



**WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Convene Regular Meeting
Vice Chair David Jannetty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: David Jannetty, V. Chairman
Richard Rossi, Secretary
Jamie Hobart Lambo
Robert McCarthy

ABSENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman

ALTERNATES Carmine Verno
PRESENT:

ALTERNATES Ronald Russ
ABSENT:

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

Carmine Verno sat in as a regular member for this meeting.

3. Public Participation
Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place talked about vehicles parked next to the stop signs and stating it is illegal. Ms. Camara handed out an appeal on a decision of a complaint.

Vice Chair David Jannetty wanted the record to reflect that Katherine Camara hand delivered a document addressed to the Watertown Police Commission regarding an appeal of Chief Bernegger's December 18, 2023 decision on complaint dated November 28, 2023 police department employee. David Jannetty asked if there could be something in the local newspaper regarding parking near stop signs.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered yes, and we can post it on our social media page as well.

Vice Chair David Jannetty added I would also encourage Ms. Camara if you see that to make the call to the Police Department so they can address it right away.

4. Minutes Approval
a. Regular Meeting – December 13, 2023

Motion: Robert McCarthy seconded by Carmine Verno to accept meeting minutes of December 13, 2023.

Discussion: none.

Aye: 3 Jannetty, McCarthy, Verno
Nay: 0
Abstain: 2 Lambo, Rossi

Motion passes

5. Correspondance – none.

6. New Business – None.

7. Old Business

a. Update on DOT action regarding a flashing beacon sign on Woodbury Road, just prior to the intersection with Wolf Hill Road. – no update.

b. Possible action regarding a request for a “Stop” sign at the intersection of Barnes Road and Bunker Hill Road.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief stated the Deputy Chief and I have been out to that site twice and have looked it over. As you know installing a stop sign requires very specific warrants that are detailed in the manual for traffic control devices. There is a liability on putting up stop signs, we want to make sure if we authorizing them, we are putting them up for legitimate reasons. The issue with that particular intersection it may be possibly be a site line

issue. Our recommendation is to have our regional crash reconstruction team do a site line study at that intersection and to come back with actual data to the commission for you to consider action on this item. At a minimum there could be better signage and possibly roadway markings.

Vice David Jannetty stated I also visited the intersection recently and found there is likely a line of site issue there and welcomed taking on a site line study.

Richard Rossi asked if there were any recorded incidents at that intersections recent or near past.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief answered we looked back five years on our accident history at that intersection and we have not had any collisions at that intersection in the last 5 years.

Robert McCarthy stated I was up there today also I know exactly what you are saying, it is a steep hill and I did count the houses that are on Barnes Road but I agree with you.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief added it is not just the houses that are on Barnes Road, it's a through road right over to Lake Winnamaug Road so you do get through traffic on that road.

Vice Chair David Jannetty added it is also a cut through for Hamilton Avenue.

8. Chairman's Report – Happy New Year to all.

9. Chief's Report

a. December 2023– Monthly Department Activity Report

Joshua Bernegger reported:

- 1) The Watertown Police Department's sworn ranks are fully staffed with 42 members. Of these 42 members, 2 are on field training and 1 is in the academy. One additional member is on maternity duty.
- 2) Our Youth Police Academy began Monday evening and will be meeting for the next eight weeks.
- 3) A Citizens Police Academy is being planned, which is anticipated to start in early February.
- 4) The Watertown Police Department is partnering with Southern Connecticut State University and our very own Sun, Moon & Stars autism group to host a "mock traffic stops" session at Watertown High School on Saturday, April 6th. Waterbury and Naugatuck Police Departments will be assisting with the event also. The intent of the event is to allow autistic drivers and/or family members to experience a traffic stop to help alleviate misunderstandings and anxieties.
- 5) Our Patrol Division has been proactively enforcing the Winter Parking Ban on Watertown roadways. During the snowstorm last week the police department dealt with only nine parking ban violations, and only ticketed and towed four of those vehicles.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Jamie Lambo seconded by Robert McCarthy to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

David Jannetty
Vice Chair