



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

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Convene Regular Meeting
Vice Chair David Jannetty called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

ABSENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman
Jamie Hobart Lambo
Robert McCarthy

ALTERNATES Ronald Russ
PRESENT: Carmine Verno

ALTERNATES
ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief

Ronald Russ and Carmine Verno were seated as regular members.

3. Public Participation – none.

4. Minutes Approval
 - a. Regular Meeting – January 11, 2023

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Ronald Russ to accept meeting minutes of January 11, 2023.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

5. Correspondance – none.

6. New Business – None.

7. Old Business

- a. Police Department Budget – Mr. Bernegger reported I am attending our second review of the budget with the Town Manager tomorrow afternoon at that time I generally learn what the first round of cuts are or alternations are going to be for the Town Council.

- b. Update on Speed Reader locations - Mr. Bernegger reported we still have one on Middlebury Road and we moved two of them to new locations on Park Road near Jericho and on Buckingham Street mid-way between John Trumbull and Polk School.

- c. Update on Speed Reader/Auto-Auto-Enforcer (Guardian Enforcer Plus Camera) - Mr. Bernegger passed out packets for each commissioner and commented the company that did a presentation here a couple of months ago gave specifications and quotes on the product they sell for the commission's review.

- d. Update on emergency gate issue at Watertown High School - Mr. Bernegger reported that the gate has been inspected and it has remained closed having no complaints from the school or from the neighborhood.

8. Chairman's Report – none.

Vice Chair David Jannetty commented Mr. Antonetti is still experiencing some health issues and to keep him in your thoughts and prayers, feel free to reach out to him with encouraging thoughts.

9. Chief's Report

a. January 2023– Monthly Department Activity Report

Joshua Bernegger reported:

- 1) A promotional exam process for the rank of lieutenant will take place on February 22nd. We have three candidates who have applied for the promotion. It is anticipated that the successful candidate will be promoted in early March. Another sergeant will be promoted at the same time.
- 2) A conditional offer of employment has been extended to a new entry applicant. The Watertown Police Department is currently conducting a background investigation on this applicant. The Watertown Police Department has a seat reserved in the April 6, 2023 police academy in Meriden.
- 3) A Certified Officer process has been opened up on PoliceApp.com to fill Lt. Girouard's vacancy. Only three applications have been received. A candidate will be interviewed later this week.
- 4) The High School gate has been closed. No issues have been reported.
- 5) The stop sign at the intersection of Oak Drive and Oak Drive has been installed.
- 6) The Center for Policing Equity will be conducting a site visit in Watertown from February 21-23, and would like to present their analysis of the Watertown PD data at the regularly scheduled March 8th meeting of the Police Commission if the Commission agrees.
- 7) The Watertown Police Department's application form has been updated to mirror the Town's application.
- 8) In checking with the Town Manager's Office, please be advised that these commission meetings can be both in person and virtual if the commission elects to make them so.

Mr. Bernegger added from the stats, our motor vehicle stops are moving upwards. We are making a concerted effort to address traffic concerns in town. It continues to be our number complaint from residents. I am very pleased that patrol is responding and getting out there and enforcing our traffic laws in town.

Vice Chair David Jannetty stated we will include the presentation for The Center for Policing Equity at the next meeting in March. He also stated he agrees to have the zoom function so anyone who cannot make it physically here can simply hear the meeting. He also commented he has seen police officers out there with enforcement on Riverside Street, Tower Road and French Street.

Ronald Russ asked if the Town Manager and the Town Council are aware of these reports and what the police officers are trying to do.

Mr. Bernegger answered the Town Manager does receive these reports. The Police Commission and the Town Manager are the two entities that receive these reports. I am not certain if he forwards it to Town Council or not.

Ronald Russ commented that it would be in the best interest if they were aware of what the department is doing, the lack of officers and why we need more.

Mr. Bernegger answered I will collaborate with the Town Manager on that, I don't normally send things directly to Town Council, I leave that up to the discretion of the Town Manager.

Vice Chair David Jannetty noted we do have a liaison for the Town Council and that liaison gets the same reports that we get. It is his job is to share information between the commission and the Town Council but I agree with you that is important.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Ronald Russ to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

David Jannetty, Vice Chair
Watertown Police Commission