

Suffield Police Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Nov 18, 2009

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2009 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Miner.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Miner read the following correspondence:

- To Chief Manzi from Doris & Dewey Kolvek, no address given, thanking Sgt. Brown for his actions at their motor vehicle accident on October 6th.
- To Chief Manzi and Commissioner Peter Hill from Jackie Toro, thanking them for their involvement and support of the Tip-a-cop event held to support the Special Olympics, at Tosco's restaurant.
- To Capt. Bourque from Cindy Fisher of Suffield Parks & Rec, thanking him for giving police assistance on Sept 12, for the 2009 road races. She also thanked the Police Explorers.
- A note from Carol & John Wezowicz thanking the department for assistance at a funeral procession.
- To Mr. Miner from the State Department of Labor requesting his presence at a hearing on Nov. 23, 2009.

PUBLIC INPUT:

A group of youngsters with parents and advisers were present, and Mr. Miner asked them to proceed. Each youngster had a short prepared statement that they read. They were members of the 1st Lego League, and were at the meeting to seek the Commission and department's support for "SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL" They cited some of the reason they believe "S.R.S" would be good for the own:

- At this time, there are no shoulders on some of the roads that would be used to bike to school
- Biking is an exercise that leads to a healthy life style
- Biking reduces vehicle congestion
- It is supported by the federal government – possible grants for bike paths
- It would promote family activities and support local business
- Possibility of a yearly bike safety day
- For grades K-8, living in a 2 mile radius of the schools.

This would be for all of the schools except for the high school. 2011 is the next grant, so this group is just gathering information and seeking support. For more info, the children gave the Commission the safe routes website, which is saferoutestoschool.org Chief Manzi said Community Liaison Officer Thomas Kieselback will be in touch. Ms Beth Johnson identified herself as the contact person. The group left their presentation.

Mr. Jack Arute, 1125 Mountain Rd, W. Suffield rose to speak. Mr. Arute stated he has a horse facility on his property where children sometimes ride. This has been determined to be a civil matter. Mr. Arute left at this time.

Mr. Miner took the opportunity to state that after 8 years as a Commissioner, "our friend Jack Quinn" has retired. He said Mr. Quinn was an amazing contributor to the Commission, and he was responsible for a considerable amount of healing after the Commission went through a very difficult time. Chief Manzi presented a plaque to Mr. Quinn honoring his service to the department and Commission. He said Mr. Quinn brought wisdom and compassion to the department and that he will be sorely missed.

Mr. Miner introduced new Police Commissioner Gary Paganelli

MINUTES OF THE MEETING: OCTOBER, 2009

Ms. Stevenson motioned to accept the minutes from last month as presented, seconded by Mr. Hill. The motion passed unanimously

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Zavisza nominated Mr. Miner for Chairman. **Mr. Hill motioned to close nominations** for chairman, seconded by Ms. Stevenson. The vote carried unanimously. The vote to elect Mr. Miner was also unanimous.

Ms. Stevenson nominated Mr. Hill for vice-chairman, seconded by Mr. Zavisza. No other nominations were made. Mr. Hill thanked the Commission for the honor of the nomination. **Mr. Joyal motioned to close nominations for vice chair** and proceed with a vote. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Hill was unanimously elected vice-chair.

Mr. Hill then nominated Ms. Stevenson as Clerk, seconded by Mr. Joyal. There were no other nominations. **Mr. Hill motioned to close nominations and vote for Clerk**, seconded by Mr. Zavisza. The motioned carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Peter Hill motioned to accept, with Linda Stevenson seconding, all of the department reports as presented barring any Commissioner's questions.

Mr. Hill asked if there were any concerns over the x-tra-time and x-tra patrol lines items. When patrols gets back up to full staffing, x-tra time & x-tra patrol overtime should slow down. Capt. Bourque reported that with Officer Devin on board, a new shift will open on days. He also said that with extra patrols out on Halloween and the evening before, there were no reports of damage or vandalism.

Officer Osowiecki reported on K-9 Z who has been diagnosed with heartworm. She will be out of Commission for a while.

The activity report was looked at and a few corrections were made to the column headings on document. Flu – A general order regarding dealing with the flu, has been posted. Employees are encouraged to stay home if they are sick.

The motion to accept the department reports passed unanimously.

CHIEF’S REPORT -

(complete report attached to these minutes)

- A person responsible for an armed robbery in town has been arrested.
- Spoke more about the flu and responding to medical calls where the patient is thought to have it.
- On Nov 9, 2009, Officer Richard Devin was sworn in as a full time officer.
- Step up patrol around banks. Surrounding towns have been experiencing bank robberies
- Flim-Flam, con artist type incidents have been on the rise
- A Supreme Court decision was made which favored police during motor vehicle stops where a passenger in the vehicle is searched.
- First bullet on page 4, line 2, change second set of words “police officers” to “suspects”.
- The continuing problem of car burglaries is being experienced by neighboring towns where a police officer’s car was broken into and his radio stolen.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENT – A couple of days ago, Mr. Miner woke to find a stolen car parked on his front lawn. The vehicle was undamaged so it was returned to its owner.

Mr. Miner restated that an offer of employment was made to Richard Devin, who has accepted. There is a second candidate working on his qualifications and that issue will hopefully be resolved shortly.

Capt. Bourque stated he has not yet been called before the Board of Selectmen to explain why the radio project currently in the works through capitol projects should be combined into one Fire & Police Radio. Combining will save money. Also, all three emergency agencies are working together on this project and it that is a very forward thinking item.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – At 8:10 p.m., Mr. Hill **motioned to go into executive session to discuss personnel and on ongoing criminal investigation.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Zavisza and the motion passed unanimously. Chief Manzi and Capt. Bourque were present for this portion of the meeting.

The Commission came out of executive session at 9:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKown

Donald Miner, Chairman

Recording Secretary