

Town of Guilford
Board of Police Commissioners
Minutes
Wednesday, July 19, 2017
5:30 P.M.
Community Room – Police Headquarters

APPROVED

Present: Commissioners: Chairman Mikolay
Commissioner Carlson
Commissioner Hedberg
Commissioner Frey

Department Members: Chief Hutchinson
Deputy Chief Hyatt

Public: Diane and Michael Barbera, Residents

Call to order at 5:30 PM.

Chairman Mikolay welcomed the members of the audience.

1. Approval of Board of Police Commissioners meeting minutes.

1.1. Approval of the Board of Police Commissioners meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 21, 2017.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Hedberg, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Commission voted to approve the meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 21, 2017, as presented.

All in favor: Mikolay, Hedberg, Frey

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

2. Public Petition/Commentary.

None.

Motion: Upon a motion made by Commissioner Hedberg, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Commission voted to delete Item 3.1. Closer to Free Ride request on the Agenda as the paperwork submitted to the Commissioners in the July packet was informational and to add Item 3.9. Whitfield Street under Traffic and Item 4.1.4. Officer Basimakopoulos Employee Excellence Award under Personnel to the Agenda.

All in favor: Mikolay, Hedberg, Frey
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

3. Traffic.

3.1. Closer to Free.

None (as removed from the Agenda).

3.2. Braking Aids Ride request.

Chief Hutchinson explained that the Closer to Free Ride paperwork was included in the Commissioners packets because that ride and the Braking Aids Ride are both on September 9, 2017. The Closer to Free Ride has previously been approved.

A review of the routes and times of the rides took place. It was agreed the same scenario happened last year and there were no conflicts. Chief Hutchinson reported that he recommended to the organizers of the Braking Aids Ride that they consider a different date. The date was not changed and the organizers will ensure there will be no conflicts.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Frey, and seconded by Commissioner Hedberg, the Commission voted to approve the Braking Aids Ride request on September 9, 2017 as presented.

All in favor: Mikolay, Hedberg, Frey
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

3.3. Vista Tour de Shore Ride request.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Hedberg, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Commission voted to approve the Vista Tour de Shore ride on October 15, 2017 as presented.

All in favor: Mikolay, Hedberg, Frey
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

3.4. Full Moon Bike Ride request.

Chief Hutchinson reviewed the circumstances of this request. The organizers of the ride voluntarily removed the ride request this year. He stated they will reconsider the ride next year. No action was taken.

3.5. State DOT pedestrian signing project.

Chief Hutchinson reviewed the State Department of Transportation pedestrian signing project with the Board of Police Commissioners and discussion took place. The Chief had discussed this with Mr. Portley, Town Engineer. Town crosswalks were reviewed. Chief Hutchinson agreed to take a tally of all the crosswalks. It was agreed the project is a positive program and a benefit that the State of Connecticut is covering the cost. The project will enable the crosswalks to be consistent and similar.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Hedberg, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Commission voted to approve the participation of the Town with the State Department of Transportation pedestrian signing project with the input of the Traffic Authority, the Town Engineer and the Chief of Police who will tally a list of the crosswalks.

All in favor: Mikolay, Carlson, Hedberg, Frey

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

3.6. North Guilford traffic signs update.

Chairman Mikolay welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Barbera and spoke about their communication regarding the signage added on Great Hill Road by The State. He opened the floor to Diane and Michael Barbera.

Mr. Barbera spoke in length about traffic on Great Hill Road and the changes in the traffic flow over thirty years of residency. He was made aware of the Board of Police Commissioners action to remove the signage on Great Hill Road (installed by the State) in the Shoreline Times. He asked that it be put on record that he and his wife feel the signs are beneficial and stated they should not be removed. He spoke about traffic control, speed and police presence on Great Hill Road. He said that Great Hill Road has become a cut-through for cars trying to avoid lights on Route 77. Mrs. Barbera agreed that the signs should remain in the area of their home.

Chairman Mikolay thanked them for their input and stated that he and Commissioner Hedberg and Chief Hutchinson took another look at the signage on Great Hill Road. The Traffic Authority and the Chief researched the road and communicated with neighbors and walkers about the signs. Chairman Mikolay reviewed the reasons why the Traffic Authority felt the need to put a stop to the State program. Chief Hutchinson stated that the program took place without any information provided to the Traffic Authority or his Department.

A lengthy discussion continued. It was agreed signs had been removed but it is not known who took them down. It was concluded some were necessary, some were not necessary, some signs were inappropriate and misleading and some were nonsensical. The Commissioners and those present agreed the project was poorly done and all traffic signs have to make sense.

Commissioner Mikolay stated that this is an ongoing project and thanked the Barbera's for their input. The Board of Police Commissioners will continue to communicate with them. The Commissioners agreed this is an ongoing discussion and no action would be taken at this time.

Chief Hutchinson stated that the Department will continue regular radar patrol and speed enforcement on Great Hill Road.

The Barbera's left the room at 6:00 PM.

3.7. Schoolside Lane update/no documents.

Chief Hutchinson updated the Board of Police Commissioners on the traffic discussion on Schoolside Lane. The Traffic Authority took a look at the signs on Schoolside Lane and an additional speed limit sign northbound will be added and the southbound sign will be refreshed. The portable speed/radar units have been ordered. Discussion took place. It was agreed that the Chief will contact the resident heading up the group of Schoolside Lane concerned neighbors.

3.8. Soundview Road update/no documents.

Chief Hutchinson has identified the locations for no parking signs on Soundview Road. Mr. Portley, Town Engineer will be provided the information on the signage.

3.9. Whitfield Street.

Commissioner Hedberg spoke about a 25 mph sign on Whitfield Street around the Guilford Green. Discussion took place. Commissioner Hedberg suggested the Board of Police Commissioners petition the State to change the signs to 15 mph and add a sign going southbound. Commissioner Carlson suggested if the Police Commissioners consider petitioning a change of speed limit on Whitfield Street, all roads that wrap around the Green should be the same speed limit.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Hedberg, and seconded by Commissioner Carlson, the Commission voted to request the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation to change the speed limit signs on Whitfield Street to 15 mph and to wrap 15 mph speed limit signs around the Guilford Green for consistency.

All in favor: Mikolay, Carlson, Hedberg, Frey

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

4. **Committee Reports.**

4.1. Personnel.

4.1.1. I.A. 2017-01. May require Executive Session.

Chief Hutchinson reviewed I.A. 2017-01 with the Board of Police Commissioners and action taken.

4.1.2. FYI-Resignation letter.

Detective Marilisa Anania resigned from the department. She will continue to pursue her career in law enforcement.

4.1.3. Recruit update.

Chief Hutchinson reviewed staffing with the Board of Police Commissioners. There are four recruits attending the Academy at this time. He reviewed specific staffing circumstances and reported the department is down eight patrol officers on the road. Officer McPhillips will come off FTO next week. Officer Potter is on FTO. The Chief forecasted an increase in replacement with 35% of patrol down and expressed the difficulty of managing this situation.

Discussion took place on another lateral hiring process and it was agreed to begin another process.

4.1.4. Officer Basimakopoulos-Employee Excellence Award.

Commissioner Mikolay commended Officer Basimakopoulos, on behalf of the entire Board of Police Commissioners, on a job well done and congratulated him on the award.

4.2. Communications.

4.2.1. Correspondence from Special Olympics regarding the Torch Run.

Chairman Mikolay summarized correspondence thanking Lieutenant Bernier and Officer Morrell for their work regarding the Torch Run. The Board of Police Commissioners recognize their work and commitment to Special Olympics.

4.2.2. Correspondence from the First Congregational Church to the Chief of Police.

Chairman Mikolay summarized the note from the First Congregational Church.

4.3. Budget/Finance.

4.3.1. Budget 2016/2017.

Chief Hutchinson reviewed the 2016/2017 fiscal year budget with the Board of Police Commissioners. A projected give back to the Town from the police budget was discussed.

4.3.2. Budget 2017/2018.

Chief Hutchinson reviewed correspondence received from the First Selectman referencing the unapproved budget of the State of Connecticut for this fiscal year. A review took place.

4.4. Facilities/Equipment.

4.4.1. FYI-Portable speed/radar units. No documents.

Chief Hutchinson reported the speed/radar units have been ordered.

5. Monthly Reports.

A review of the monthly reports took place. Motor vehicle enforcement was discussed. The upcoming distracted driving initiative takes place the beginning of August.

6. Old Business.

None.

7. New Business.

None.

8. Executive Session.

None.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commission Hedberg, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 P.M.

All in favor: Mikolay, Carlson, Hedberg, Frey

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Respectfully submitted: Lucy Krauchick, Clerk of the Board of Police Commissioners