

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER13, 2021 MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

A regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was held on Wednesday October 13, 2021 @ 4:30pm in the Police Commissioners 'Conference Room, 100 Reef Road, Fairfield, Connecticut 06824

Members Present: Commissioners: Chair James Millington , Secretary Ron Pine , Jack Stone, Charlene Lebo, Joe Cafferelli, Peter Ambrose, Chief Kalamaras, Captain Koval. Lt. Paris

Absent: Commissioners Kevin Kiley

Public: Ann Harvey, Jim Valentine, Attorney John Knuff, Bill Degennaro, -owner of 750 Post Road, Rob Baltramaitis, Professional and traffic Engineer. Bill Hurley Town Engineer.

See back up email correspondence.

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order by: Chair James Millington @ at 4:30 pm.

1. **The Pledge of Allegiance** - recited.
2. **Approval of Special Meeting Minutes August 11, 2021**
Com. Ambrose motioned to approve the August 11, 2021 special meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Com. Lebo. Motion unanimously passed.
3. **Officer of the Quarter- Officer Douglas Katz**

Captain Broderick made a presentation to Officer Douglas Katz who is the recipient Officer of the Quarter Award for the upcoming quarter, which runs Oct 15, 2021 to January 14, 2022.

Secretary Com.Pine read the traffic surveys as follows:

4: Traffic Surveys:

TS #1 Location: 120 Eleanor Terrace at/between South Benson Road and Riverside Drive. Nature of Request: Replace "Stop" sign and post safely and securely in the ground at a normal height. It is currently about half of what it should be. Parking signs- Remove or relocate further down the road the one parking sign blocking my driveway. The other parking sign directly in front of my house should be moved down closer to the corner near the stop sign and on a new post. By whom: Maria Nemchek.
Recommendations: Signs are existing and can be moved/replaced without commission approval. DPW to install larger post and new stop sign to replace existing one. DPW to move only the eastern most sign approximately 2 feet east to the grass area at the shrub line – do not extend onto neighbor's property.

Commissioner Pine motioned to accept the recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Stone. Motion passed.

TS #2 Location: Hemlock Road at/between Burr Street and Black Rock Turnpike. Nature of Request: Request "Stop" signs at intersection of Hemlock Road and Hemlock North and South – convert that intersection to a 4-way stop. Install "Stop Sign Ahead"

signs on Hemlock, both east and west of the new 4-way intersection. Install at least two 25 mph speed limit signs on Hemlock Road. By Whom: Ann Harvey.
 Recommendations: Install (2) new “Stop” signs on Hemlock Road at Hemlock Hills N / S making it a four-way stop at the intersection. Install “4-way signs” on all stop signs in accordance with the MUTCD. Install (2) “Stop Ahead” signs approximately 200’ east and west of the newly installed stop signs on Hemlock Road. Remove all existing “Cross Road” signs on Hemlock Road near Hemlock Hills N / S. Install (1) “25 mph Speed Limit” sign on Hemlock Road near Burr Street, approximately 100’ in from the intersection facing eastbound traffic. Remove graffiti from existing Speed Limit sign on Hemlock Road near Black Rock Turnpike. Deny speed bump request. Tree trimming will be conducted if necessary after stop signs are installed.

Public Comment: Ann Harvey from 363 Hemlock Rd came forward to thank the traffic survey team, and to consider approving their recommendations.

Jim Valentine, 480 Hemlock Road thanked the Commission and agreed with the recommendations. However, he noted they did request at least two Speed Limit signs also on Hemlock Road. Jim went over in detail how he felt even with the installation of the two stop signs; people would still accelerate through the stop signs down to Burr Street. Also an issue with Blind Hill.

Commissioner Stone agreed with public comments and the original request for two speed limit signs, as he did sit at the intersection in question for 25 mins.

Commissioner Pine recommend through the Chief to have a level of traffic enforcement presence up there to slow traffic down. LT Mike Paris went over how they felt it could be over signage in that area, but agreed with making the intersection a 4 way stop sign. He will do traffic enforcement in the area.

Commissioner Stone motioned, seconded by Commissioner Lebo to amend the traffic survey #2 to add a third 25 speed limit sign. Chair Millington discussed, felt if this were approved it could set a precedent for other areas in town who were denied similar requests. Commissioner Ambrose concurred with Chair. Amendment defeated unanimously.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to accept the recommendation on TS#2. Seconded by Commissioner Lebo. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission thanked the people from the public for attending and their comments.

TS #3 Location: 528 Black Rock Turnpike (Corner of Castle Avenue). Nature of Request: 23-unit Residential Building –Request to eliminate three (3) parking spaces along the frontage of Castle Avenue in order to provide a proper site line for the proposed driveway – see attached documents from Town Planning & Zoning. By Whom: Al Cammarota – Bella Homes CT. Recommendations: See 02/10/2021 Commission Meeting Minutes – Already discussed / voted this request.

Commissioner Ambrose recused himself from any comment or vote on TS#3. Lt. Paris went over with the commission the 02/10/2021 decision. He feels this item is a repeat request in error as people, who put in the request, were unaware of the decision and it went through. Commissioner Millington made a motion to affirm the Commission’s recommendation made at the meeting on 02/10/2021. Second by Commissioner Cafferelli. Motion passed with Commissioner Ambrose recusing himself from the vote.

TS #4 Location: Post Road at/between Pease Avenue and Jelliff Lane. Nature of Request: Southport side North of I-95 has limited access for safe passage across Post Road to reach beach, downtown center, harbor, restaurants and train stations. Several train commuters in the area run across the Post Road in the dark winter months, which is dangerous. Request to add a “Push-to-Walk” button. By Whom: Kelly Matheis. Recommendations: Deny Request –STC Signs are posted “Pedestrian Crossing Prohibited”.

Commissioner Pine pointed out it this is really DOT. It’s a state road and do not want pedestrian crossing there.

Commissioner Pine made a motion to accept the recommendation of denial. Second by Commissioner Lobo. Motion unanimously passed.

TS #5 Location: Post Road (U.S. Route 1) in the vicinity of the South Benson Road intersection. Nature of Request: Recommendation that the Town consider timing changes to improve the operational efficiency of the traffic signal lights on Post Road (U.S. Route 1) in the vicinity of the South Benson Road intersection. The traffic consultant for the applicant for 750 Post Road (Chick Fil-A) has recommended that the Town consider timing changes to improve the operational efficiency of the traffic signal.

Chair Millington noted he received many phone calls regarding this request and pointed out that this has nothing to do with TPZ approval of Chick Fil-A at this location. This discussion is limited to the traffic light only and the commission making a recommendation to refer this to the State.

Public: Attorney John Knuff, Bill Degennaro -owner of 750 Post Road, and Rob Baltramaitis, Professional and traffic Engineer.

Attorney Knuff did an introduction of the owner and traffic engineer.

John Knuff and Rob Baltramaitis gave an update in detail to the Commission regarding their recommendation in TS#5.

Public: Bill Hurley – Town of Fairfield Engineer requested a better explanation of the proposed traffic signal improvements. Bill did support forwarding the proposed application.

Commissioner Millington made a motion to endorse the application by 750 Post Road Associates to the DOT to consider timing changes to improve the operational efficiency of the traffic light at Post Rd US 1 and North Benson Road RT 135, and South Benson Road. Second by Commissioner Ambrose. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Old Business: None.

6. New Business: Charter Revision Commission discussion. Chair Millington discussed the new Charter Revision Commission Committee, which was put in place by First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick. One of the items brought up which effects the Police Dept. is the Residency Requirement for Chief of Police and Fire Commission is in discussion regarding the same requirement for the Fire Chief.

Chair Millington noted that this item was put on the agenda so the Police Commission can review the Charter, which is on the town website, and then can make proposed recommendations for change to the Charter Revision Commission.

Chief Kalamaras spoke regarding revising the Residency Requirement. He feels it's a good idea to look at the Police and Fire Dept. where most leadership do not live in town, and this will then perpetuate down the line if in fact the commission were to select in house leadership in the future.

Chief read an email from Fire Chief McCarthy who reviewed the proposed changes regarding residency requirement with Fire Chairperson Dorothea Brennan who is in agreement with the option to waive.

After speaking with Chief McCarthy, they both suggest instead of changing the language charter, their recommendation is to add that both commissions would have the ability or authority to waive that residency requirement as opposed to leaving it the way it is.

Commissioner Millington requested this item be put on the agenda again under old business, for next month to give commissioners a chance to review charter.

Animal Control donation of \$50.00 cash from Kate Rickard, 365 North Cedar Road, Fairfield to be used for the care and well-being of the animals at the Fairfield Animal Control Shelter.

Commissioner Ambrose motioned to accept the donation as presented, seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli. Motion carried unanimously

Commissioner Pine made a motion to add further donations for Fairfield Animal Control \$40.00 from Magda Pleszko and \$25.00 Karen Kolenda. Second by Commissioner Lebo. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Stone motioned to accept the two donations as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Monthly Report- Commissioner Stone asked about the significant increase in incoming calls. Chief noted nothing specific, just increase in service.
Next Meeting, November 10, 2021 at 4:30 in the Commissioners' Conference Room

8. Executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Commissioner Pine made a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:42pm. Seconded by Commissioner Ambrose. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to come out of executive session at 6:17pm, seconded by Commissioner Cafferelli, which carried unanimously. No motion, no votes taken in Executive session.

Commissioner Ambrose made a motion to adjourn at 6:17pm, seconded by Commissioner Pine, which carried unanimously.