

Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 22, 2019
Police Headquarters
8 Linsley Street
7:00 p.m.

Chairman David Monz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman David Monz, Vice Chairman Larry Lazaroff, Commissioners Alden Mead, Robin Wilson and Marc Calafiore

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

Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 24, 2019 meeting both Regular and Executive Session. Vice Chairman Lazaroff made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Wilson. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for September 2019. The motion to approve the reports was made by Commissioner Calafiore, seconded by Vice Chairman Lazaroff. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A thank you letter was received from the family of Walter Gawrych thanking the department for their help with the funeral procession and gratitude to the officers who participated as pall bearers.

A thank you letter was received from a resident thanking the department for their participation and help with a funeral procession for a family member.

A letter was received from Chief Lynch of the Wilton Police Department thanking Chief McLoughlin for allowing Lt. Matthew Falcon to participate in a recent oral board testing.

A letter was received from residents of the Blue Hills Road neighborhood asking for a four way stop sign at Blue Hills Road and Maplecrest Lane. Vice Chairman Lazaroff commented that he visited the area and spoke with residents regarding their concerns about speeding. Vice Chairman Lazaroff said he supported a four way stop sign but he asked that the Department conduct a traffic study at said intersection.

Chairman Monz asked Chief McLoughlin to move forward with a traffic study at the intersection of Blue Hills Road and Maplecrest Lane.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Monz stated that he and Chief McLoughlin recently attended the quarterly Police Retirement Board meeting and stated there was nothing new to report.

Chairman Monz stated that contractors are completing necessary masonry work at police headquarters from the outstanding punch list of items remaining from the building project.

Chairman Monz stated it was voiced to him from other Board members of their concerns that there is no posted speed limit on the solar speed signs and asked Chief McLoughlin if there was anything that could be done to retrofit or modify the signs so that motorists will know what the speed limit is in the specific area.

Chief McLoughlin stated that since this was brought up at last month's meeting he did look in to options to correct this but unfortunately the models of solar speed signs that were purchased do not have a mode which displays the posted speed limit. Chief McLoughlin explained to the Board how the new solar speed signs flash when a speed limit is being exceeded.

Chief McLoughlin further stated that when the signs are erected, they are placed within one to two blocks from a posted speed limit sign.

Chief McLoughlin provided color photos of what the solar speed sign look like and explained to the Board that the standard speed limit sign is 30 x 24 and won't fit between the monitor and solar panel of the speed signs. Therefore the department would have to purchase specialty sized signs to accommodate the Boards request.

There was further discussion as to who purchased these particular models, who made the final decision, and if they could be exchanged for a different model.

Chief McLoughlin stated that he felt very fortunate that First Selectman Freda secured the funding to purchase four of these units, which work very good. Chief McLoughlin stated the solar speed signs could not be returned or exchanged. Further Chief McLoughlin explained that we purchased the best signs for the amount of funding that was made available. There was further discussion regarding the overall structure of the solar speed signs and ideas for attaching a smaller speed limit sign to them.

Chief's Report:

Chief McLoughlin stated Halloween is next week and as a community effort to provide a safe environment for children, he reminded parents to dress trick or treaters appropriately, wear reflective clothing, use flashlights and be sure costumes are properly fitted. Walk on sidewalks, cross the streets at corners and he also advised motorists to drive with caution, be alert and aware of a larger presence of pedestrian traffic.

The Drug Take Back occurs this weekend on Saturday Oct 26th at Fire headquarters from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Chief McLoughlin stated it is a good opportunity to get rid of any unwanted prescription medications. If you are unable to make it Saturday, Chief McLoughlin reminded everyone that the police department has a drug drop box available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the lobby of Police headquarters located at 8 Linsley Street.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin reported the budget is within his expectations. Chief stated that even though the current fiscal year just started, he and Deputy Chief are tasked with putting together the budget for the next fiscal year. Chief advised the Board that if they have any requests to please have it for him next month because the preliminary budget is due the first week of December.

Chief McLoughlin provided the Board with a list of proposed Board of Police Commissioners meetings for the year of 2020. Chief asked the Board for approval as the dates need to be filed with the Town Clerk. Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the proposed dates for 2020. Vice Chairman Lazaroff made the motion to approve the dates. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilson. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Uniformed Services

Chief McLoughlin stated there was a decline in major crimes last month. One shoplifting incident which escalated to a robbery. One commercial burglary was reported and only one residential burglary was reported. There were no overdoses.

Traffic/Support Services

Chief McLoughlin stated he will have two traffic requests for the Board next month.

A resident from Old Farm Road contacted Chief McLoughlin about speeding, and it was discovered there is no established speed limit on that road. Chief McLoughlin stated we will complete a traffic report and after review and concurrence of the Commission, send it to the State DOT for establishment of a speed limit.

The second item is a request for a blind driveway sign at a residence on Upper State Street.

Professional Standards

Officer Stephens has finished his field training and is now patrolling on his own.

Officer Mateo is currently in his fourth week of field training.

Recruit Marvline Carter is doing well at the Academy.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

Chief McLoughlin reported he received no requests this month.

With nothing further, Chairman Monz asked for a motion to move to Executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was made by Commissioner Mead, seconded by Vice Chairman Lazaroff. All were in favor. The time was 7:29 p.m.

At 7:50 p.m. The Board reconvened to Regular Session for the purpose of adjournment. Chairman Monz asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Calafiore and seconded by Commissioner Wilson. All were in favor. The time was 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Wilson, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claffin