

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
July 10, 2014 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 James Verderame, Sr., Commissioner Nicholas DePaola, Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner Phil Landino, and John F. Daly, Chief of Police.

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain
Lowell DePalma, Operations Captain

Richard Montague, PhD, Chair, presiding:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from the previous regular meeting, June 2014.

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2014 meeting. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. **Communications.**

- a. **Communications from the Public**

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Ave., Southington, CT attended the meeting to state the following:

Mr. Cyr stated, in regard to the bridge project, that we looked good as a Town. He believes the Police Department was very well prepared and that the whole Town worked together. The Police Department looked very well organized. No news is good news. No one was reporting any major traffic jams, etc. He thanked Lieutenant Baribault and everyone else that put the program together.

Mr. Cyr addressed the problem at the Linear Trail crossing at West Main Street in Plantsville near Deans Stove & Spa. He states that this is a very busy intersection and many people want different solutions. He saw something in the Cheshire Citizen referring to a "Hawk Signal." This is a signal that remains dark when not in operation. When a pedestrian pushes its button it cycles through intervals of flashing

and steady red and yellow lights that direct approaching traffic. Then the series also triggers a walk icon to cross. Mr. Cyr would like this possibility looked into.

Mr. Cyr distributed a map of Merrell Avenue and surrounding streets. He would like Merrell Avenue (at its intersection with North Main Street) to be changed to a one way only allowing traffic to travel up Merrell from North Main toward Oak Street. But the top half of Merrell to remain a two way; similar to the way Center Street is set up. He believes this street is used as a cut-through by people trying to avoid traffic lights. He believes the offsetting of this intersection is an issue also that causes traffic backups in that area. He believes this would alleviate some of the congestion, help with the traffic flow and cut-through issue and that widening High Street would be too costly. He would like the Board of Police Commissioners to consider putting signs up either on a temporary or permanent basis. He will also bring this issue before the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Counsel.

Officer Steve Salerno, President of the Southington Police Union distributed copies of an opinion letter from Attorney Mark Sciota regarding the supernumerary hiring process. He stated the Union never received a copy of Attorney Sciota's letter directly and that proves there is still a breakdown in communications. The Union's attorney wrote a counter opinion; a copy of which was also distributed. Officer Salerno asked the Board for the status of the Union's request for an investigation at last month's meeting. Chairman Montague confirmed that nothing had changed but that there is a possibility of those types of issues to be discussed during the Executive Session.

b. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner Pestillo states that the Police Department did a great job with respect to the bridge project. It was a big undertaking and all they have heard is good news. Southington looked fantastic.

Chairman Montague agreed with Commissioner Pestillo and added that Lieutenant Baribault and the rest of the Police Department did a terrific job.

4. Chief Jack Daly's Report to Commission.

Chief Daly announced that the State Legion awarded the Southington Police Department the "Police Department of the Year" award. In addition, Officer Tom Gallo was awarded the "Office of the Year" award. The ceremony will take place on Friday, July 11, 2014 at 2:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel Rocky Hill.

He also congratulated Officer Gallo for being appointed as the State Flag Bearer at the DARE International Conference in Texas.

In regard to the bridge project, Chief Daly congratulated all of the officers and the entire Department for stepping up to the plate. A majority of officers worked long, hard

hours so that they did not need assistance from Cheshire or the State. This was also noted in the statement released by Governor Malloy in which he commended the Southington Police Department on a great team effort.

Chief Daly wanted to publicly thank Kayla Sica for the new signs she provided for the Dog Pound as part of her Girl Scout project. These new signs were provided by her at no cost to the Town. Chief Daly distributed photographs of the new Dog Pound signs.

Also in regard to the Dog Pound, Chief Daly states that the roof has been approved as part of the Town's Capital Project that they have begun working with the Town Engineer to get the project moving to go out to bid.

Chief Daly states that he has attended meetings with the Town staff relative to the bridge reconstruction on Old Mountain Road scheduled for next year. They used the new speed trailer in that area to gather statistical data. The trailer is a great addition to the Department. The Department did a great job following up with enforcement.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police conference will be held on October 25 – 28 in Orlando, Florida. Chief Daly will be attending to keep up to date on training and current trends.

Lastly, Chief Daly states that the Department has been offered funding through the Lamb-Pocock Foundation to begin a patrol rifle program. Funding offered is \$20,000 for the first year followed by \$13,000 the second year. The administrators have met to begin discussing the program and how they want to implement it. There will be more information to follow as it progresses.

5. Bills Submitted for payment

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the bills from June 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri

a) General Order Review.

1. Supernumerary Patrol Officer Program

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the Supernumerary Patrol Officer Program General Order as submitted. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

2. Patrol Officer Selection Process

Following a few questions and comments by Commissioner Pestillo and brief discussions between the Board, Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, Detective Tillotson and Detective Dobratz; Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the Patrol Officer Selection Process General Order as modified by the Board. Commissioner Landino seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. Recruitment

Following a question and comment by Commissioner Pestillo and brief discussion between the Board, Chief Daly and Captain Palmieri; Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the Recruitment General Order as modified by the Board. Commissioner Landino seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

4. Recruitment Plan

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the Recruitment Plan General Order as submitted. Commissioner DePaola seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

5. Limits of Authority and Discretion

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to approve the Limits of Authority and Discretion General Order as submitted. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

6. Blood/Airborne Pathogen Policy

Commissioner Landino made a motion to approve the Blood/Airborne Pathogen Policy General Order as submitted. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Exposure Control Plan

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the Exposure Control Plan General Order as submitted. Commissioner Landino seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

8. Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) Taser

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) Taser General Order as submitted. Commissioner DePaola seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Commissioner DePaola inquires as to what we can do as a Town to address the issue of children being left in cars. Captain Palmieri states that this would be considered a criminal act. Commissioner DePaola would like the media to push the issue. Captain Palmieri suggests that the Department put out some type of summer tips like they do around the winter time. Captain DePalma states that, since the summer began, there have been 15 days in a row that at least one pet has been left in a car with the windows up. The public has been calling and the officers have been responding to this. The Department did put a post out on their Facebook page and out to the media regarding this issue but will do so again. Captain DePalma confirms that there have been no calls regarding children being left in cars. Other police departments in the State have not been so fortunate. Commissioner Landino inquires as to what the current law is regarding this issue and if there is some sort of age limit that the child can choose to stay in a car without a parent. Captain Palmieri states that the age does not apply. There is no age that a child can decide, on their own, to remain in a vehicle. The officer will respond regardless, but will determine what the charge will be based on each individual case. However, the Police do have the authority to do whatever they need to do to get that child out of the vehicle.

7. Operations Report by Captain DePalma.

Captain DePalma states that on June 23, 2014 the Southington Police Department participated in the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security's 2014 statewide hurricane exercise drill. The drill was held at the Calendar house on Pleasant Street. The purpose of the drill was to see how the Town and the Department addressed two particular issues.

The first issue was sheltering and mass care operations. They simulated opening a multi-jurisdictional shelter that incorporated support for the functional needs of the people that could go to a shelter. Some examples of the functional needs would be a sign in process, food, water, bedding, toilet facilities, the use of an emergency generator, etc.

The second issue was evacuation options. A functional needs-based evacuation of a local facility or area was also simulated. The particular example discussed was that if a hurricane did pass through our community, how we would be able to handle evacuation of a particular facility or area. The Town was chosen as a whole and discussions regarding the clearing of roads, establishing communications, medical facilities, and the like. In order to prepare for this exercise, they simulated preparation procedures ahead of time. Examples of this preparation would be, since they would know ahead of time that a hurricane was approaching, they would activate the local emergency operation center, establish communications with the Town Manager and department heads, etc. Local plans would be reviewed, staffing, transportation, communications, public announcements, fueling of town vehicles, securing of properties, food and other emergency issues were discussed.

While conducting the hurricane exercise/drill, they also took the opportunity to utilize the command vehicle and put it through a full scale trial to test its capabilities. A list of these capabilities were created and shared with their command staff. They will be in contact with the other departments that have a direct interest in the command vehicle.

Captain DePalma also discussed the report prepared by their School Resource Officer. A School Resource Officer is made up of four distinct components. The first component, and his main priority, is law enforcement. This also includes school security. The other components are that they expect him to be a role model, a counselor and a liaison between the Police Department and Southington High School. His report reflects his typical duties at the school. He was able to provide them with statistics during the 2013-2014 year. He is happy to report that in the previous year there were 204 incidents and this year there were 119 incidents. This reflects a decrease of 85 incidents at the school. The largest reduction was in thefts. They had 24 incidents last year this year they had 15. This year they had 15 arrests as compared to last year when they had 12. However, they had a significant reduction in referrals to the Juvenile Review Board. Last year they had 26 referrals this year they only had 4.

Commissioner Landino inquires as to whether there was a big change in drug and alcohol use. Captain DePalma states that that statistic stayed the same.

Brief discussion regarding how the Juvenile Review Board works.

Motion to enter into executive session was made by Commissioner Pestillo excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. Included in executive session were Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, and Captain DePalma. Commissioner Landino seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote.

Whereupon, The Commission went into executive session at 6:50 p.m.

9. 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 James Verderame, Sr., Commissioner Nicholas Depaola, Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner Phil Landino, Chief Jack Daly, Captain William Palmieri and Captain Lowell DePalma.

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner Landino made a motion to return to public session. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.


Executive session was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

10. Regular session

Commissioner Landino made a motion to adjourn the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Lapreay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping tail.

Jodi Lapreay
Recording Secretary