

**Suffield Police Commission**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Feb 16, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Peter Hill, John Zavisza, Linda Stevenson and Matt Joyal. (Mr. Joyal arrived at 7:07 pm) (Commissioner Paganelli was out of state). Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Captain Craig Huntley, Lieutenant Richard Brown, Officer Peter Osowiecki, and Recording Secretary Karen McKown.

**Mr. Miner called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

One item:

- A note to Officer Osowiecki from Sally Haas which included a check for \$50.00 for the K-9 program.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

None

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING, JANUARY 19, 2011**

**Ms. Stevenson motioned to accept** the minutes as presented. Mr. Hill 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 for the Chief's, barring any Commissioner's questions or comments.

Budget – OK

Activity – no comment

Detective Bureau – Detective Sargent working to alert officers to an ever increasing number of individuals nationwide who have vowed to act violently/kill, in any encounter with the police.

K-9 - no comment

Mr. Miner called for a vote of the department reports, which passed unanimously.

Lt. Rick Brown was present to update the Commission on all the work that he has been doing regarding the upgrade of the department radio and recording system, and other technology issues for which he is requesting feedback.

He explained the current radio system and the goals for the new one. He said the new project is about ½ way completed and he said there is an anticipation of a radical improvement in quality of radio service. Two remaining goals were dealing with dead spots and gaining control of the system by no longer having to pay leased land lines fees. Unfortunately, the recommended microwaves planned for this phase have not been approved for installation on the towers within Suffield, as 3 of the 4 towers themselves did not pass government inspection for safe installation of the needed microwaves. The temporary solution is an upgrade to the phone lines, at a price of roughly [\\$250.00/@/mo.](#) To eliminate dead spots, it would require constructing additional towers. Right now, there is a cost of \$6,600 per tower just to evaluate each one to see what needs improvement, enough to get microwave dishes on top of each of them. Sights in some surrounding towns and working with other agencies have been considered and discussed. The Lt's plan for now is to upgrade the telephone lines as well as use some of the phone lines that are already in place, and then wait to see what his best options might be. With all the other issues, the Commission supported Lt. Brown's plan to "pause" for a brief time. Lt. Brown's presentation was well received by the Commission and Capt. Huntley pointed out that, through Lt. Brown's diligence, he was able to save the town a considerable amount of money on this radio project as well as the service contract for it.

The Lieutenant also reported that "E-Tickets, for motor vehicle violations will be up and running in our cruisers soon. He also stated that in-car cameras are up and running, recording M.V. stops and a new phone/radio recording system is working. License plate readers for the cruisers are being investigated. This technology would allow the cruisers to scan any motor vehicle license plate, without the officer physically running the plate.

**CHIEF'S REPORT** Mr. Hill motioned to accept, with Mr. Zavisza seconding, the Chief's report as presented, barring any Commissioner's questions or comments.

Chief Manzi stated again that terrorism in this country is on the rise. Besides drug related violence from groups such as MS13, which started in California and has spread to areas like Myrtle Beach, S.C., a militia group called Sovereign Citizen disavow most of our nation's laws and they are reported to be very violent against law enforcement personnel.

- The Chief also spoke about fraud via Email,
- Law enforcement budget cuts throughout the nation, by \$74 billion
- Team safety meeting, central school office – teen driving, parties, drugs. Chief proud of the effort.
- Dispatcher Bergdahl's continued absence due to injury

\*\*\*Chief Manzi's full report is attached to these minutes\*\*\*

End of Chief's report

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Mr. Miner called for a vote on the Chief's report. The motion carried unanimously.

### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Mr. Miner reported that he had spoken to the state legislature regarding a bill sponsored by Rep. Elaine O'Brien regarding the drawing of blood, and police access to it's results, when a patient in a hospital emergency room is suspected of having been a driver under the influence.

Mr. Miner also reported that a group he is affiliated with, Ct K-9 Search & Rescue held a dog first aid training event at the ambulance complex. K-9 Officer Osowiecki was invited to attend and afterwards, he gave the search & rescue

group a tour of his facility at Bridge Street School. Mr. Miner said the group was very impressed. They then spent a couple of hours doing building searches at the school.

Mr. Hill said a constituent of his voiced concern about the blinking light at North/South Stone Street. Mrs. Hill recommended it become a working traffic light. At the present time, the huge amounts of snow are interfering with lines of sight, although this location has had line of sight issues for years. Because Mountain Road is a state road, the state has jurisdiction over it, and after several different investigations by them, the intersection was determined to be satisfactory in its present state. Chief Manzi said he agreed that it is a terrible intersection and perhaps after winter, it can be "manicured" to improve that issue, making it safer.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Officer Osowiecki stated he is concerned about what will happen to his training equipment if the Town shuts down Bridge Street School for renovation or demolition. He not only stores his K-9 training equipment there, but also the R.A.D. (rape aggression defense), tools, books and records. The Commission felt there is still time to brainstorm this issue, probably throughout the spring and summer.

### **PERSONNEL**

At 8:18, Mr. Joyal motioned to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Mr. Hill seconded and all voted to accept.

The Commission returned to regular session at 9:00 p.m. At that time Mr. Joyal motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Stevenson and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary

Donald Miner  
Chairman