

Suffield Police Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Dec 15, 2010

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Gary Paganelli, John Zavisza, Peter Hill, Linda Stevenson and Matt Joyal. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Captain Craig Huntley, Officer Peter Osowiecki, and Recording Secretary Karen McKown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. by Mr. Miner.

CORRESPONDENCE

Several Items:

- A note of appreciation to Officer Kieselback from a family on North Stone Street.
- A note of thanks to Chief Manzi from an elderly woman on Bridge Street.
- A note to Chief Manzi from the West Springfield Police and High School Administration, thanking Officer Osowiecki for his assistance with a "K-9 locker sniff" on 11/16. Contraband was discovered at the time. Officer Osowiecki did this on his own time.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, NOVEMBER 17, 2010

Mr. Joyal motioned to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Stevenson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Miner asked that the agenda be amended to discuss an employment issue after the Chief's Report. Discussion will be held in executive session but any vote will be in public session. Mr. Hill motioned to put "PERSONNEL on the agenda, after Executive Session. Mr. Paganelli seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Zavisza motioned to accept, with Mr. Hill seconding, all of the department reports as presented except the Chief's, barring any Commissioner's questions or comments.

Budget Reports: No comments

Activity Report: Chief Manzi stated he noted a formula glitch that compared year to year numbers by calendar year instead of fiscal year. The Chief made the corrections to fiscal year. He also noted that response times were being skewed by pre-entries into the IMC software for traffic control at the schools. The calls were being put on hold until the officer arrived, but it showed the response time to be more than 2.75 hours. This the Chief also fixed.

The Chief noted that a friend of his donated a huge amount of toys to the department for officers to distribute while they were on their patrol during this holiday season.. He said Officer Reynolds had distributed over three trash-sized bags of toys in one day.

Detective Report: No comment

K-9: Mr. Miner wanted to clarify one item on Officer Osowiecki's K-9 report to the Commission. Mr. Miner said the report suggests "the commission had a concern about the cars behind Bridge Street School". Mr. Miner said it is NOT the POLICE Commission with the concern, but rather a member of the Public Works Commission. He stated the Police Commission is hugely supportive of Officer Osowiecki's work.

The purchase order for the new K-9 vehicle is in the works and due shortly after overcoming processing delays. Officer Osowiecki is also working to maintain membership (NAPWDA-North American Police Work Dog Association) credentials.

Mr. Miner called for a vote on the department reports which carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Manzi showed the commission what the new Ford Police Inceptor cruiser will look like. It is basically a Taurus with an extended body that they have made so it can use the cages and overhead lights currently being used on the Crown Victoria's.

Mr. Hill motioned to accept, with Mr. Paganelli seconding, the Chief's reports as presented, barring any Commissioner's questions or comments.

Mr. Miner asked Chief Manzi if he wanted to remove the name of a burglary suspect that is in his report. The Chief said the individual has an arrest warrant waiting for him and his name would stay in the report.

Chief Manzi stated the police responded to a report of a suicide by gunshot. Detective Sargent investigated and he determined that the person who sold the victim the gun he used, is a convicted felon. Detective Sargent obtained an arrest warrant for the gun seller and put the information into NCIC. Within 22 minutes, East Hartford Police stopped the man for a motor vehicle violation, discovered our warrant, and arrested him.

The Chief stated that there has been a rash of smash & grab burglaries/larcenies in the Hartford Area. Both Granby and Windsor Locks experienced these.

Chief Manzi included a draft of a new general order regarding records management. The order is part of accreditation requirements. The Chief said the order will not change our records system as we are already in compliance.

The Chief wanted to commend the officers he named in his report with regards to a high risk call on Suffield Street. He said Capt Huntley, Officers Chevalier, DePietro, Antrum, Fuller and Kieselback did a very good job and were able to take down a person who had threatened his wife with a gun. He also commended Dispatcher Bergdahl.

Mr. Miner called for a vote on the Chief's report which carried with unanimous vote.

Chief Manzi's full report is attached to these minutes
End of Chief's report

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Hill stated Ms. Stevenson should be commended for her efforts to provide police employees with a Thanksgiving dinner. Ms. Stevenson started doing this about 6-7 years ago. All of the commissioners contribute, but by far, Ms. Stevenson does the majority of the work.

Mr. Miner stated that former Chief Mark Leahy was recently installed as the president of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association.

Mr. Miner expressed concern about the recent distressing events involving teens/alcohol/speeding motor vehicles. He said he believes there is a perception of disregard among young drivers and some parents don't seem to be paying attention. This lead to much discussion regarding what agencies should take the lead in educating young people, trying to convince them they are not immortal. It seems the tactics that seem to have the most impact (such as "Scared Straight) have been deemed to be too sensational, that kids are too sensitive to have to experience something "shocking &/or graphic". Chief Manzi said he could talk to the high school principal about efforts along these lines. Mr. Miner said it has to be a community effort that must be talked up.

The calendar of Police Commission meetings for 2011 was presented. It has already been submitted to the Town Clerk.

At 8:00, Ms. Stevenson motioned to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Paganelli seconded and all voted to accept.

The Commission returned to regular session at 8:58 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Out of executive session, **Mr. Hill motioned to change Officer Richard Devin from probationary status to full time regular status.** Ms. Stevenson seconded and all voted to approve. (Effective on his anniversary date.)

Ms. Stevenson motioned to extend the probation of Officer James Lord for 3 months from his anniversary date. Mr. Paganelli seconded and all voted to approve.

Mr. Hill motioned to extend a conditional offer of employment as a full time police officer to Mr. Carl Chevrier, contingent upon his successful completion of a background check, a polygraph exam, a physical exam, psychological exam and any other requirements of Connecticut P.O.S.T. (police officer standards). This motion was seconded by Mr. Joyal and approved by unanimous vote.

At 9:07 p.m., the Commission voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Miner,

Karen McKown

Chairman

Recording Secretary