

Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
August 25, 2020
Police Headquarters
8 Linsley Street
6:00 p.m.

Chairman Larry Lazaroff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Larry Lazaroff, Vice Chairman Robin Wilson, Commissioners Alden Mead, Marc Calafiore and Bob Hannon

Others present: Police Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Glenn

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

Secretary Calafiore reported there was no correspondence received this month.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Lazaroff spoke briefly about several Black Lives Matter marches in town and thanked Lieutenant Stavrides for putting together the operational plans and thanked the whole department for their assistance.

Chairman Lazaroff said the department is in the process of getting a new K9 which the Chief will follow up on in his report.

Chairman Lazaroff said that Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Glenn recently met with all of the School Resource Officers (SRO) regarding the upcoming school year and the changes that will be implemented due to the pandemic. With the start of another school year, Chairman Lazaroff advised residents to drive safely and be aware of more foot traffic.

Chairman Lazaroff spoke to Chief McLoughlin about the drug disposal box in the lobby at police headquarters. After a brief discussion, Chairman Lazaroff advised residents that the drug disposal box is available to residents 24/7 with no questions asked for the disposal of unused and unwanted drugs. The drug box is easily accessible and located right inside the lobby at police headquarters.

Chief's Report:

Chief McLoughlin spoke of the recent tropical storm and stated that the town has been gracious to dispose of the tree branches and debris left behind. That being said, Chief reminded residents of sight line issues while the debris is on curbs and front lawns especially at intersections and advised motorists to exercise added care in such areas.

The school year will start on September 8th. The high school and middle school will start the first week off remotely and the elementary schools will work remotely for the first *two* weeks. Buses for the middle and high schools will start transporting on September 15th. Buses for the elementary schools will start transporting on September 21st.

Chief McLoughlin asked residents and motorist's to be aware of added pedestrian traffic with the upcoming start of the school year. Be alert of children waiting at bus stops and crosswalks. Slow down for school buses and obey all traffic laws.

Support Services/Traffic:

Chief McLoughlin explained the traffic division is currently monitoring the area of Route 5 at the Amazon driveway entrance. In August there were four accidents at this location in just two and a half weeks.

There are issues with the traffic flow and patterns as well as the traffic light cycling. Chief McLoughlin stated that Route 5 is a State road therefore he needs to reach out to the State DOT engineers for help in finding a solution.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship

Chief McLoughlin received three requests for scholarship consideration this month.

Lieutenant Andrew Stavrides requests consideration for one graduate course.

Sergeant Joe Woznyk requests consideration for one graduate course.

Officer Rich DePalma requests consideration for one undergraduate course.

Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to grant the requests, seconded by Commissioner Hannon. All were in favor.

A brief discussion followed regarding the Berniere Scholarship fund balance.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin stated with the start of the new fiscal year, the operating budget is off to a good start. Currently the budget is 3% under due to he and the Deputy Chiefs self-imposed monthly budgeting practices.

Uniformed Services/ Investigative Services:

Chief McLoughlin reminds residents to follow all CDC recommendations; wear a mask and continue to follow social distancing.

Chief McLoughlin reported that since the start of COVID and compared to last year's statistics, calls for service are down roughly 9%. Traffic stops are down about 39%.

As a result of COVID, arrests are down 31%. Shoplifting and vehicle theft numbers remain the same. Vehicle burglaries are still being reported. This is a statewide problem not just in North Haven. Chief McLoughlin reminds everyone to lock their vehicles at all times. Remove any items of value and do not leave keys or key fobs in the vehicle.

Two overdoses were reported last month, one of which was fatal.

Chief McLoughlin spoke of the recent Black Lives Matter protest on the town green last Saturday. This protest was organized to be held on the green however it started out as a march throughout the central part of town concluding on the green. Chief Mcloughlin stated protests and marches such as these are protected by first amendment rights and do not require permits or licensing. Further, Chief Mcloughlin encourages residents to be tolerant of these marches and do not get in to a breach of peace with protestors who may pass by your residence or place of business. These are localized events and the town would like it to remain that way.

Chief McLoughlin spoke of the new police K9 who will be arriving tomorrow. The K9 is a 12-15 month-old German Shephard purchased through a supplier in New York who is frequently used by the Connecticut State Police K9 Unit. Officer Jonathan Dahlstom will be the handler and training is set to start at the end of September or early October.

Chief McLoughlin announced that as of September 30, he will be retiring from the Police Department. Members of the Board congratulated Chief McLoughlin and wished him well.

With nothing further, Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to move to Executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 6:22 p.m.

At 6:53 p.m. the Board reconvened to Regular Session. Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion in light of Chief McLoughlin's retirement on September 30th, 2020 the Board appoint Deputy Chief Kevin Glenn to the position of Chief of Police effective October 1st, 2020. The motion was made by Commissioner Calafiore and seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. All were in favor. Members of the Board congratulated both Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Glenn.

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner and seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. All were in favor. The time was 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Calafiore, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claflin