

Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
November 19, 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 October 22, 2019 meeting both Regular and Executive Session. Commissioner Calafiroe made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Lazaroff. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for October 2019. The motion to approve the reports was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Mead. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from the NARFE association thanking Detective Michael DiCocco for his recent presentation.

A letter was received from a local business that recently became victim of an embezzlement case; they thanked Detective Learco Capozzo for his investigation, hard work and efforts.

Commissioner Wilson stated there were two last minute letters received which will be discussed under the Chiefs report.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman David Monz thanked Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Glenn for adding signs that reflect the posted speed limit on all of the solar speed signs deployed throughout the town.

Chairman David Monz congratulated both Commissioners Calafiore and Wilson on their re-election to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Chairman Monz wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

Chief's Report:

On behalf of the whole department, Chief McLoughlin wished everyone a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Chief McLoughlin added a reminder to residents and visitors that during this holiday shopping season please be aware of your surroundings at all times, lock vehicle doors and do not leave valuables in plain sight, park in well-lit areas and please call the department if you see something or someone out of place.

Chief McLoughlin reminded those who will be internet shopping and expecting deliveries to be aware of “porch pirates”, those who steal packages from your stoop or porch. Chief suggested arranging for someone to receive your package or perhaps have it delivered to your workplace.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin said the budget continues to stay within his expectations. As Chief mentioned last month, the overtime line may still look inflated as we are waiting for the remaining reimbursement from the Town for the milling and paving projects.

Chief McLoughlin stated that he and Deputy Chief Glenn have been working on next year’s budget which is due to the Finance department and First Selectman’s office by the first week of December. The budget workshop is scheduled for February 19th 2020, at 8:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Uniformed Services

The department participated with the Park and Recreation department’s “Trunk or Treat” which was very well received and attended. The Officers did a great job with vehicle traffic and no incidents were reported.

The department once again participated in a recent DEA drug take back event on Oct 26th held at Fire Headquarters. Chief explained this is a great way to dispose of unused or expired medications. Chief reminded those unable to attend the event, that there is a drug drop box located in the lobby of police headquarters open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The drug drop box has been so successful that property officers recently disposed of 450 lbs. of medications that were received.

Chief McLoughlin stated there was a decline in major crimes last month.

One residential burglary was reported.

No commercial burglaries were reported.

No robberies were reported.

Officers responded to three non-fatal overdoses; two of which were at the same residence.

Four residential car entries were investigated; all of the four vehicles were unlocked.

Two stolen vehicles were reported, both of which were unlocked with the keys inside making it an easy crime of opportunity. Chief McLoughlin again encouraged everyone to lock their cars at all times.

Traffic/Support Services

Chief McLoughlin spoke of the traffic light on Washington Avenue at the Amazon building driveway and stated that vehicle backup was occurring in the northbound lane during shift change. The State Department of Transportation just yesterday changed the timing adjustment to add time to the left turn arrow entering the driveway. Chief stated he hopes this will help with any further traffic backup.

A resident of Jansen Lane has requested a speed limit of 10mph and the addition of speed bumps for the street. Chief McLoughlin advised the Board that there is no traffic history whatsoever on this road and doesn't think there will be any changes made to Jansen lane signage. After a brief discussion Chief McLoughlin stated that we will look in to the request and have a recommendation at next month's meeting.

Chief McLoughlin discussed the request from a resident of 113 Upper State Street to install a "blind driveway" near her home. Initially the resident wanted to place a large mirror at the end of the driveway but after speaking with the Town Attorney, it was decided that the placement "blind driveway" signage would be the best option. After a brief discussion, Chairman Monz asked for a motion to place "blind driveway" signage on the approach to the residence. Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to place the "blind driveway" sign where appropriate, the motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Lazaroff. There was no further discussion, all were in favor.

Chief McLoughlin spoke to the Board regarding the establishment of a speed limit on Old Farm Road. Traffic Sergeant DePascale provided a detailed report of the road along with data collected on the traffic flow on Old Farm Road.

Sergeant DePascale's recommendation was to establish a 30 MPH speed limit on Old Farm Road. After a brief discussion, Chairman David Monz asked for a motion to approve and install a 30 mph speed limit on Old Farm Road subject to the approval from the State DOT. The motion was made by Commissioner Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Regarding a request received last month for a four way stop at Blue Hills Road and Canterbury Way. Chief McLoughlin suggested that after looking at the traffic study and comments by residents in opposition to the four way stop, he felt some board members may want to reconsider their recommendation.

Chief McLoughlin spoke about the traffic survey and shared the results with the Board. The findings of the traffic study were consistent with the traffic study done there in 2016. Chief McLoughlin said the recent numbers are lower than the last survey and speed does not jump out as a factor at this intersection. Since the initial request for the signage, two letters of opposition were received from residents living at this intersection.

Chief McLoughlin stated that stop signs are not for controlling speed but for regulating traffic. An accident history at this intersection for 20 years shows 14 accidents, six of which were car vs. animal, one was a town highway truck that sideswiped a parked trailer, and one was a vehicle hitting an object in the road. That leaves six accidents in 20 years which is not a lot of accidents.

Chief McLoughlin referenced the manual on uniform traffic control devices and felt that based on the traffic study and recommendation by Sergeant DePascale that it would be best to reject the request.

Commissioner Calafiore spoke regarding the request and stated he is opposed to a four way stop at this location. He did suggest placement of hidden driveway signs where appropriate.

Chairman Monz said he was pre disposed to accommodating the request however after spending a fair amount of time at this location and reviewing the traffic study and recommendation by Sergeant DePascale he feels that this intersection would not be appropriate for a four way stop.

Vice Chairman Lazaroff stated that he initially supported the request but would have to retract that after reviewing the traffic study and recommendation by Sergeant DePascale.

Commissioner Wilson also stated she is opposed to a four way stop at this location.

Commissioner Mead also stated he is opposed to a four way stop at this location.

After a brief discussion, Chairman Monz then asked for a motion to approve the recommendation of replacing the missing signs for "Slow Children" eastbound near Ridge Rd. and "Blind Driveway Ahead" eastbound 151 Blue Hills and to add an additional "Blind Driveway Ahead" sign westbound in the area of 128 Blue Hills Road. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Lazaroff, and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no further discussion, all were in favor.

Professional Standards

Recruit Marvline Carter is doing well at the Meriden Police Academy and is set to graduate in mid-January.

Building Project

The Chief reported that a punch list still remains, with the majority of the masonry work nearing completion. Adding that some HVAC issues are still being worked on.

The fire suppression in the detention center is working. Chief McLoughlin explained that recently an arrestee manipulated a sprinkler head causing the discharge of a fair amount of water. There was also some added damage to the holding cell by the same individual. The individual is now incarcerated.

A request from Town Hall for the removal of the traffic island in the back parking lot to allow for more parking spaces has been completed.

Chief McLoughlin reported that we are still waiting for the bollards to be placed next to the fencing along the East side of the property.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship

One request for consideration was received from Sergeant Joe Woznyk for reimbursement of one graduate course. The motion to approve the request was made by Vice Chairman Lazaroff, seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

No further discussion, all were in favor.

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 Vice Chairman Lazaroff, seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

All were in favor. The time was 7:33 p.m.

At 7:59 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 Vice Chairman Lazaroff. All were in favor. The time was 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Wilson, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claflin