in and/or the vehicles themselves. The department has worked to make some changes to procedures/strategies to address the spike. This continues to be an issue town and statewide. He again reminded residents the importance of removing valuables from and locking their vehicles.

Forfeiture Report – There was a small expenditure, the department purchased a Bola Wrap. Bola Wrap is a nonlethal tether tool that wraps around an individual's torso or legs. It is another less than lethal option for the officers.

Chief Mulhern warned the public concerning possible COVID vaccination scams.

Chief Mulhern acknowledged the action Officer Vera and Officer Vital for their response to a call at Branford Point for an unresponsive person. He watched the body cam footage and both officers showed great compassion and professionalism under difficult circumstances.

Letters:

Letter from a resident expressing appreciation for assistance provided by Officer Vera.

Letter of appreciation from The Branford Food Pantry for assistance provided by Lt. Ramey.

Message received from a resident for assistance provided by Officer Loftis.

Letter of appreciation from a resident for assistance provided by Det. Atkinson.

Letter of appreciation from the East Windsor Police Department for the departments donation of the WatchGuard Body Cameras.

Chief Mulhern provided a brief overview of the budget. He stated that they would be looking to add an 11<sup>th</sup> Dispatcher. He also stated that they would be supporting a proposal from the Counseling Center to add an additional person as a Police Department Social Worker. Deputy Chief Alves provided additional information concerning the Police Accountability Act and that they have looked at the various models to address the issue of calls involving mental health issues. They favor the Police-Social Worker model that is being used by other departments. This additional person would report to the Branford Police Department and the Counseling Center but be directly supervised by the Counseling Center. This would also help with follow up on calls. This position would be a Social Worker position. They would not have police powers.

### **Traffic Committee**

Request for traffic calming - Speed Hump on Toole Drive and a reconsideration of a Crosswalk at the intersection of Toole and Weir. This would replace approved crosswalk at the Toole/Indian Neck intersection. Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to cancel the approval of the Crosswalk at the intersection of Weir at Indian Neck Avenue and approve a crosswalk at Toole and Indian Neck Avenue. Seconded by Commissioner Marcus. Vote unanimous.

Request for **NO PARKING** along a stretch of Riverview Ave. in Short Beach. Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the request. Seconded by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins. Vote unanimous. Peter Hugret and Lt. Phil Ramey will identify the beginning and end of the no parking area.

Request for Traffic Calming actions on Shore Drive including possible flashing lights on the Stop sign, a Center of the road Yield to Pedestrian sign in the crosswalk and hump/rumble strips. No action on this item. The Traffic Committee will hold another meeting with the neighbors.

Request for LTA approval of the Rogers Street proposed traffic calming measures related to Mariners Landing plan. Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to approve the traffic calming measures. Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to enter into executive session to interview a lateral candidate for an open officer position at 5:55 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Hugret. Vote unanimous.

Chief Mulhern, Deputy Chief Mulhern and Candidate Steven Crowley were invited into executive session.

Return to regular meeting at 6:15 p.m.

For the record no votes were taken while in executive session.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to appoint Steven Crowley as Patrol Officer effective January 20, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Hugret. Vote unanimous.

The next meeting will be February 16, 2021.

Motion made by Commissioner Goodwin to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Marcus. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici, Clerk