



**WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Convene Regular Meeting
Chairman Richard Antonetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman
Jamie Hobart Lambo
Robert McCarthy

ABSENT: David Jannetty, V. Chairman
Richard Rossi, Secretary

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ronald Russ
Carmine Verno

ALTERNATES
ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief
Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief

Ronald Russ sat in for Richard Rossi as a regular member.
Carmine Verno sat in for David Jannetty as a regular member.

3. Public Participation

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place talked about the agenda on the website. Ms. Camara talked about the June 2022 meeting with discussion on gun control and safety at meetings.

4. Minutes Approval

a. Regular Meeting – April 12, 2023

Motion: Ron Russ seconded by Robert McCarthy to accept meeting minutes of April 12, 2023.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

5. Correspondence

Jamie Hobart Lambo read correspondence from Jennifer Murphy at Neil Drive in regards to obstruction of view with parked vehicles on street.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief stated there are no parking restrictions on Neil Drive. As far as Connecticut Statutes is concerned with parking is does prohibit parking anywhere near the crest grade where the site line dips below 150 feet. Without doing a site line survey up at that location I would be unable to advise the commission if we are meeting that threshold or not. to consider whether or not to restrict parking for any portion of that roadway. My recommendation is to have the regional accident investigation team be tasked with doing a site line survey in that area with their instruments. They would be able to tell what the site line is, then I can bring that information back within a month or two to the commission.

Chairman Richard Antonetti stated we as a commission can make a decision at that time until we get that information for site distance.

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Ronald Russ I make a motion to do a site line study at the intersection of East Wood Hall and Neil Drive.

Motion passed

6. New Business

a. Discussion regarding new police department location. - the commission will review the documents dated 2020 along with the space needs assessment presented to the council. Mr. Antonetti wanted to have discussion on where the new station will be built and to move forward.

7. Old Business

a. Police Department Budget Update – at the Public Hearing a couple of weeks ago the public spoke nearly unanimously requesting the council to reinstate the \$200,000 to the municipal budget and the \$800,000 to the BOE. The council voted affirmatively to reinstate that entire money back into the budget which will be going to referendum on May 23rd. That reinstatement gives us our second officer back in the budget.

b. Update on Speed Reader locations. – of our 4 speed readers: one is still inoperable awaiting an insurance claim to get repaired, one on Nova Scotia Hill Road near Route 6, one is on Honey Hill Road, and the other one is still on Middlebury Road.

c. Kilorin/Wheeler Farm Road Intersection – there was discussions on doing a stencil and a stop ahead sign back a little more rather than at the stopping bar to give motorists warning that there is a stop sign ahead and speed humps or speed bumps to slow vehicles down.

Chairman Richard Antonetti stated let's first wait and see as far as developments trying the various ways to curb people running the stop sign.

8. Chairman's Report – none.

9. Chief's Report

a. April 2023– Monthly Department Activity Report

Joshua Bernegger reported:

- 1) The Watertown Police Department will be dedicating a monument to all K-9's who have served the Town of Watertown, past and present, at a formal dedication ceremony to be held on Thursday, June 8th at 1pm in the front of police headquarters. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be Friday, June 9th at 1pm. All commissioners are invited to attend.
- 2) Master Sergeant Todd Robinson will be retiring from the force at the end of May after honorably serving the community for 30 years.
- 3) Officer Rey Torres was promoted to the rank of sergeant at a ceremony held at police headquarters this past Thursday.
- 4) The Watertown Police Department welcomed Officer Michael Wolfson to the force on Monday, May 8th. Ofc. Wolfson is a certified police officer having served on the Hartford Police Department for the previous five years.
- 5) The Town Council voted to reinstate the second officer in the police department proposed budget for FY 23-24. As of now, if the referendum passes, we can add two officers to the sworn ranks, which makes 42 total sworn.
- 6) In collaboration with the Board of Education, the DARE program will be starting up again in the fall. Officer Donston will be instructing 6th grade classes in the DARE curriculum.

Chairman Richard Antonetti asked about visiting a newer police facility if it could be arranged in the future.

The consensus of the commission is that they would like to go.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief noted there is no lack of support for this project and that it is coming down to timing for bonding and debt service.

Police Commission
Regular Meeting
April 12, 2023
Page 4

10. Adjournment

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Ronald Russ to adjourn the Regular Meeting
At 7:52 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Richard Antonetti
Watertown Police Commission