

## **Suffield Police Commission**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 17, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Jack Quinn, Linda Stevenson, Matt Joyal, John Zavisza and Peter Hill. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Capt. David Bourque, Officer Peter Osowiecki, Dispatcher Stacy Robins and Recording Secretary Karen McKown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p.m. by Chairman Miner.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairman Miner read the following:

- An agenda from the Police Commissioners Association of Ct. Their meeting is tonight. However, their annual meeting (cookout) is Wed, Aug. 26, at Anthony's Ocean View.
- A note to Chief Manzi from Carl & Deb Colson, commending Officer Dabkowski for his compassion and professionalism at a medical call on May 23.
- To Chief Manzi from Mrs. Doreen Marinck, of Windsor Locks commending Officer Justin Fuller for his kind, sympathetic and professional manner at a medical call regarding her elderly uncle on May 20.
- To Officer Dabkowski from Ms. Rose Taylor thanking him for his professionalism and compassion while assisting her at a medical call at an off-duty job in Windsor Locks.
- To Officer Dabkowski thanking him for his assistance when the ambulance was needed by Audrey &/or Russell Phelps.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT:**

Stacy Robins related to the Commission that she, along with other department employees, was concerned with an incident that occurred inside the building.

EXTREME MAKEOVER-HOME EDITION television crew will be arriving in Suffield to surprise a family with a new home. Chief Manzi and Lt. Huntley have been working closely with the television crew, town officials, department explorers, and many more, to bring this to fruition. Suffield Police will be assigned to Boston Neck/Mather as well as Suffield St/Mather. Mather St. will be closed except to select traffic. A twenty vehicle caravan will be escorted on Sunday (father's day), from Windsor to Mather St. Other escorts may be requested throughout the week. The show has its own set of security, but if an infraction should occur, Suffield Police will be contacted. The police have responsibility of crowd control. In conjunction with the home makeover, the show sponsors a toy drive, a food drive and a blood drive, all going on at the same time. Firestone Drive is the shuttle bus for spectators.

Also going on at the same time, the weekend of the 27<sup>th</sup>, is the annual soccer tournament will be in town. Suffield's population is expected to double for this one weekend.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING: MAY 20, 2009**

**Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the minutes as presented**, seconded by Mr. Hill, and then unanimously approved.

Mr. Miner stated he received an email from the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission regarding their recommendations for a town administrator who may or may not oversee the Police and Fire Departments. The Charter Revision Commission is meeting at this minute with Town Council. Mr. Miner suggested the Police Commission discuss this and if a conclusion is reached, a commission representative would go to that meeting and speak for the commission. Mr. Zavisza voiced his opposition to disbanding the Police Commission and making the Chief answerable to the town administrator, if indeed that is the plan. He did not feel it was right for the Town. Mr. Quinn agreed, stating the system is streamlined as it is and is very responsive to our citizens. Mr. Miner felt the current government system, especially the budget system is cumbersome and perhaps there is a value to whittling down the system and allowing a manager to run the town. He stated he is in favor of keeping the commission as it is. There was further discussion about obtaining more information as to what the C.R.C. is looking for. Overall, Mr. Miner stated he felt there is a significant consensus of the Commission to leave the structure as is. At 8:20 Mr. Quinn left the meeting to attend the Charter Revision Commission.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

**Mr. Hill motioned to accept, with Ms. Stevenson seconding, all the department reports as presented**, to include budget, finance, activity, Detective Bureau, K-9, and evaluations, barring any questions the commissioners might have. Discussion:

Finance – Capt. Bourque said the current budget is on track and the department was able to provide rifle recertification training to the officers. Also, duty gear is being up-graded to a lighter, tougher webbing type of gear. Also, cruisers have been ordered, but are 4 months from delivery. Discussion was held on the MUNIS purchase order system.

Activity – Mr. Hill commented that the arrest numbers for last month were significantly lower than most other months. Chief Manzi said there are always variables regarding police activity.

K-9 – No comment

D.B – No comment

Evaluations – Both officers had evaluations presented. Both continue to do well

**When a vote was called to accept the department reports, the motion carried unanimously.**

**CHIEF’S REPORT** In addition to his report, Chief Manzi reported that complaints of speeding continue. He and the Captain tested a portable “speed bump” on Hale St. Unfortunately, there were numerous complaints about the change in traffic patterns and Chief Manzi had the bump removed.

The Chief spoke about Connecticut Law that makes a person convicted of multiple D.W.I. arrests a “convicted felon” while federal law does not recognize them as such.

There has been an increase in the number of bear sighting reports.

The Chief invited the Commission to attend the memorial event being held for his father, in Niantic. He also reported that retired Lt. Bill Kuras was back in the hospital and is quite ill. Thoughts and prayers go out to Billy and his family.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT**

Mr. Miner said that although he was not pleased with the professional fund raiser held for the benefit of the Police Explorers, he was quite impressed with the Red Sox Alumni ball game held recently. He said he was impressed with the turnout. Although "our side" didn't win the game, there was a good showing. Unfortunately, Chief Manzi suffered a broken bone in his foot while playing in the game.

Mr. Miner said he would like a financial report regarding Explorer money. He said the game raised about \$8,000.00. Mr. Miner requested a report for this (fiscal) year, (balance sheet-revenue-expenses), and from here on, a quarterly report showing the same. He said if there is ever an accusation of a problem, Terry needs to have documentation that the money is being managed. He said he didn't want Officer Antrum to think there was any mention of wrongdoing, and he knows Terry is doing a fine job.

A couple of times each year, the state's police explorers get together for training at a "police academy" Several of our explorers attended and placed well in different stations.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:00 p.m. **Mr. Hill motioned to go into executive session** to discuss an ongoing personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Ms Stevenson and approved by all. Chief Manzi and Capt. Bourque were present for the executive session.

At 9:30 p.m., the Commission returned to regular session. At that time, **Mr. Quinn motioned to adjourn**, seconded by Mr. Hill and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKown,

Donald Miner Chairman

Recording Secretary