

Board of Police Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 19, 2009
Police Headquarters

Present: Commission Members: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano
Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert,
Commissioner Trotta
Departmental Members: Chief Terribile, Deputy Chief Hutchinson,
Lucy Krauchick, Clerk of The Board
Public: Mr. George Mack, Mr. Ken Ponichtera,
Mr. Richard More, Ms. Pat Philbin, Mr. Patrick
Shields, Mr. William Summa, Mr. William Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Ametrano, seconded by Commissioner Dostert, to add Swearing In of Officer Mark Thompson to the Agenda and move the Swearing In to the top of The Agenda.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert, Commissioner Trotta

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Officer Mark Thompson was officially sworn in for duty as Patrol Officer for the Town of Guilford Police Department at 5:32 p.m. by Commission Chair Carlson.

1. Approval of prior meeting minutes.

1.1 Approval of Police Commission meeting minutes of Wednesday, July 15, 2009.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Ametrano, seconded by Commissioner Dostert, to approve the Board of Police Commission meeting minutes of Wednesday, July 15, 2009 as presented.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert

Opposed: None

Abstained: Commissioner Trotta

2. Public Petition/Commentary.

It was agreed by the attendees from the public and The Board to move up the Agenda to Traffic for discussion of traffic requests.

3. Traffic.

3.1 Golf Carts

Deputy Chief Hutchinson spoke on a request received from Mr. More for the use and operation of golf carts on town roads. The state recently passed a public act giving the traffic authority of any town authorization to permit operation of golf carts on town roads with some restrictions. Golf carts are not allowed to operation on state roads. Deputy Chief Hutchinson mentioned to The Board that there were several issues to contemplate such as golf cart setup, registration and operation, and the 25 m.p.h. speed limitation. The Board of Police Commissioners agreed this matter should be reviewed in more detail.

Chief Terrible suggested The Board of Police Commissioners consider forming a sub-committee to investigate this request. Commissioner Ametrano responded he agreed with The Chief and would also want to know more about liability insurance of golf carts on town roads. Commissioner Cole said he works at a golf course it should be noted that there is a stipulation that only those with valid drivers licenses are allowed to operate golf carts per state statute.

Mr. More spoke to The Board and stated it was his understanding that the state had already passed this statute and it was now up to The Town at this point.

Commission Chair Carlson mentioned this particular request may need approval of The Board of Selectmen. Deputy Chief Hutchinson said it was up to the local traffic authority to approve or disapprove. It was agreed The Board had to research and investigate this request to make an informed decision through a sub-committee.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Dostert, seconded by Commissioner Trotta, to setup a sub-committee of The Board of Police Commissioners to investigate golf carts on town roads.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert, Commissioner Trotta

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Mr. More stated the had conversations with state representatives Mr. Ed Meyers and Ms. Pat Widlitz about the operation of golf carts on town roads and he said

both representatives were in favor of golf carts. Commission Chair Carlson noted she will contact both representatives regarding their opinion.

Commissioner Cole offered his concerns because many roads in town are narrow and safety must take precedence.

Commissioner Dostert will research golf carts on town roads and report back to The Board.

3.2 Residents of Forest Brook Road Association-Block Party.

Mr. Summa of Forest Brook Road addressed The Board asking for permission to hold a block party on Forest Brook Road September 12, 2009.

Discussion followed. The Chief advised Mr. Summa a block party could take place but there could be no cars within the road blocking access in case of an emergency. The Chief said the Guilford Police Department will provide barricades and will contact The Fire Department to inform them of the block party.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Dostert, seconded by Commissioner Ametrano, to approve the block party for the Forest Brook Road Association on September 12, 2009 with the understanding that Chief Terribile will notify The Fire Department.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert, Commissioner Trotta

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

3.3 Correspondence received from Mr. William H. Johnson referencing traffic concerns on Whitfield Street.

Mr. William H. Johnson addressed The Board of Police Commissioners and distributed a detailed map of lower Whitfield Street at the calming device with photos. He described a recent traffic accident which he was involved in on Whitfield Street due to a bicyclist and the calming device. Mr. Johnson stated he had not driven on Whitfield Street in approximately three years as he is a Florida resident and also a Wallingford resident, therefore, unaware that the calming device had been installed. He stated he was not speeding and for the safety of the bicyclist, who was well into the road, he maneuvered his car towards the middle of the road causing him to hit the calming device. He indicated there was approximately three thousand dollars of damage to his vehicle.

Mr. Johnson said he spoke with Mr. Portley, Town Engineer regarding the design

of the calming device and asked Mr. Portley why the curbs were made of granite. Mr. Johnson then offered his recommendations that the entire intersection should be more clearly defined and consideration of a different material be used for the calming device that would cause less damage to a vehicle. Mr. Johnson said he contacted The First Selectman with his recommendations including the installation of warning lights.

It was agreed the concerns of Mr. Johnson would be forwarded to Mr. Portley, Town Engineer.

3.4 Correspondence received from Ms. Cheryl Roby requesting signage.

The Board of Police Commissioners discussed the request for signage from Ms. Roby on Route 1 and agreed the traffic authority does not have jurisdiction because Route 1 is a state road and shall refer the concerns to the Department of Transportation Engineering Division.

3.5 Communication received from Ms. Patricia Philbin requesting signage on Clapboard Hill Road.

Mr. George Mack addressed The Board with a grouping of photos that he prepared for presentation of traffic issues and concerns on Hemlock Avenue including the concerns of Ms. Philbin and Mr. Ponichtera. They are all concerned about the speed and traffic on Hemlock Avenue and safety issues.

Mr. Mack presented pictures of large trucks that could not proceed on Hemlock Avenue without crossing the yellow line. He spoke on the dangers of the 90 degree turn and sight lines at Ms. Philbin's property. He stated the road is in terrible disrepair. He said the logging trucks coming down from Great Hill Road are dangerous due to the nature of the road design. He also mentioned walkers, bikers and joggers on Hemlock Avenue and the alarming situation of trucks and cars speeding while people are on the road.

Mr. Mack reported The Town of Guilford recently widened the road and showed pictures on the conditions of that project, at this time. He stated Hemlock Avenue is a major bus route and is concerned about traffic safety and the safety of children traveling on the road which continues to be in disrepair. Mr. Mack stated the widening project was never fully completed and has been told by Public Works Department they have to wait to contract it out in conjunction with another project.

He showed visuals of guard rails on Hemlock Avenue, some guard rails are falling down into the cliff, some have no wires at all. Mr. Mack said they are all very concerned about the guard rails, especially when the logging trucks are traveling at high speed.

Mr. Mack went on to say he has contacted the Public Works Director about a 2-foot pot hole on Hemlock Avenue which has been filled with gravel and that did not resolve

the issue. He said cones were put around the pot hole and the cones were stolen. He recommended that the 2-foot hole be patched and stated The First Selectman promised him the repairs would be done before the start of school. Mr. Mack said as of this date the repairs are not completed.

Mr. Mack suggested a stop sign on Hemlock Avenue be installed coming down the road. Discussion followed regarding a stop sign installation and Chevron's on Hemlock Avenue.

Mr. Mack additionally mentioned 19.5 acres of land on Hemlock Avenue went up for sale on this date and the concerns of the neighborhood should the property be developed.

Chief Terribile recommended a letter be sent to Mr. Portely, Town Engineer referencing all the concerns on Hemlock Avenue and the large package of issues put forward. Commission Chair Carlson agreed it should be addressed with The Engineering Department.

- 3.6 Correspondence received from Mr. and Mrs. Frohlich requesting signage on Clapboard Hill Road.

Discussion regarding the request for signage. The Department will continue to monitor traffic violations on Clapboard Hill Road and the neighboring intersections. The sign requested is not an approved road sign.

- 3.7 Correspondence received from Ms. Diane Merrigan requesting signage on Whitfield Street.

Ms. Merrigan requested signage for hearing impaired children on Whitfield Street. Commission Chair Carlson and The Chief's will review this matter and report back to Ms. Merrigan because the signage requested is not an approved road sign.

Ms. Merrigan stated in Old Wethersfield these signs are installed in the area of hearing impaired children. The Board agreed to research the signs in the town of Old Wethersfield.

- 3.8 Guilford Citizen's Parade Committee-Request to hold annual parade on September 19, 2009.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Trotta, to approve the annual Guilford Citizen's Day Parade on September 19, 2009.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert, Commissioner Trotta

Opposed: None
Abstained: None

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Trotta, to add Item 3.9 Stepstone Hill Road intersection to The Agenda.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert, Commissioner Trotta

Opposed: None
Abstained: None

3.9 Stepstone Hill Road-Intersection.

Commissioner Cole asked if there had been signage installed at the intersection of Stepstone Hill Road that stated “on-coming traffic does not stop” where traffic continues and does not have the stop sign. Chief Terribile said the sign was installed but had been removed because motorists were confused.

Chief Terribile will review the intersection with Commissioner Dostert and report back to The Board.

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Facilities/Equipment

Chief Terribile reviewed stimulus funds with The Board.

4.2 Personnel

4.2.1 Sick Time Report

Chief Terribile reviewed the report.

4.2.2 Police Academy-Trainee Performance Reports.

Chief Terribile reviewed the training performance reports with The Board.

4.2.3 F.Y.I.-Correspondence from Sergeant Provencher regarding Officer Fasulo’s completion of Guilford Police Department Field Training Program.

None.

4.2.4 F.Y.I.-Correspondence to Detective O’Connor from The Chief reverencing

Grievance 2009-03.

The Board of Police Commissioners decision on Grievance 2009-03 has not changed.

4.2.5 Medical Co-Pay

Discussion referencing the medical co-pay premium share. It was noted a memo is forthcoming from The Human Resources Director, Mr. Goldblatt.

4.2.6 Outside Services

None.

4.3 Communications

4.3.1 Thank you from The Director of Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Ametrano read from a letter received from Mr. Maynard, Parks and Recreation Director, thanking The Department for support given during the Annual Fireworks Special Event and specifically mentioned Sergeant Lawrence and his shift for their efforts.

4.3.2 Correspondence from Ms. Marsha Rabe and Mr. Thomas Brown referencing alarm system at their residence.

Commissioner Ametrano read from correspondence received from Ms. Rabe thanking The Department for their prompt response during a false alarm at their residence and confirming the alarm system is in proper working order.

4.4 Budget/Finance

4.4.1 Year End Budget Report 2008/2009.

Chief Terribile reviewed the year end report for 2008/2009 and reported turning back just under \$200,000 to The Town. The Board commended The Chief and The Deputy Chief for their efforts.

4.4.2 Fiscal 2009/2010 Budget Report.

Deputy Chief Hutchinson reported that all is in line one month into the new fiscal year.

5. Monthly Reports.

None.

6. Old Business.

None.

7. New Business.

None.

8. Police Personnel Comments.

None.

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Dostert, to adjourn the regular meeting of The Board of Police Commissioners of July 19, 2009 at 7:06 p.m.

Vote: All In Favor: Commission Chair Carlson, Commissioner Ametrano, Commissioner Cole, Commissioner Dostert, Commissioner Trotta

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Krauchick
Clerk of The Board

