

MINUTES OF THE POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 7B, the in-person open meeting requirements for a public agency have been suspended. As a result, the Public Commission will conduct a public meeting remotely using video/audio conference technology in real time.

Commissioners Present: Marianne Coffin, Chairperson
Via Zoom George Kain, Secretary
Joseph Savino
Nicholas Perna
Issy Caporale

Also Present: Chief Jeff Kreitz
Via Zoom Major Stephen Brown
Sgt. John Knoche
Officer James VanWattum
Detective Victoria Ryan
Officer Christopher DiFalco

These minutes are an overview of the meeting; not a verbatim text.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chairperson Coffin. This meeting was conducted via Zoom.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Coffin requested a motion to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Savino made the motion and Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in favor

2. COMMISSION CORRESPONDENCE

A. Voicemail - none

B. Written Correspondence - none

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Load Bearing Vests – Sgt. John Knoche and Officer James VanWattum made a presentation on load bearing vests.

Sgt. Knoche and Officer VanWattum were part of the committee assigned to look at load bearing vest options.

The purpose of the load bearing vest is to enhance officer wellness by removing certain equipment from the officers' waists and placing that equipment on their upper torso. This will create an ergonomic benefit.

Sgt. Knoche and Officer VanWattum displayed an example of the vest that the committee thought best fit with the department's uniform. They explained that officers have an option to choose this type of vest, but that it would not be mandatory. In addition, officers will have options as to which pieces of equipment they will deploy on the vest.

Once the department purchases the vests, officers who choose to wear them will attend training on the vests before wearing them on duty.

Commissioner Caporale made a motion to accept the optional use of the load bearing vests. Commissioner Savino seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- B. **Tattoos** – The Chief reviewed the draft of the revised tattoo Policy with the commissioners. After discussion, the vote on the change to the tattoo policy was tabled until the April meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **New Building Feasibility Study** – The Chief and Commissioner Coffin discussed the most recent meeting with the Board of Selectman and Kaestle-Boos. Sites for a future building were discussed. The group decided to have some ground testing done to the Old Quarry Road site.

5. CHIEF'S REPORT

A. **Department Stats**

Chief Kreitz reported the total incidents for the month of February. He noted that there were no reports of stolen motor vehicles for the month.

B. **Traffic/Sign Report**

None

C. **Training/PR Report**

Captain Platt submitted a report on the Training and Public Relations events in the month of February. Highlights included

Taser Instructor Training, CPR/First Aid, and Dispatcher Training.
There were four Public Relations events in the month.

6. UNION PARTICIPATION

None

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Commissioner Kain made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:03pm to discuss Employee Performance. Commissioner Savino seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

The Police Commission returned to Public Session at 6:19pm. No votes were taken.

Commissioner Kain made a motion to adjourn the Police Commission Meeting at 6:25pm. Commissioner Caporale seconded the motion.

All in Favor

Respectfully Submitted,

George Kain
Police Commission Secretary

