

Suffield Police Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, September 18, 2008

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, Sep. 18, 2008 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairman Miner.

Mr. Quinn motioned to go to executive session to discuss a union grievance regarding the police officer's contract. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zavisza and was approved by all.

Mr. Hill motioned to return to regular session at 8:42 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Zavisza and was approved by all.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Miner read the following letters:

Thanking the department for watching the local senior citizen's vehicles while they were away on a bus trip.

From Attorney Everett B. Dowe commending Officer Devin for his professionalism during a local foreclosure auction as well as dealing with a rude member of the public.

From the "Dream Ride" participants, thanking the department and Police Explorers for their help with traffic during a local ride event.

From Parks and Recreation thanking the department and all volunteers for their help with traffic during the annual 5k road race.

From Diane Stevens, thanking Dispatcher Bergdahl for her help during a recent medical call involving her husband.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

MINUTES OF AUGUST, 2008 MEETING:

Mr. Hill requested an amendment to the minutes of the last meeting regarding him seconding a motion to go into executive session due to the fact he was not present at that meeting. It should be corrected to say that Mr. Quinn had in fact seconded that motion.

Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the minutes of the last meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and approved by all.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Mr. Zavisza motioned to accept the department reports as presented in the packets unless there are any questions in order to expedite the meeting. There was no second. The motion was approved by all.

Financial –

Captain Bourque stated that the finance department is still in the process of “closing out” last year and that the MUNIS report does not show any input past July with regards to payroll. Some of the expenses are up to date and others are not. He also explained that since the department does “keep their own books” he added that report to the commission packet this month. There was one mistake regarding the balance of the miscellaneous line item that has been corrected. There has not been a sale of a police cruiser thus far causing a shortage in that line item. Payroll is being affected by the number of officers that are out at the moment causing a serious increase in over time cost. Training has been virtually eliminated due to the increase in overtime.

ACTIVITY REPORT –

Captain Bourque stated that part of the recent decrease in activity is due to the lack of personnel we have on the road. There has been less officer initiated police work.

DETECTIVE BUREAU –

K-9 –

Officer Osowiecki is still currently out on worker’s comp due to an injury resulting in knee surgery.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER –

CHIEF’S REPORT –

Chief Manzi spoke about:

Our two new recruits have nearly completed their first three weeks of field training, are doing very well and have acclimated themselves to the department. They are both spoken of very highly and are enthusiastic. When they are off on their own after 400 hours of field training the department’s activity is sure to increase.

Several things the Police Explorers have done for the department and town this month such as Farm Fest at Hilltop Farm, the annual 5k road race and Suffield on the Green. The Chief wanted to thank them for all their help with regards to traffic control at these events.

Thomas Troughton was arrested recently by our department in Glastonbury on a warrant. Sergeant VanTasel was the facilitator of the plan for the capture of Troughton.

Migrant workers hanging out at the West Suffield Mini Mart on Fridays after work. Attention was given to the complaints, however nothing criminal was discovered.

Mailbox bashings that happened all over town recently. No discernable area was discovered to concentrate on, however the Chief believes info will come to light in the future with regards to the responsible parties.

A notable drug arrest made recently on Michael Ln. Utilizing information gathered about a month and a half ago and recent surveillance of the area the drug dealer and drug buyer were both arrested.

The department was represented well at the 911 remembrance ceremony at the SVAA and the ceremony was very nice.

The Chief's new general order regarding death notification is a mandated state policy. It was not due until January of 2009, but is now complete. The order was amended in section G to encourage our officers to utilize the "patient advocate team" from the SVAA.

Captain Bourque wanted to point out the fact that our department is lucky to have the Police Explorer program to utilize and that their participation in local events is actually saving the department money in over time.

Mr. Quinn commented on the excellent job the explorers did at Suffield on the Green not only with traffic, but with the public as well. They presented themselves very well. He especially complimented Explorer Theodore for his demonstration of the "drunk goggles".

Mr. Miner complimented Officer Burrell and Officer Trovato for how they handled the recent suicide on River Blvd Ext.

The town is requesting a NIMS federal audit. The commission was advised that Lieutenant Huntley would be handling that.

Captain Bourque advised that the department had only used \$6,000.00 of the \$20,000.00 DUI grant money. He stated that since the officers did not show an interest in working the shifts he was not going to apply for the grant again next year. It is a lot of extra paper work for something that is not going to be utilized.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

At 9:18 p.m., Mr. Quinn motioned to go into executive session for a personnel issue. Seconded by Mr. Hill and approved by all. Chief Manzi and Capt. Bourque were present for executive session.

AT 10:46, the Commission returned to regular session and at that time, Mr. Quinn motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Joyal and approved by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Miner, Chairman

Stacey Robins,

Recording Secretary