

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING June 9, 2021

A regular virtual meeting of the Board of Police Commissions was held on
 Wednesday June 9, 2021 @4:30pm

Members Present: Commissioners: Chair James Millington Remote, Secretary Ron Pine , Jack Stone, Charlene Lebo, Kevin Kiley, Joe Cafferelli, Peter Ambrose (came late 5:00pm) Chief Kalamaras, Captain Bucherati, and Captain Broderick.

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

1. **The Pledge of Allegiance** - recited.
2. **Approval of Regular meeting minutes May 12,2021**
 Com. Kiley motioned to approve the May 12, 2021 Regular meeting minutes as presented. Second by Com. Lebo. Motion passed unanimously.

Com. Stone made a motion, seconded by Com. Kiley to approve Com. Lebo as Acting Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.

Acting Secretary Commissioner Lebo read the traffic surveys as Follows:

3: Traffic Surveys:

TS #1 LOCATION: Primrose Lane and Mohegan Hill Road. **Nature of request:** to install a “Dead End” or “No Outlet” sign at the entrance of Primrose Lane and Mohican Hill Road. Request submitted by Ms. Tricia Todd. Recommendation need to discuss further.

Com. Stone discussed Primrose Lane and Mohegan Hill road. Feels it is so visible from the street, a cul de sac, extremely obvious no way out. Was wondering about starting a policy regarding being selective where we put dead ends, or put them up in every dead end street in town.

Com. Kiley asked what criteria they would look at, and what would be relevant to creating a policy that would govern where we put them or do not put the dead end signs.

During discussion, Com. Stone felt should be determined individually on a case by case as oppose to starting a policy. Com. Pine noted the cul de sac is near Lake Mohegan. During Covid, the Town restricted Lake Mohegan parking lot to residents, so a lot of out of state people were parking on the streets.

Going forward Com. Pine feels parking lot is now open for anyone to use, should eliminate the issue and in favor of declining request. Com. Lobo concurred with Com. Pine. Lt. Koval agreed dead end street sign very visible.

Com. Stone made a motion to deny Traffic Survey #1 request. Second by Com. Lebo. Motion passed 4- 0 with 1 abstention- James Millington.

TS #2 LOCATION: Berkeley Road. **Nature of Request:** There is a steep hill on Berkeley Road with low visibility and cars parked each side. Request a sign on top and bottom of hill reading “Hill blocks View”. This would help all drivers to be more cautious when driving up and down and prevent potential accidents. By whom: Nathan Swartz. Recommendation: approve “Hills Block View” W7-6 sign.

Com. Stone agreed along with Lt. Koval with the fact it has poor visibility combined with limited driving space on the Berkeley Hill Road. The Town’s engineer recommended both signs. No history of accidents but an extra layer of precaution can help.

Com. Lobo motioned, to approve the “Hills Block View” W7-6 Sign. Second by Com. Cafferelli. Motion carried unanimously.

TS #3 LOCATION: Willow Street at/between Old South Road. **NATURE OF REQUEST:** Request a “Dead End” and “No Turnaround” sign at the corner of Willow Street and Old South Road. Willow Street is a dead end street and there is no turn around. Cars frequently come down the street and knock down my mailbox. My neighbors have placed planters in their driveway to prevent turnarounds from destroying their driveway. Lawn property up and down the street is being destroyed by cars turning around. By Whom: Robert Devlin. Recommendations: approve “Dead End” and “No Turnaround” sign at the corner of Willow Street and Old South Road.

Com. Stone stated it is a safety issue to begin with, and spoke with neighbor, whom explained what was happening. Serious issues and should be approved. Lt. Koval agreed with Com. Stone’s comments.

Com. Millington made a motion to approve the “Dead End” and “No Turnaround” sign at the corner of Willow Street and Old South Road. Second by Com. Stone. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: Com. Millington explained to the Commission the concern Com. Kiely had brought to his attention, in regards to an article he read in the press, regarding Captain Tursi’s early retirement. The article implied that the Commission approved an action taken by HR to have an outside attorney come in and commence an IA investigation and that was not correct.

For Clarification: Com. Millington confirmed there was no action taken by the Commission until after the Chief came to the Commission to advise them of the IA, which was after HR was handling the complaint. The Commission has nothing to do with actions taken by the HR dept.

New Business: K-9 donation of \$700.00 given by the Tasty Yolk, LLC. Animal Control donation of a \$25.00 Stop and Shop gift card from Phil Spalla, 1157 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield and a \$20.00 donation to Animal Control from Karen & Stephen Viores, 14 Soundview Avenue, Shelton. A \$2,000.00 donation was made to the Police Department by Mary Dailey, 360 Mill Plain Road, Fairfield. \$15,000.00 donation that was given to the Police Department by an anonymous party.

Com. Millington made a motion to accept donations as presented. Second by Com. Cafferelli. Carried Unanimously.

Monthly Report. Captain Bucherati did the Monthly report that the Commission received.

Chief went over a couple of highlights: Memorial Day Parade, Traffic Stops went down due to distracted driving for month of April. Significant increase in Call Service this month, up by 1000 over last month. Com. Pine questioned the decrease in Stop sign violations for the month of May only 8 on report. April was 164. Chief will look into this.

Com. Stone made a motion to go into Executive Session at 4:48pm to discuss personnel matters. Second by Com. Cafferelli. Motion carried unanimously. Also invited to attend was Chief Kalamaras.

Com. Kiley made a motion to come out of executive session at 5:45pm, seconded by Com. Stone. Carried unanimously

Com. Ambrose made a motion to accept the retirement of Deputy Chief Smith effective July 2 2021, seconded by Com. Kiley. Carried unanimously.

Com. Lebo made a motion to waive the 90-day requirement as stated in Deputy Chief Smith's contract, seconded by Com. Cafferelli – carried unanimously

Com. Millington made a motion to appoint a Deputy Chief from within the police departments' current ranks and remain with internal captain candidates eligible for the testing process, seconded by Com. Stone – carried unanimously

Com. Ambrose made a motion to waive the two-year time in grade eligibility requirement as suggested in the Fairfield Police Policy and Procedure Manual, seconded by Com. Cafferelli-carried unanimously.

Com. Stone made a motion to set the date for the Deputy Chief exam for Monday June 28th 2021 at 4:30pm as a special meeting of the Police Commission to be held in executive session, seconded by Com. Lebo – carried unanimously.

Com. Millington made a motion that the testing process for Deputy Chief be coordinated by the Chief of Police through a certified and reputable testing agency who will provide test questions commensurate with the Deputy Chief rank, which will be administered by the Commission. The questions will be secured prior to the test date and provided to the commission on June 28 2021 at 4:30pm, and that any ex-officio members of the town may be present for observation, but may not ask questions or participate in any decisions, seconded by Com. Ambrose-carried unanimously.

Com. Stone made a motion to adjourn at 5:52 pm; seconded by Com. Millington; carried unanimously.

Acting Secretary – Com. Lebo