

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.  
Southington Police Department  
69 Lazy Lane  
Southington, CT 06489**

Chairman Richard Montague, PhD called the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Southington Police Department, 69 Lazy Lane, Southington, CT with the following in attendance:

Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner James Verderame, Sr., and Commissioner Sharon O'Brien. (Commissioner DePaola was absent).

Administrative staff in attendance:

John F. Daly, Chief of Police  
William Palmieri, Captain  
Edward Pocock, III, Captain

**Dr. Richard Montague, Chair, presiding:**

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from the previous meeting, December 2012.

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 2012 meeting. Commissioner Verderame, Sr. seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:03 p.m.

**3. Communications.**

**a. Communications from the Public**

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Ave, Southington, CT attended the meeting to bring forth his concerns of several street lights in town that are not working.

Mr. Cyr stated that his concern is public safety. He feels that the fact that a lot of our street lights are out is important. He believes that, in the past, the police department would monitor this when the Town did not pay a contractor to replace the streetlights. He stated that we actually have a contractor that is supposed to be doing this. He believes the contractor is not doing what they should be to keep our residents safe. He suggested that, over the next few months, perhaps the police department could document some of the streetlights in the neighborhoods. He stated that, in the last four weeks, he has gone out four times and has noted 10 streetlights out every time in a very concentrated area. He stated that he would appreciate if the patrol officers would call in the streetlights that they notice out.

Commissioner Verderame, Sr. asked Mr. Cyr when the contract is up. Mr. Cyr was not sure. Commissioner Verderame, Sr. suggested that was something we could find out and discuss with the Town Council to revisit the issue. Mr. Cyr suggested that perhaps the Town

was not aware that the contractor was not doing a good job. Commissioner Verderame, Sr. agreed that this should be revisited periodically.

Mr. Cyr stated that he believes that this is a great Town with a lot of great services and that the police department does a great job, but that sometimes we need to shake some people up.

Commissioner Verderame, Sr. suggested that Chief Daly contact the Town Manager to see when the contract is up. Chief Daly stated that he believes it was recently renewed. Mr. Cyr suggested that he could find that out at a Public Works Committee meeting next Thursday. Chief Daly confirmed that Mr. Cyr has brought the issue up at prior Public Works Committee meetings and it has been discussed and that the Engineering Department was supposed to touch base with the vendor with respect to this issue. Mr. Cyr suggested that we get a lot of talk but nothing is actually done, even though they are told it is checked on a regular basis, and that people are wondering if the contractor is really doing their job.

Mr. Cyr stated that he can't wait to see what our budgets are because he is a big proponent of more lights, more cameras, more action and anything we can do about the streetlights would be greatly appreciated.

**b. Commissioner Communications**

None.

**4. Report to Commission by Chief Daly.**

**a. Administrative Assistant**

Chief Daly introduces his new Administrative Assistant, Jodi Lapreay, and welcomes her aboard. Chief Daly states that Mrs. Lapreay started last Wednesday and that we are happy to have her as a part of our team.

**b. Board of Police Commissioners meeting dates for 2013**

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the December Police Commissioners meeting dates for 2013. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:08 p.m.

**c. Newtown Connecticut Assistance**

Chief Daly acknowledges and thanks the officers that went to Newtown when they requested assistance with their terrible tragedy. The list of individuals that went are:

Master Sergeant Robert Wilson  
Sergeant Keith Egan  
Detective Scott Wojenski  
Officer Joe D'Agostino  
Officer Brian Leppard  
Officer John Mahon

Officer Mark Dibattista  
Officer Thomas Attarrato

Chief Daly confirmed that we sent two officers a day for four days to assist the Newtown Police Department. It was greatly appreciated. Chief Daly states that he recently spoke with Lisa Secondo of OPM and she stated that OPM is trying to get reimbursement for all the towns that assisted immediately, during the investigation, and with the follow up. Therefore, the money we spent may be coming back to us. Again, we greatly appreciate all the work those officers did.

**d. Thank You Letters received from the public**

Chief Daly noted that, included in the Commissioners' packets, are 16 thank you letters received over the past few weeks. The letters came from the Southington community. 13 of the letters were from Fourth Grade students at Hatton School. The three remaining were from citizens.

**Medication Drop Box** - Chief Daly also notes that, for the month of December, we took in 95.9 lbs of drugs in the medication drop box in the Police Department lobby. There was some discussion and the Town Manager assisted us with the decision to take the drugs to be burned instead of burning them ourselves because of the high volume. There was some discussion as to whether it was just for residents. Chief Daly confirms that it is just for residents, not for doctor's offices or commercial, only residents. Chief Daly stated that Sergeant Dobratz is doing a great job and keeping very busy with that. Chief Daly noted that it has been a lot more work than we thought it would be.

**5. Bills submitted for Payment.**

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Commissioner Verderame, Sr. seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:11 p.m.

**6. Old Business**

**a. Town Owned Streetlights follow up Captain Pocock, III**

Captain Pocock, III states that after the last Police Commissioners' meeting we investigated the streetlights. He stated that this is something that went way back, since 2005/2006. He confirmed that streetlights were pretty common practice for us. Every midnight shift that went out, it was standing order to check the streetlights. He states that it all comes back down to who the contractor was. Captain Pocock, III states that in 2005/2006 there were approximately 58 streetlights that were reported. When the new contractor was signed, the streetlight reports went down to 10 in 2007, 7 in 2008, 12 in 2009, and 15 in 2010. Captain Pocock, III states that we then noticed in 2012 a significant rise up to 32, directly in line with comments being made about streetlights not being checked. Officer Pocock, III confirmed that this will be addressed. He stated that we are still looking at streetlights and that it is not something we stopped doing. He confirms that the average over 7 years was 23. Captain

Pocock, III stated that Lieutenant DePalma has patrol on it once a month. But that there is no doubt that something has changed.

## **7. New Business**

- a. Safety Program Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- b. Emergency Management Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- c. Animal Control Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- d. Communications Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2013-2014
- e. Police Department Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2013-2014

Commissioner Pestillo inquired as to whether there was a step payment raise in the union contract this year. Chief Daly stated that we negotiated and that there is a new step in the contract at 17 years (204 months). Chief Daly confirmed that this is new in the contract this year since we had not settled the contract when we did last year's budget. He also confirmed that at 17 years they get a \$2,500 step and new hires are at 1, 3, 5 years and then at 17 years is the last step.

Commissioner Pestillo inquired about new positions. Chief Daly confirms that, in last year's budget, they put in for a Sergeant to reduce our overtime and the Town Manager gave us the position in the budget, but gave us no money for it. This year, assuming we still have that, we are putting in the money for that position. We should be at 67 strong, plus we are putting in for two new patrolmen and two civilians.

Commissioner Pestillo inquired about a rifle program. Captain Palmieri confirms that we have some money, that our training line was increased, the program supplies were increased and we are trying to phase it in to get more rifles on the road. Last year it was a big ticket item and it was denied, but we feel we can get the program going by using the funding in our budget. Chief Daly confirms that we are also using the JAG funds. We have a JAG grant coming and we have set aside some of the moneys from the JAG fund with the intent to go forward with more rifles. Currently our ERT (Emergency Response Team) officers carry them.

Commissioner Verderame inquired as to whether we have any semi-automatics. Captain Palmieri and Chief Daly confirm that they are all semi-automatics, but have no full-automatics. Discussion regarding number of rounds necessary in a semi-automatic concluded that 20 rounds is enough. Captain Daly notes that we cannot confirm how many bullets our officers actually carry since that is privileged information, but that the officers do have available whatever they need.

Commissioner Pestillo inquired about the car laptop computers. Captain Palmieri states that they are approximately \$6,000 a piece depending on the system.

Commissioner Pestillo inquired about replacing hats. Chief Daly confirms that is something that will be done this year.

Commissioner O'Brien inquired as to whether the police officer that handles Information Technology is actually an IT person or are we upgrading that position. Chief Daly states that if we hired a civilian, it would be upgrading. Chief Daly confirms that it is still in discussion and that we have the needs at this Police Department for a full-time trained professional to do IT work. He states that hiring a civilian who is an IT specialist, will only improve the functioning ability of this Police Department, which is why we negotiated it into the contract last negotiations. Commissioner O'Brien states that she thinks it is a great idea.

Commissioner Verderame, Sr. made a motion to approve all of the above-mentioned budgets as submitted. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:22 p.m.

**8. All other business deemed proper and appropriate to be brought before the Board at this time.**

Motion to enter into executive session was made by Commissioner Pestillo, excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. At the conclusion we will return to regular session. The Chief and Captains are included as well as the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote at 6:25 p.m.

Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 6:25 p.m.

**Executive Session**

The Southington Board of Police Commissioners entered executive session immediately following their regular meeting with the following in attendance in order to discuss personnel and contractual issues:

Chairman Richard Montague, PhD, Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner James Verderame, Sr., and Commissioner Sharon O'Brien.

Administrative staff in attendance:

John F. Daly, Chief of Police  
William Palmieri, Captain  
Edward Pocock, III, Captain

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner Verderame, Sr. made a motion to adjourn from executive session. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:17 p.m.

Executive session was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

## Regular session

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to add LEAS Grievance Number 2012-02 to the agenda. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:18 p.m.

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to deny LEAS Grievance Number 2012-02. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:19 p.m.

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to adjourn the Board of Police Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Verderame, Sr. seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:20 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Lapreay", written in black ink.

Jodi Lapreay  
Recording Secretary