

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners was called to order by the Chairman, Commissioner Hersh at 4:30 pm.

Those present were: the Chairman, Commissioner Hersh; the Secretary, Commissioner Lazinger; Commissioners Peterson, Stone, Lebo and Barrett; Chief MacNamara, Deputy Chief Lyddy, Captain Smith, Lieutenant Tursi, Lieutenant Kalamaras, Sergeant Paris, Officer Gary Wikman, William Hurley, Selectman Tymniak, Dr. Peter Tuckel and John Munro.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner Hersh and seconded by Commissioner Barrett; carried unanimously.

Traffic Surveys: (note that Commissioners did not go out on a traffic study on August 31, 2016)

TS #1 was moved to be discussed last per a request by Dr. Peter Tuckel.

TS #2 - Veres Street at Alden Street. Request: install a "Dead End" sign at the corner of Veres Street at Alden Street. Lieutenant Kalamaras addressed the Commissioners stating that Mr. Rocky Prozano is requesting the sign and he owns the property. Lieutenant Kalamaras agrees to the installation of a "Dead End" sign. Commissioner Stone motioned to approve and Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

TS #3 - Fairfield Country Day School - Bronson Road and Verna Hill Road. Request: Fairfield Country Day School would like to purchase a solar powered speed display/variable message board sign and install the sign on Bronson Road near the crosswalk. Deputy Chief Lyddy said that the Board of Police Commissioners approved Fairfield Beach Road Association purchasing and installing a similar sign and it has been very successful. Lieutenant Kalamaras said that Fairfield Country Day School would buy the sign and donate it to the Town of Fairfield. Headmaster of Fairfield Country Day School, John Munro addressed the Commissioners saying that the intersection is very dangerous, especially busy in the morning and evening. Fairfield Country Day School would not only buy the sign, but share in the maintenance of the sign. Discussion by the Commissioners with Commissioner Peterson suggesting to table the request. Commissioner Barrett said the sign was a perfect solution. Commissioner Lazinger asked about permanent signs and Deputy Chief Lyddy said that signs have been and can be moved on occasion. Chief MacNamara felt the sign was a good idea. Commissioner Lebo said she felt it is a safety issue and she was in favor. William Hurley said that the sign should not impede the sight-line. Lieutenant Kalamaras said that DPW would install and maintain the sign. Commissioner Barrett motioned to approve and Commissioner Lebo seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

TS #4 - Black Rock Turnpike from Tahmore Drive to Old Black Rock Turnpike. Request: install a crosswalk across Tahmore Drive to Old Black Rock Turnpike. Lieutenant Kalamaras said that a survey was not done. He said that there is only one sidewalk with a pedestrian push button and no crosswalk and no pedestrian phase on the light. The Town would install sidewalk ramps because there are no ramps and there would have to be a request to the State to install the push button for pedestrian phase on the light. William Hurley said that you cannot simply put in a crosswalk because the State would want sidewalk upgrades and it's not just painting the lines. Chief MacNamara asked that the Traffic Unit to do a study. William Hurley said that it would take a month or two to do a study. After further discussion, Commissioner Lebo motioned to table this traffic survey; Commissioner Stone seconded the motioned and tabling it for sixty (60) days; carried unanimously. Chief MacNamara said it would be on November's agenda.

TS #1 - Stratfield Road and Bond Street. Request: install signs at the crosswalk. Dr Peter Tuckel from 51 Golf View Terrace addressed the Commissioners saying that the signage at the crosswalk is ambiguous and that an explicit message is needed and that an accident is waiting to happen and asked the Commissioners to add to existing signage. William Hurley said that Stratfield Road is a state road and the State DOT has to approve the signage and that the State ultimately

decides what signs need to be installed. Chief MacNamara's recommendation would be to ask the State to improve the signage. Commissioner Stone suggested a traffic light, but William Hurley said that area does not warrant a traffic light or a stop sign. Commissioner Lazinger's motioned to request recommendations to the State; Commissioner Stone seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Lieutenant Kalamaras addressed the Commissioners regarding Unquowa Road and Unquowa Road West which was a traffic survey many months ago regarding Samuel Lane. Lieutenant Kalamaras met with the neighborhood and Chief MacNamara asked that this be added to this meeting's agenda. Commissioner Peterson motioned in agreement; Commission Lebo seconded the motion; carried unanimously. Lieutenant Kalamaras said that April 2013 Unquowa Road and Unquowa Road West was a traffic survey with a stop sign request. He is waiting for the neighborhood petition to be completed. Selectman Tymniak addressed the Commissioners saying that this is his neighborhood and that there is a blind corner and all the residents on Unquowa Road West are in jeopardy and he asked what would be the best options. Both Commissioner Barrett and Commissioner Peterson asked that this topic be moved to next month's agenda. Commissioner Lebo motioned to table until next month; Commissioner Stone seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Old Business: none

New Business:

a. Review the Tow Policy. Chief MacNamara said that at every September Board of Police Commission Meeting, the Commissioners review the tow policy. There are no changes from last year. Sergeant Paris addressed the Commissioners regarding the towers on the Fairfield Police tow list. The Traffic Safety Unit was trained so they can do our own inspections of the towers on our approved tow list. All of the tow companies passed the inspections and are authorized to tow. There have been complaints, though regarding Route 1. They have not answered their phone when called by the officer at the front desk. There were 21 occurrences where they did not answer the phone since March. They were given a warning letter. They said they would fix the problem. They were suspended for twenty-one (21) days, then suspended another fourteen (14) days. June 15, 2016 they started towing again, then there were eight (8) additional occasions of not answering the phone calls. Sergeant Paris said that it is essential for tow companies to answer when the Fairfield Police call for a tow truck to help clear the scene of accidents, etc. and he feels that Route 1 should not be re-instated on our tow list. Commissioner Hersh asked if there were any new towers that would like to be on the tow list and Sergeant Paris responded no and that our current towers are able to handle the requests. Sergeant Paris said that all the tow companies on our list received hand delivered letters and are aware of the meeting tonight. Route 1 was aware of this meeting. Commissioner Barrett motioned to not re-instate Route 1 to our tow list; Commissioner Lebo seconded the motion; carried unanimously. Commissioner Lebo motioned to re-new Auto Sales, Circle Collision, Conway's, Iodice Family Towing, Star and Sport Hill Service, along with the heavy tow companies Mickey's and Bud's; Commissioner Stone seconded the motion; carried unanimously. Commissioner Lazinger motioned to adopt the Tow Policy; Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

b. Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Chief MacNamara said that it allows officers to reach out to a company for services. Lieutenant Tursi said the Fairfield Police Department has a new provider, Behavioral Health Consultants - James Rascati. Mr. Rascati addressed the Commissioners saying that the counseling program is not just for officers, but their families as well. They provide free confidential counseling, 24 hours, 7 days a week.

c. Donations. Chief MacNamara said that he had just received another check for the K-9 Unit from the Wepay for \$132.65. He said that Sergeant Irizarry and the K-9 Unit have a K-9 Car Show this weekend at Fairfield Warde High School. Commissioner Lebo motioned to accept the donations; Commissioner Lazinger seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

d. Temporary closing of Nichols Street. Chief MacNamara said that they are looking at a variety of different options and they are asking for the closing of Nichols Street for one (1) week. The neighborhood will be notified and there will be community meetings, but they must close the road first to get information. The Police Department will go out to the community to let them know it's a temporary closure. After a discussion, Commissioner Barrett motioned to temporarily close Nichols Street from September 19, 2016 to September 26, 2016; Commissioner Stone seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

e. End of probation for Officers Gorton, Peck and Matejek. Commissioner Stone motioned to approve; Commissioner Barrett seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Monthly Report (both July and August reports). Chief MacNamara said that the Traffic Unit has been doing a lot of enforcement on Reef Road due to the significant amount of truck traffic and our officers have a lot of experience with truck safety. Discussion was held on the impact of the increased truck traffic in the area of Reef Road to One Rod Highway.

Commissioner Hersh motioned to adjourn; Commissioner Lazinger seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.