

**Board of Police Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
5:30 P.M. at Police Headquarters**

Present: Board Members: Paul Chello, Carrie Federici, Charles Frey, Michael Mikolay, Robert Welsh

Department Members: Chief Jeffrey Hutchinson, Deputy Chief Warren Hyatt

Others: FBI Special Agent Brian Turner, Attorney Chris Hodgson; Attorney Mike Rose; Karen Quercia, Acting Clerk

Call to order.

Vice Chairman Mikolay called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Frey, and seconded by Commissioner Chello, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to add Item 1.2, Remove from table and approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 meeting.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

1. Approval of prior meeting minutes

1.1 Approval of the regular meeting minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners of August 21, 2019.

Commissioner Chello asked that the minutes be amended to show that he was present, arriving at the end of the meeting.

It was noted that due to the lack of a quorum of members present at the August meeting, the minutes will be accepted, rather than approved, by the Commission.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Mikolay, and seconded by Commissioner Welsh, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to accept the minutes of the August 21, 2019 meeting as amended.

In Favor: Mikolay, Welsh
Opposed: None
Abstained: Frey, Chello, Federici

1.2 Remove from table and approve the regular meeting minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners of July 17, 2019.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Frey, and seconded by Commissioner Chello, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 Board of Police Commissioners meeting as presented.

In Favor: Chello, Frey, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: Federici, Mikolay.

Vice Chairman Mikolay asked for a motion to move Items 7.1 and 7.2 up on the agenda.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Chello, and seconded by Commissioner Welsh, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to move up Agenda Items 7.1 Board of Police Commission-Officer Elections, and Item 7.2 Presentation by Brian Turner, FBI Special Agent in Charge-New Haven.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

7.1 Board of Police Commission-Officer Elections (no documents)

Vice Chairman Mikolay called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. Commissioner Frey nominated Commissioner Welsh. There being no further nominations, Commissioner Mikolay called for a vote.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Frey, and seconded by Commissioner Mikolay, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to approve Commissioner Robert Welsh as Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Chairman Welsh welcomed Commissioner Federici to the Commission. Chairman Welsh called for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners. Commissioner Chello nominated Commissioner Mikolay. There being no further nominations, Chairman Welsh called for a vote.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Chello, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to approve Commissioner Michael Mikolay as Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

The Commissioners discussed appointments to the Board of Police Commissioners sub-committees. It was noted that Commissioner Chello has experience with both personnel negotiations and facilities; Commissioner Frey has experience with finance (grants), and facilities; and Commissioner Mikolay has experience with personnel negotiations and traffic. The following appointments were agreed upon, additional appointments to the Facilities and Finance Committees will be determined at a future meeting.

Traffic Committee: Commissioner Mikolay and Commissioner Federici
 Personnel: Commissioner Mikolay and Commissioner Chello
 Facilities Committee: Commissioner Chello
 Finance: Commissioner Frey

7.2 Presentation by Brian Turner, FBI Special Agent in Charge-New Haven.

FBI Special Agent Brian Turner explained the advantages of having a local law enforcement officer assigned as an FBI Task Force Officer.

2. Public Petition/Commentary

None

3. Traffic

3.1. Signage/Traffic Enforcement

3.1.1 2019T10-Request for crosswalk at Concept Park/Village Walk.

This request was originally submitted to the First Selectman's Office, and was reviewed by Town Engineer Janice Plaziak. There currently exists a traffic control signal to allow for pedestrian crossing at this intersection. The Town Engineer's only recommendation for the Police Commission was that they could request that the CT DOT stripe the crosswalk.

Commissioner Mikolay commented that he did not think it would hurt to make the request and let the State determine whether the striping is needed.

Commissioner Chello stated that he felt striping the crosswalk was not appropriate, and was superfluous. He noted that striping the crosswalk could be detrimental to traffic flow, and possibly cause more harm than good.

Chief Hutchinson suggested that the department get a pedestrian count at the intersection to further evaluate whether to make a request for a crosswalk from the CT DOT.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Chello, and seconded by Commissioner Federici, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to table this item until more information on pedestrian counts can be obtained.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

3.1.2 Request by resident to purchase Speed Awareness Sign.

The Police Department currently has five speed awareness signs deployed around town. Their effectiveness is driven by their random placement and duration of their placement in any one location. The longer they are in a location they lose their effectiveness, as drivers become complacent.

The decision to allow the public to purchase and place speed awareness signs on town roads will be a public policy decision the Police Commission would have to make. The police department would not be responsible for maintaining or replacing the signs. The signs would not change enforcement.

Chairman Welsh felt it would set a bad precedent to allow individual neighborhoods to control street signs on local roads.

The Commissioners agreed that the Chief should advise the resident that the department will continue to support speed control efforts as they have been doing.

3.2. Runs/Rides

3.2.1 2019R16-Crop Walk for Hunger-October 6, 2019.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Mikolay, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to approve the Crop Walk for Hunger being held on October 6, 2019.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

4. Committee Reports

4.1 Facilities/Equipment

4.1.1 Facilities/Equipment update (no documents).

Deputy Chief Hyatt advised that Town Facilities Manager Steve Neydorff will provide approximately \$80,000 from the energy conservation funds to replace and upgrade the VAV valves for the HVAC system.

The Dispatch and server areas have their own air conditioning systems that do not pull all the moisture out of those areas. A new system will be installed that preheats the air going into the AC systems to reduce the amount of moisture.

The Commission and Department expressed their appreciation to Facilities Manager Steve Neydorff for his department's efforts to resolve these problems and to secure the funding to make the repairs.

4.2 Personnel

4.2.1 Open Sergeant Position (no documents).

The Commission agreed to table this item until they have discussed Item 9, Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

4.2.2 Open Officer Position (no documents).

As this vacancy was not expected, the department did not secure a seat at the academy. The next opening at the academy would not be until April. Therefore realistically, a new hire would not start until a year from next April. The Chief recommended that the department try to hire an officer through the lateral process.

4.3 Communications

None

4.4 Budget/Finance

4.4.1 Budget Report FY 2019/2020.

As it is still early in the fiscal year, there is nothing notable to report. A surplus in the salary line is anticipated due to the open position.

5. Monthly Reports

The Chief will provide the Commissioners with the staff meeting information.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

See above

8. Police Personnel Comments

None

9. Executive Session

9.1 Discuss pending litigation.

Motion: Upon a motion by Commissioner Mikolay, and seconded by Commissioner Frey, the Board of Police Commissioners voted to enter Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Attorney Mike Rose, Attorney Chris Hodgson, Chief Hutchinson, and Deputy Chief Hyatt were invited to remain in Executive Session.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

The Commission moved out of Executive Session and into Public Session at 7:00 p.m.

No motions were made or actions taken in Executive Session. Item 4.2.1 remains tabled.

Motion: Upon a Motion by Commissioner Chello, and seconded by Commissioner Mikolay, the Commission voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm.

In Favor: Chello, Federici, Frey, Mikolay, Welsh

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Quercia
Acting Clerk

Chief Hutchinson
(Executive Session)