

Suffield Police Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, July 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2008 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Jack Quinn, Linda Stevenson, Matt Joyal, Peter Hill and John Zavisza. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Capt. David Bourque, and Recording Secretary Karen McKown. Officer Osowiecki was present for the K-9 discussion. Also present were Geoff Miner, and Mr. & Mrs. Jon Kores, Mountain Road, Suffield.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Miner.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chief Manzi reported that the head of the Juvenile Review Board, Mr. Barry Armata, sent Chief Manzi some reports showing how successful the J.R.B. is with the children that attend the program.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Kores were present to address an issue that was stated in June's Commission meeting minutes. Mr. Kores began by reading aloud a section of June minutes: He said "Chief Manzi spoke about a couple in town who have quite a lengthy history of contacts with us and the animal control officer, and their attempts to gain possession of an Italian Greyhound owned by a neighbor. The case was initially mentioned due to the numerous man hours spent on this incident. Mr. Kores said he and his wife "are that couple". He stated they found the dog (Italian Greyhound) running in the road in a thunderstorm and offered their good services to become an adoptive home for the dog. He said if there was any long and on-going contacts with the P.D. it was because the process was chaotic and confusing, and that the calls made were an attempt to find out what the process is or should have been. Mr. Kores stated he would like the record to reflect that there was no boarder-line harassing. Mr. Kores said the constant calling was in order to be clear about the process. At this time Mrs. Kores said "there were no call- backs". Mrs. Kores stated there was another memo delivered to Chief Manzi today. The Chief acknowledged receipt of that memo. Mrs. Kores stated she would like "the dispatch record amended, as it said "stolen dog". She further stated she "wanted it modified to reflect the three neighbor statements (letters to Chief Manzi) they (the Kores') obtained, "because the P.D. didn't get them, as there was no investigation". She further stated "The neighbors swear the dog was running loose in a thunderstorm and the neighbors swear they saw us and helped pick up the dog". She stated "Until we got them, there were all kinds of innuendo and allegations across Suffield P.D. and East Granby P.D. that they were like, lying." She further stated "we were seen in the driveway because some other neighbor was going to testify to it, but Suffield would never go to clear it up, so we had to clear it up. The neighbor in question who was the owner of the dog was the one who said he could get neighbor to say we drove into his driveway to steal the dog on a thunderstorm. Yea, right". Mrs. Kores said "none of this happened that way and no matter how I'd tried, across 3 P.D.s to straighten this out". She further stated Simsbury's (Police) report is actually clear and factual. "Now East Granby got involved, with Officer Jones who is going to issue a report saying there is absolutely no indication of harassment, and no indication of trespassing, and no indication of theft, but why do they have to go through East Granby to get this cleared up?" Mrs. Kores continued saying she and her husband are life time government employees and they operate through process. She further stated she tried to go to Angelo (DiMauro, Animal Control Officer) who still has not called back or talked to her, not once, even though he claimed the dog in Simsbury and said he would be resolving it the next day. She stated "Simsbury P.D. said he was going to impound it, but later on it turned out, he was going to

look into the facts”. She said things changed as they went along. It grew, it changed, it diverted, and they couldn’t get call backs, and they always seem to end up on the wrong end of the stick”.

Mr. Miner asked the Kores if they would summarize what their intent was for coming to the Commission meeting, what exactly they were looking for. Mrs. Kores said she wanted to know why the issue was brought to the Commission last month. She said they “would not be here if the statement didn’t appear in the Commission minutes”. Mrs. Kores said she didn’t understand why the Chief brought the subject to the Commission, after they had spent over an hour that day, sitting down with the Chief. Mrs. Kores said “it was the tower of Babel”.

Mr. Miner said he didn’t think it was appropriate to get into a protracted debate over the facts of this incident, at this time. He asked if there as a brief statement they would like to make, or perhaps a piece of correspondence they wanted to present to the Commission. Mr. & Mrs. Kores said they would like the following:

- Getting the facts of the event accurate and following process.
- Want all dispatch records cleaned up and modified
- Letter of apology
- Issue of taking possession of the dog, “duty of finder” statute
- Angelo’s DiMauro write final report
- Get copy of East Granby police report
- If dispatch notes states “detail to follow in report” does it mean the officer is committed to making a report
- Have suggestions to improve animal control officer position.

There was no more public input.

MINUTES OF JUNE, 2008 MEETING:

Mr. Zavisza motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Mr. Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

BUDGET AND FINANCE – Mr. Miner stated he understood that the Commission report was not a total end-of-year report. Capt. Bourque said the 2007-08 budget numbers are good, and a better discussion regarding this, could be held at the August Commission Meeting. He said there is over \$63,000 in adjustments coming back into the 2007-08 budget. Further comments:

- Gasoline usage by the department is back on track, although that line-item is over, due to increases in gasoline price, country wide. Gasoline consumption by idling cruisers was not a big impact
- Effective July 1, 2008, off-duty assignments for police officers are counted in their pensions.
- Officer training is evolving, necessary and ongoing.
- D.U.I. grant continues thru September 8, although not each shift has been staffed
- Town of Avon will be requesting mutual aid for construction to revamp Rte. 44, over the next three years. Avon’s police cruisers will be used, not Suffield’s

- Vehicle *Repair & Maintenance* line item should be lower in the next fiscal year due to the new cruisers that have been recently purchased and put on-line.

ACTIVITY REPORT – Updated activity report distributed. Columns added were domestic violence and juvenile cases, to include arrests of juveniles. The Captain also showed the Commission, the Uniform Crime Report information collected for the F.B.I.

DETECTIVE BUREAU – Detective Sargent arrested a person involved in the town hall burglaries. He and Lt. Huntley made a trip to New Hampshire to extradite the prisoner. Several surrounding towns, plus the State Police have warrants for this person. A second person involved is currently incarcerated. Det. Sargent also spent time going to regional detective meetings. He was also on vacation.

K-9 - “Z” doing well, is passing training segments already. She is certified for tracking.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER – No reports for the next few months as school is out for the summer.

Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the department reports. Ms. Stevenson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF’S REPORT –

Chief Manzi reported:

- A barn fire occurred near the Southwick-Suffield line. Several dirt bike riders accidentally caused the fire. One of the drivers was seriously injured. One of the cruisers became disabled, and damaged at the scene.
- Wanted to thank Mike’s Auto-body who repaired the vehicle mentioned above. The Chief said Mike’s does an exceptional job of quickly repairing our cars when needed and he goes the extra mile to save the department money, such as finding a used door to replace the damaged one mentioned above, instead of automatically buying a new one.
- That he observed a vehicle traveling on Rte 91 a few days back, that fit the description of the car used in a smash & grab incident in Suffield. He was able to obtain the license plate, the case remains under investigation.
- Thanked Geoff Miner for getting and installing an external cardiac defibrillator he presented to the police as part of his Eagle Scout criteria.
- Candlewood Suites in Windsor locks has offered free lodging for one night for victims of domestic violence or a house fire.. The Commission was impressed with this gesture.
- Two new portable “speed humps” that have been ordered, are expected to be delivered within the next few days. These humps have to be set on low traffic roads, or with state permission for a state road. Bridge Street is a partial state road, and the state has been approached to allow the speed humps to be placed near the cross walk that is close to the senior housing, near Suffield Village.
- Three new pedestrian crossing signs have been ordered. These new signs will spring back upright if struck by a car.

- Our latest college intern has completed his 200 hours internship with us. Lt. Huntley praised him for his enthusiasm and dedication to the Department. The Chief felt he will be an asset, if he chooses a career in law enforcement.
- A new general order has been presented, dealing with light duty work for personnel who cannot perform their normal duties due to an on the job injury or illness.

CHARTER REVISION - Mr. Miner reported that he received notice from the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission informing him that they would be having a discussion about the number of members on the Police Commission. Mr. Miner asked the Commission for input on this. Mr. Miner felt that was the only issue dealing with the police that the Charter Revision has. He asked any Commissioner to comment here, or attend any Charter Revision meeting to discuss this issue. The consensus from the Commissioners was that 6 members on the board is working now and has, for the most part, worked in the past. They recommend no change at this time.

CHAIRMAN COMMENT – Mr. Miner said he felt at times, efforts by members of the police department, that were slightly above and beyond, went unnoticed. He wanted to commend the dispatchers who deftly handle multiple serious situations, and stay clam and reassuring; and the officer who writes down and runs multiple vehicle registrations on the chance he may need the info he’s gathered, one day; and the officers responding to a tree down who will wrestled with the tree, moving it out of the road’s travel portion before work crews arrived. Mr. Miner said things like this go on unnoticed all the time and he wanted to take the opportunity to tell the staff “well done”.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

At 8:15 p.m., Mr. Quinn motioned to go into executive session for a personnel issue. Mr. Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chief Manzi and Capt. Bourque were present for executive session.

AT 9:21, the Commission returned to regular session and at that time, Mr. Hill motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Stevenson and carrying via unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKown,

Donald Miner, Chairman

Recording Secretary