



**WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES**

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL  
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD  
WATERTOWN, CT  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 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  
David Jannetty, V. Chairman  
Richard Rossi, Secretary  
Jamie Hobart Lambo  
Robert McCarthy

ABSENT:

ALTERNATES

PRESENT: Carmine Verno

ALTERNATES

ABSENT: Ronald Russ

OTHERS PRESENT: Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief

3. Public Participation  
Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue Mr. Mickel had concerns about the budget for the Police Department being cut.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place stated she would not be supporting the budget and stated she often see cuts made to the Police Department budget and that is the one departments she wants to see the least amount of cuts happen. She said she did not want to see half a million spent on the HVAC system and asked about the discussions with the new Police Department or a refurbished Police Department. She also talked about a roof needed

at the Senior Center and asked about the new Senior Center to be put up. She heard that there was going to be third Fire Department which is not needed.

Robert Desena, 80 Parkman Street talked about the number of Police officers in the Police Department that are needed. He talked about years back up until the number we have. Mr. Desena stated we if we lose one that is not good but we cannot lose two.

Chair Richard Antonetti asked Jerry Lukowski to meet with the commission for questions or concerns they might have.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director talked about the areas he covers such as the roads, the highway, the transfer system, the Engineering Department and recently the Water & Sewer Department. He talked about the upcoming projects: the Woolson Street Bridge and the realignment of Guernseytown Road. Mr. Lukowski talked about grant fundings that are coming in. He talked about the great team he has working in the same direction. He talked about other areas of maintenance such as the take down of trees and the clearing of right aways.

David Jannetty commented on the Main Street and Candee Hill Road to the Gazebo near Route 6, the traffic is unbearable. He talked about a rerouting of traffic plan traveling parallel which was never acted upon and asked if it could be looked at again.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director noted the large file in regards to Main Street and improvements being done with flashing beacons, a new sidewalk and having one way roads to alleviate traffic off of Main Street.

Chair Richard Antonetti talked about the road safety audit and the cutting down on road cuts near St. Johns for the wall and sidewalk. Mr. Antonetti talked about the sliding of a hillside near the car wash asking for the possibility of state or federal government funding.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director stated we do have a lot of work ahead of us for all the roads that are in the town.

Chair Richard Antonetti asked if a list has been prepared for the roads.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director answered yes, they are racked and stacked all we need is funding. We had a questionnaire and the number one vote was the roads having a 5-million-dollar bond and also 1.5 million in ARPA funding that is getting us going but we need more funding. Another issue is drainage and flooding across the town, I am working with Planning & Zoning for the maintenance of the detention basins.

David Jannetty asked the bridge at Riverside having a lot of sediment having the possibility of exacerbating the situation.

Jerry Lukowski, Public Works Director answered we have to get it out, it is all part of our work schedule and funding. We were in there once before and we have to get in there again,

the other one is Turkey Brook. We need to clean our basins and we are working with FEMA. I do believe in OPM, federal and state that is what we need in order to help us with all these projects, our goal is to get that funding.

4. Minutes Approval
  - a. Regular Meeting – March 8, 2023

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by David Jannetty name to accept meeting minutes of March 8, 2023.

Discussion:

Aye: 4 Jannetty, Rossi, Lambo, McCarthy  
Nay: 0  
Abstain : 1 Antonetti

Motion passes

5. Correspondance – none.
6. New Business
  - a. Intersection of Bayview, Killorin and Wheeler Farm Road.

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief stated we were out there for a month, during the morning rush and the 3 or 4 o'clock doing traffic enforcement. Many times the officers found there was a low traffic there, we did give infractions, written and verbal warnings for violating that stop sign. Half of the violations for that stop sign lived in that neighborhood, the other half were outsiders from different towns. What was done there was stop ahead signs on Killorin having reflective tape, hopefully the neighborhood is seeing those as a tool to help people to stop down there. We did put temporary stop signs up there, one was removed and one was stolen. Beyond continuing enforcement and the stop sign ahead signs anything else would be a cost to the town to improve that any further. There is no road design that could improve that intersection. She thought it was important to reach out to the people who had the concerns to see their perception of us being up there.

Carmine Verno spoke and said couple of days after he went there, he witnessed exactly what they said and the problems expressed are valid. He talked to one of the concerned residents it was noted that when the stop signs came in, they were helpful especially the temporary ones, the neighbor also like the reflectors on the sign. He said they did see the patrol officers up there but after the removal of signs and enforcement they were back to the same predicament. Mr. Verno noted there are no speed limit signs on that road.

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief stated maybe there could be a lighting problem there.

Jamie Hobart Lambo noted living on Wheeler Farm saw a significant improvement when you had the sign. There is a difference when you are gone, the cars on Killorin are the problem, it is still a problem, the road on Killorin has a deep corner and is very dark.

Chair Raymond Antonetti stated commissioners have been looking into the LED stop signs.

Vice Chair David Jannetty stated I saw one in Naugatuck and they are solar powered, there is LED lights all around the sign and they blink.

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief stated they added a stop sign ahead to alert the driver and those are in place in both directions.

Chair Raymond Antonetti we could have public works add the white stop line and public works could initiate that action.

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by David Jannetty: I make a motion to have Public Works initiate placing stop bars on the intersection of Killorin Road at Bayview and Wheeler Farm.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Old Business

a. Police Department Budget Update – tough year for budget processing, it was recommended for 3 officers to full staffing of 40 members.

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief stated the chief initially put in for 3 to bring our number up to 43. It was our understanding that 2 will be cut due to the increase in budget which will be 40 for full staff.

Vice Chair David Jannetty stated I believe a couple of months ago the commission voted to the recommendation of 3 officers, that still stands.

Chair Richard Antonetti stated commissioner Desena our liaison will bring word to the council for the hiring of three new officers.

b. Update on speed Reader locations – we moved them last week, there is one at Nova Scotia between Beech and Route 6 and the second one is on Honey Hill Road at Northfields. The third one is still at Middlebury Road and the fourth one is awaiting repair.

8. Chairman's Report

Richard Antonetti reported:

There was a headline in the paper stating The Watertown Police will add Sensory Kits.

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief talked about the sensory kit process and equipment used to be kept in cruisers.

Chair Richard Antonetti talked about the newspaper article regarding grants for police cameras.

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief stated that the Police Department found out last week that they have been awarded the funds.

Chair Richard Antonetti stated this could resolve some complaints between the Police Department and the community.

9. Chief's Report

a. March 2023– Monthly Department Activity Report

Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief read the report:

- 1) Recruit Officer Justin Failla started the police academy this past Thursday, and is expected to graduate in October. A background investigation is being completed on a lateral applicant who is expected to start in a few weeks.
- 2) 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the front of police headquarters. In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. All commissioners are invited to attend.
- 3) The Watertown Police Department has been assigned the duties of Blight Enforcement by the Town Manager. Sergeant David Ciarleglio has been assigned to handle Blight Enforcement duties.
- 4) Master Sergeant Todd Robinson will be retiring from the force at the end of May after honorably serving the community for 30 years.
- 5) Officer Rey Torres will be promoted to the rank of sergeant at a ceremony held at police headquarters on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 2pm. All commissioners are invited to attend.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Jamie Hobart Lambo seconded by Robert McCarthy to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

---

Richard Antonetti, Chair  
Watertown Police Commission