

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MAY 13, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order by Chairman, Commissioner Cafferelli at 4:40 pm.

Those present were: the Chairman, Commissioner Cafferelli; Secretary Commissioner Millington, Commissioner Stone, Commissioner Pine, Commissioner Lebo, Commissioner Ambrose, Commissioner Kiley, Chief Lyddy, Deputy Chief Smith, Captain Kalamaras and Captain Tursi.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Traffic Surveys:

TS #1 Location: Wilson Street at/between Church Hill Road and Park Avenue. Nature of request: Wilson Street is a densely settled, exclusively residential street that serves as a feeder from Park Avenue to Stratfield Road. It bifurcates a residential neighborhood and is currently posted as 30 MPH. Given that the majority of the streets in Fairfield, if not all, which are of this characteristic are posted at 25 MPH, we respectfully request the posted speed on Wilson Street be reduced to 25 MPH. By whom: Ms. Sarah Roy. Recommendation: need to discuss further. Sarah Roy of 3 Buena Vista Road addressed the Police Commissioners saying that Wilson Street is a densely populated road and asked the speed be reduced to 25mph. Bill Pollack of 49 Newman Place addressed the Police Commissioners saying that Wilson Street is a narrow road with many residents and that Fairfield Woods Road is 25mph and that it makes sense that Wilson Street be posted 25mph. Commissioner Stone said that he was on the traffic study and that it makes sense to lower the speed limit from 30 to 25mph. Captain Kalamaras addressed the Police Commissioners saying that there was a community meeting attended by many. A traffic study was done in both lanes and indicated 85 % speed of 33.5mph eastbound and 34.7mph westbound. Also, 3,486 vehicles in both directions per day. Crash statistics for Wilson Street indicated that since March 17th there have been four motor vehicle collisions. The earlier petition has great support from the neighborhood and they have a good neighborhood program that is in effect at this time and the Police Department supports it. Commissioner Stone said that there is a portion of Wilson Street without sidewalks which makes it dangerous. Commissioner Stone motioned to approve the request as augmented by the sign locations and the improvements recommended by the Captain. Commissioner Lebo seconded the motion saying that she was in favor of reducing it to 25 and one of the biggest things she noticed was the sidewalks. All in favor and motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: none.

New Business:

a. Animal Control donations as follows:

(1) \$25 Stop & Shop gift card from Philip Spalla, 1157 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield. \$150.00 donation from Fairfield Beach Residents Association (Carolyn Kamlet, President and Donna Alatakis, Treasurer. \$50.00 Pet Pantry Warehouse gift card and \$30.00 check from Andrea

Reed, 151 Lynnbrook Road, Fairfield collected for the Animal Shelter on behalf of Den 8, Cub Scout Pack 95, North Stratfield School. Check for \$2,138.25 from Dennis Amrine, executor of the will of Stephen M. Bejek, 300 Whitworth Way, Apt #116, Williamsburg, VA (per Mr. Bejek's wishes). \$50.00 check donated by Jude Fitzgerald, 79 Sunnyridge Avenue, Fairfield. Motion made by Commissioner Millington to accept these donations; seconded by Commissioner Stone; carried unanimously.

b. K9 donations as follows:

check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to support the K9 Jake Mission from BMW of Bridgeport for our last Cars and Coffee event. Cash in the amount of \$20.00 from Special Officer Joseph Whyte of 525 Jennings Avenue, Bridgeport. Check in the amount of \$75.00 from Lieutenant TJ Whyte (Darien PD) of 208 Shelter Rock Road, Fairfield. Cash in the amount of \$275.00 from the Country Cow K9 donation jar. Four checks totaling \$2,000.00 from Raymond Miller of 236 Kings Drive, Southport in honor of his late mother – Ruth Miller. Check in the amount of \$100.00 from LC Chen Restaurant 303 Tunxis Hill Cutoff, Fairfield. Check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to support the K9 Jake mission from Chris and Teri Mayle of TLC10 LLC 42 Reid Street, Fairfield. Motion to accept these donations made by Commissioner Stone; Commissioner Lebo seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

c. Report on overtime.

Chief Lyddy addressed the Commission saying that there are five pay periods left in this fiscal year with \$164,000 left in the overtime budget. Overtime is created by special assignments, when officers take vacation/comp time or personal time and when staffing levels go below what would be safe staffing levels on all three shifts. Covid 19 has created some additional overtime problems and Chief Lyddy expects to go over budget just slightly. Also, there is surplus on the payroll line due to vacancies of \$174,000. The end of the fiscal year Chief Lyddy thinks they will be negative on the overtime just slightly. Chief Lyddy is expecting FEMA reimbursement for the overtime due to the Covid 19 virus. Commissioner Pine asked Chief Lyddy about the staff changes on March 15th. Chief Lyddy said that March 16th had the lowest overtime number ever had. It varied because of weather and the closing of the beaches and parks and additional patrols were created to monitor that. The School Safety Unit (SSU) has seven officers and those officers were transferred to the Patrol Division and helped out with overtime. One of these officers is commanding our Covid operations. In addition, another officer is being used for the mental health aspect of the pandemic where this officer is working with other agencies to follow with individuals and families who are in crisis. There were several weeks where the Department's staffing was down. They were able to do this due to low call volume in the beginning of the pandemic and they wanted to keep reserve officers healthy because the Department could possibly lose 25% of the work force. This was done with cooperation with all other police chiefs in Connecticut and lasted for about two weeks. Then we closed the beaches and parks and then there was an increase in social distancing complaints and officers had not been out with Covid related illnesses. Did not lose 25% of the workforce and now have brought everyone back. Currently there has been one officer and one full-time civilian with Covid who have both recovered.

Chief Lyddy addressed the issue of wages received saying the vast majority was the result of the large amount road jobs and construction in Fairfield which is reimbursed 100% by the vendor and the Town makes a profit and the account has been profitable in the past few years.

Chief Lyddy said that there are four vacancies right now and without Covid 19 the department would have come in right on budget and there is still a possibility that we could come in on budget.

d. Special Police hourly wages.

Chief Lyddy said that the special officers have not had a raise for several years. Next fiscal year asking for 2.0% raise. In 2019, the wage was \$14.01/hour and the increase would be \$14.57/hour. The special officers buy their own equipment.

e. Covid 19 staffing levels and overtime.

Chief Lyddy said that Covid staffing levels vary day to day. Factors are the weather, pre closures and post closures along with the two week period discussed before with lowering the staff.

f. Covid 19 staffing at beaches, etc. Discussed before.

g. Inventory of Police vehicles.

Chief Lyddy said that the Police Department currently has 84 vehicles. 49% of these vehicles have over 70,000 miles and 15 vehicles have over 100,000 miles and six vehicles are assigned to road jobs. Chief Lyddy that that two cars were purchased in 2019 and are currently being built. He also said that five vehicles have been approved by the Board of Finance, but have to go before the RTM.

h. ECC consolidation project update.

Deputy Chief Smith addressed the Commissioners saying that the ECC project is moving forward with a new location at Sacred Heart University on the main campus. The lease has been approved by Westport Police and Fairfield Police and both agencies have been working on an agreement. An architect has been hired. The budget has been approved by the Board of Selectman, the Board of Finance and will be going before the RTM. They are pushing for a September 4th opening.

i. Captains' contracts.

Chief Lyddy said that there are three captains and each negotiate an individual contract. There is no overtime for the captains.

j. Take home cars.

Chief Lyddy said that the chief, deputy chief and three captains have take home cars along with four specialty lieutenants. Detectives and crash investigators are authorized to drive home and to work (portal to portal) only. This allows them to respond quickly to incidents.

k. Parking Ticket Management System Update / Parking Ticket Violation Update

1. Failure to properly Display Permit/Plate (\$25.00)
2. Non-Electric Vehicle Parked in Electric Charging Station Designated Space (\$25.00)
3. Failure to Pay Day Parking Fee (\$35.00)

4. Violation of Parking Authority Regulation (\$35.00)
5. Discuss increasing the late fee for handicapped and Restricted B

Deputy Chief Smith addressed the Commission saying that the Police Department has been working with the Parking Authority for about two years in selecting a new parking management system company. With the new system, permits will go away and will be only license plate based. The \$6.00 day parking fee will be paid at a kiosk or app on phone. Special officers will not hand out tickets. Deputy Chief Smith asked that the late fee fine for handicapped and restricted B parking be increased to \$50.00. Also, Deputy Chief Smith said that the request is to add \$5.00 to the violation of Parking Authority regulations. Commissioner Stone said that there are few electric car stations in town and he asked that the fine be more significant. Deputy Chief Smith said that the fine could be bumped up to \$35.00 to \$50.00. Commissioner Stone motioned to increase the fine of non-electric vehicles parked in electric charging station designated space to \$50.00; motion seconded by Commissioner Lebo; carried unanimously. Commissioner Millington asked if there would be regulated signs. Chief Lyddy said that the handicapped sign would have the fine amount. Commissioner Millington motioned to amend Commissioner Stone's motion to impose new fee to electric cars as long as there is approved signage. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

March and April Monthly Reports were reviewed and discussed. Commissioner Stone noted that the TSU numbers were way down for every item. Chief Lyddy explained that in the last few months the TSU officers were transitioned to other assignments such as enforcing social distancing, checking playgrounds and beaches, but TSU has transitioned back to motor vehicle enforcement mode. Commissioner Pine acknowledged Police Week.

Commissioner Stone made a motion to adjourn at 5:47 pm; motion seconded by Commissioner Lebo; carried unanimously.

Commissioner Millington
Secretary