

## **Suffield Police Commission**

### **Minutes of the Special Meeting, April 6, 2011**

A special meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct. at 5:00

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Gary Paganelli, Linda Stevenson, John Zavisza, and Peter Hill. Commissioner Matt Joyal was not able to attend. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Capt. Craig Huntley and recording Secretary Karen McKown

The meeting was called to order at 5.08 p.m., by Chairman Miner.

Mr. Miner stated that the rules of a special meeting state only items on the agenda can be discussed. Those agenda items are:

- Proposal to order 2 additional police cars in 2010/2011 budget year.
- Discussion of presentation to the Board of Finance
- In executive session, oral interviews with three candidates for the position of sergeant. Those candidates are:
  - Officer Ryan Burrell
  - Officer Jeremy DePietro
  - Officer John Trovato

Vehicle Discussion: The two vehicles in the original 10/11 budget have been purchased and are line vehicles. After speaking with the Board of Finance last week, it was proposed that two more FORD CROWN VICTORIAS could be purchased at this time with money coming from the off-duty fund. The new FORD INTERCEPTOR police vehicle's cost remains unknown at this time, and they are likely to have kinks that need to be worked out. If the Police Commission approves this action, they would go before the Board of Selectman tonight and then on to the Board of Finance. Even though the department would not obtain the vehicles or write the check for the cars until next fiscal year, the dept. would be committing to the purchase now.

Mr. Zavisza stated that a process should be in place for the understanding of the handling of the off-duty fund. Mr. Hill agreed, stating he hoped the boards would understand this effort is to save money while obtaining vehicles needed by the department

Ms. Stevenson motioned to go forward and ask the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance for approval to encumber funds for the purchase of two Ford Crown Victoria's police cruisers from the off-duty fund. Mr. Hill seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion of Upcoming Board of Finance Presentation Mr. Miner stated the B.O.F. asked the representatives from the Police Commission to return on April 11, following their scheduled 2011/2012 budget presentation meeting held approximately 1.5 weeks ago, to talk about 4 items, including the car proposal mentioned above; a discussion of "how good a police department does Suffield really need; the off-duty fund; and vehicle life/maintenance. Mr. Miner distributed several "comparable" spread sheets he has been working on, showing Suffield as compared to similar towns, though not necessarily towns in

much more affluent communities; and making adjustment for citizens residing at McDougal. Mr. Miner also asked the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities for some information which he should be receiving by the end of the week. Mr. Miner said the spread sheets are a work in progress. He stated his goal is to show that, for the money that is being spent, Suffield is an extraordinarily safe town, compared to others towns like us. He said the police department's pro-activity is showing it's effectiveness. Mr. Miner said Suffield offers many services other similar towns do not. Comparing to Granby Police, as an example: Suffield has a detective, Granby does not; S.P.D. has a School Resource Officer while Granby does not, Suffield has a K-9, an explorer program and a community liaison, while Granby does not. Cost and Value will be compared for the Board of Finance.

Commissioners interview for promotion to sergeant At 5:30 P.M., Mr. Hill motioned to go into executive session for interviews of three candidates for promotion to sergeant. Ms. Stevenson seconded and the motion unanimously carried.

The Commission returned to regular session at 7:30 p.m. and adjourned at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKown

Don. Miner, Chairman

Recording Secretary