

**FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order by Chairman, Commissioner Millington at 4:33 pm.

Those present were: the Chairman, Commissioner Millington; the Secretary, Commissioner Pine, Commissioner Stone; Commissioner Cafferelli; Commissioner Lebo; Commissioner Ambrose; Commissioner Kiley; Chief Kalamaras, Deputy Chief Smith, Captain Broderick, Captain Tursi, Captain Bucherati, Lieutenant Koval and Sergeant Paris..

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes from the previous meetings were approved in a motion made by Commissioner Stone; seconded by Commissioner Lebo; carried unanimously.

Completion of probationary period for Officer Daniel Chase and Officer Jonathan Mirra. Captain Broderick addressed the Police Commission saying that both officers passed their probationary period. Officer Chase was a police officer in Fairfield from 2010-2013 and then spent 4.5 years in the Army, then being re-hired in 2019. He is currently a K-9 officer and received rave reviews in August 2020. Officer Mirra spent 4.5 years as a police officer in Greenwich before his hiring April 15, 2019. Commissioner Millington motioned to approve the completion of both officers' probations; seconded by Commission Pine; carried unanimously.

**Traffic Surveys:**

**SURVEY #1 LOCATION:** Exit 19 Southport Commercial Lot. **NATURE OF REQUEST:** Diaz Landscaping is using his residence at 195 Woodrow Avenue as a commercial lot, parking his trucks and vehicles on the street, neighbors complained, so now he has parked vehicles and is using the Exit 19 parking area across from Coramandel as his own.

**BY WHOM:** William Hurley, Town Engineer. **RECOMMENDATION:** Install "No Parking 10 PM-6 AM" signs on parking lot adjacent to I-95 on Pease Avenue. Motion made by Commissioner Stone to approve the recommendation; motioned seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli; carried unanimously.

**SURVEY #2 LOCATION** Castle Avenue at/between Black Rock Turnpike. **NATURE OF REQUEST:** Multi-family residential dwelling at 528 Black Rock Turnpike. The location of the proposed driveways requires the removal of on-street parking spaces along Castle Avenue.

Applicant proposed to relocate on-street spaces lost on the actual property's parking area, which has been an option utilized before and it was accepted by the Fairfield Plan & Zoning Commission. **BY WHOM:** Attorney Christopher Russo. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Install "No Parking" signs on Castle Avenue to 528 Black Rock Turnpike on Castle Avenue. Commissioner Ambrose asked that he recuse himself from this traffic survey. Motion made by Commissioner Pine to approve the recommendations; motioned seconded by Commissioner Stone; Commissioners Lebo, Kiley, Cafferelli and Millington also approved. It was not unanimous.

**SURVEY #3 LOCATION:** Old Post Road - St. Paul's Church and entrance to Town Hall.

**NATURE OF REQUEST:** Improve safety measures to make the area safer for pedestrians and drivers. Install "Slow School Zone" pavement markers in both directions on the Old Post Road, prior to both crosswalks at this location in accordance with MUTCD Guidelines. Install four (4)

Rapid Flashing Crosswalk Beacons on the Old Post Road, both directions, and proximal to the two (2) crosswalks located at St. Paul's Church and the Town complex. Both Rapid Flashing Crosswalk Beacons would be contingent on receiving a grant from the State of CT DOT. **BY WHOM:** Dru Georgiadis. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** To be discussed further. Dru Georgiadis, RTM District 9, addressed the Commission regarding the two crosswalks saying that she worked with retired Chief Lyddy on a solution. She said that the busy times at the crosswalks are pick-up and drop-off for the nursery school, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm for the Town employees and Sundays due to church services. Waze will mark this area slow school zone. Margee Ready, director of St. Paul's Nursery School Program told the Commissioners that it's a treacherous condition. Commissioner Ambrose is concerned with the traffic on the Old Post Road and traffic as a result of the application. Commissioner Stone went to Black Rock where the Rapid Flashing Crosswalk Beacons are being used and he feels that they should not be a detriment for the neighborhood. Ann Katis of 996 Old Post Road is in favor and Jill Vergara of 271 Old Post Road strongly supports this issue. Lindsay Vaughan of 265 Fern Street said it needs to be safer and Jean Bartko, Assistant Director of St. Paul's Nursery School is in favor. Commissioner Lebo thanked Dru Georgiadis for all the homework on this. Commissioner Stone motioned to approve as outlined; Commissioner Cafferelli seconded the motion; all in favor pending the approval of the grant.

### **Old Business:**

- a) Allison Kovac did not sign on to the meeting. Chief Kalamaras said (ret.) Chief Lyddy invited her to this meeting at the time, and he (Kalamaras) wanted to afford her the opportunity to speak. Chief Kalamaras advised the Commission that in cases where there is an appeal to an incident review or an internal investigation, the Commission acts in the capacity of a Civilian Review Board. Chief Kalamaras also said that in the interest of transparency, we should afford each appeal that option. Chief Kalamaras said that Allison Kovac has scheduled to be on the agenda on six occasions for several reasons in the past, to which she has not shown up once. Commissioner Millington agreed with Chief Kalamaras and he motioned that the Commission will not allow Allison Kovac the opportunity to speak to the Commission in the future; motion seconded by Commissioner Ambrose; carried unanimously.
- b) Rowland Road traffic survey requested by Alyssa Israel, from the July 8, 2020 meeting. Chief Kalamaras had been in discussion with Alyssa Israel and the Department of Public Works. Chief Kalamaras agreed to table the traffic survey until the September 2021 meeting. Commissioner Stone said that the problem is that it's been repaved and the road has been stripped for the past 25 years. Commissioner Cafferelli asked who would pay for the analysis and he wants the lines put back in. Emails sent to the Commission are as follows:

*Hurly, Town Engineer, addressed the Commission saying that Engineering supports the centerline study. We have worked with UCONN Traffic Safety in the past and find them unbiased and extremely helpful in providing suggestions at some of the Town's trouble locations. I would like to offer an additional suggestion: After initial data collection without centerline markings, could temp yellow line marking/ special tape be placed to represent the yellow line. I think this would provide an excellent before and after comparison which should provide UCONN with additional data for their study.*

*Rick Gauer, RTM District . I believe it prudent to hold off on striping FBR until after the UConn study is performed. While you are trying to keep the roadways safe you also need to be able to review all available data. If you were to come before TPZ they would want to see all traffic data before making a decision. Up to date information is important. I see no down side in waiting until*

*August or some other time during the summer to strip if it is determined it would make the roadway any safer. In the meantime I ask how many accidents have been logged that can be attributable to the lack of a center line. I have lived in town for 75 years and see no measurable benefit to the center striping of our streets other than to remove any semblance of the historic town Fairfield is. The center stripping of or roads has the town looking more like a big city than the rural community we are. PLEASE HOLD OFF THE STRIPING!*

*Jill Vergara, 271 Old Post Road. I respectfully ask that the Police Commission delay the restriping of Fairfield Beach Road so that the police can collect data on speeds without the striping. If lack of striping proves to reduce speeds, this approach would be a cost efficient (and novel/cutting edge) way to reduce speed on our streets.*

*Ann Katis, 996 Old Post Road. I write in support of Alyssa Israel's request to delay striping on Road. It is my understanding that there is currently a study at University of Connecticut that is evaluating the effectiveness of removing double yellow line striping in automobile speed. As speed is an issue on most streets in the beach area, and there is no emergency that requires the striping be put on Rowland prior to the receipt of the study results, it is my position that it would be prudent to delay the striping until such time as to stripe or not stripe for the purpose of traffic calming can be supported with evidence. If the study shows that the striping is helpful to calming they can easily be put down. However, if the study shows the opposite is true it will be more difficult to remove them.*

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to table until the March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and he wants Bill Hurley present; motion seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli; carried unanimously.

### **New Business:**

- a) Discussion of a snow emergency parking ban. Chief Kalamaras told the Police Commission that the Department of Public Works is putting forth a petition for a parking ban during a snow emergency. DPW is looking for a full ban. With social media as an outreach, the communications can get out in advance. They are not looking to tow, but just safe passage for DPW to clear the roads. No motion necessary, just a discussion.
- b) Donation to Fairfield Police K-9 Unit of \$900.00 from George & Erin Diguido, 56 Risley Road, Fairfield. Motion to accept the donation was made by Commissioner Lebo; seconded by Commissioner Pine; carried unanimously.
- c) Donation of a \$25.00 Stop & Shop gift card made to Animal Control by Philip Spalla 1157 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield. Motion made by Commissioner Lebo to accept the donation; motion seconded by Commissioner Stone; carried unanimously.

**Monthly Report** was reviewed and discussed.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to adjourn at 5:37 pm; motion seconded by Commissioner Lebo; carried unanimously.

---

Commissioner Pine, Secretary