



**WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION  
IN PERSON REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL  
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD  
WATERTOWN, CT  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 - 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  
Jamie Hobart Lambo  
Robert McCarthy

ABSENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman  
Richard Rossi, Secretary

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Ronald Russ  
Carmine Verno

ALTERNATES  
ABSENT:

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

Carmine Verno will be seated as a regular member

3. Public Participation  
Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue asked the board if the meeting could be on zoom for the public to watch.

Katherine Camara 31 Cottage handed out to the commission a copy of the application for the Town and talked about nepotism.

4. Minutes Approval
  - a. Regular Meeting – December 14, 2022  
Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Ronald Russ to accept meeting minutes of December 14, 2022.

Discussion: none.

Motion passes

5. Correspondance – none.

6. New Business
  - a. Police Department Budget – Police Chief Joshua Bernegger gave a presentation on the proposed budget under the six departments for Administrative, Patrol-Detective, Maintenance & Support, Traffic, Animal Control and Communication for 23/24.

7. Old Business
  - a. Update pm speed reader locations – The speed readers remain in the same locations for the past two months on Bamford Avenue and Riverside Street. They will be moved to three new locations in the coming weeks.

b. Update and possible action re: the emergency gate issue at Watertown H.S. – the request was made for the gates to be closed from the board for further feedback. I have not received any feedback from either the Principal or the Superintendent. When the Deputy Chief and I were there back in December observing the parking lot empty out, when the gates were closed added approximately five minutes of time to that parking lot emptying out. We did not observe any unsafe conditions.

Vice Chair David Jannetty stated in the interest of the residents and their concerns of the opening of this gate especially during morning and afternoon school hours a motion is in order regarding this issue.

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Carmine Verno to advice the Superintendent of Schools to keep the emergency back gate closed allowing for the principal and or Superintendent to open it during extenuating circumstances only.

Discussion: none.

Motion passes

c. Update re: Speed Auto-Enforcers and Red Light Cameras – Police Chief Joshua Bernegger reached out to Travel Logic to install one on a trial basis. They corrected me and informed me they only sell product that does speed radar enforcement, not red-light running speeding enforcement, they do not have a product to fulfil our request.

Vice Chair David Jannetty stated without any objection from the board members that we will wait to see the outcome of any legislation on this matter.

Hearing no objections from the board.

d. Possible action re: installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Oak Drive and Oak Drive

Vice Chair David Jannetty stated the Chief told us last month he did go up there and looked at the location and recommended that a stop sign be installed where the Oak Drive looped with the main road.

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Ronald Russ to install a stop sign at Oak Drive where the street terminates.

Discussion: none.

Motion passes

8. Chairman's Report: Happy New Year to all. Thank you for all the well wishes. I look forward to recovering and getting back to our meeting soon.

9. Chief's Report

a. December 2022– Monthly Department Activity Report – none.

Police Chief Joshua Bernegger reported:

The only item I would like to inform the commission about is back in 2019 the Watertown Police Department partnered with an organization called the Center for Policing Equity. To have that organization do a deep dive into 7 years of Watertown Police Department statistical data involving use of force in motor vehicle stops and calls for service to determine if there were any racial or ethnic disparities with the Watertown Police Department. It was an opportunity to provide some feedback from an unbiased outside group. They have finished their analysis and are going to be producing a report in the coming month. They are going to be in Town in late January just to do a site visit. I would like to have them to speak to some of the police commissioners, I will be in touch with you to see if we can arrange some brief meetings. They will be speaking to community members, to our staff at the Police Department, possibly Town Council members, Town Manager, etc. other stake holders in the community to get a feel for the Town of Watertown. We will be doing a public roll out of that report in the coming months.

Police Chief Joshua Bernegger noted we mentioned at the last meeting Lieutenant Girourd retired and we contacted South Central Criminal Justice Association to conduct a Lieutenant's promotional exam. We are still in the application period for that, I would expect two or three Sergeants to apply for that Lieutenant's exam and it should be administered in late February. We should have a promotion by early March.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Carmine Verno to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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David Jannetty, Vice Chair  
Watertown Police Commission