

Suffield Police Commission
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 22, 2009

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2009 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Jack Quinn, Linda Stevenson, Matt Joyal, John Zavisza and Peter Hill. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Capt. David Bourque, Officer Peter Osowiecki and Recording Secretary Karen McKown. Mr. Bob Lowell was present for public input.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. by Chairman Miner.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Miner read the following:

- Two agendas from the Police Commissioners Association of Ct. Several Commissioners stated they will be attending one of the meetings that will have Dr. Henry Lee as a guest speaker and they invited others to attend with them.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Mr. Bob Lowell of Mapleton Ave. stated he was present to protest, like he did last year. He said he was extremely dismayed to find the Suffield Police Explorers had, once again, used a telephone solicitation service as a fund raiser. Mr. Lowell wants a written policy against telephone calls. Mr. Zavisza and Mr. Miner agreed that telephone solicitation was not the best ways for the Explorers to proceed. Mr. Miner said Officer Antrum is basically on his own with regards to the Explorers and he is probably in need of help with alternative suggestions and ideas to secure funds. Officer Antrum has stated that if he did an event such as a spaghetti dinner, he would probably see a few hundred dollars profit. Unfortunately, the Explorer program is in need of thousands of dollars to remain at the level they have achieved.

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS: MARCH 18, 2009

Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Hill and unanimously approved.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Finance – Capt. Bourque said he recommended approaching the Board of Selectmen, in mid May, and then on to the Board of Finance, to request a transfer from our payroll line item to vehicle purchase for the purchase 1, possibly 2 cruisers. A vote on this will be held later in the meeting.

Discussion was held regarding cuts to the department in the next F/Y's budget, probably at least \$5,000, perhaps as much as \$10,000. The Town is looking for concessions from unions in town, but hasn't been successful so far.

Mr. Zavisza motioned to accept, with Mr. Hill seconding, all the department reports as presented, to include budget, finance, activity, Detective Bureau, K-9, and evaluations, barring any questions the commissioners might have. Discussion:

Activity – No comments

K-9 – No comments

D.B. There was a note included in the D.B. report from a gentleman who was afforded time to produce vehicle papers (registration). The note was a thank-you to Mark Sargent for affording him to time to get his paperwork in order.

Evaluations – 1 evaluation arrived too late to be placed in commission packets. No comments on the content.

When a vote was called to accept the department reports, the motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Mr. Miner said a citizen has requested, and he concurred that the Chief's report be included as part of the Commission minutes. The Chief's report is attached.

Chief Manzi added that the U.S. Supreme Court has just ruled that search of a motor vehicle following an arrest of an occupant, can no longer be done. Formerly, "search incident to arrest" allowed officers to search a motor vehicle for contraband or weapons immediately after an arrest. The Court has ruled that only the area that the suspect could have reached inside the vehicle is available for search. After this ruling, if a search is needed, an officer will have to have the vehicle towed, and then apply for a search warrant, wait until the paperwork is completed and then conduct the search. The Chief felt this decision was wrong, and ties the hands of the police.

There will soon be a number of bicycle/motor-cycle "rides" coming through Suffield. These rides have been held in the past and there have been no problems, so far.

The Chief learned that Father DeVito of Sacred Heart Church was not satisfied with the level of police service the church received following services during Christmas and Easter. On Easter Sunday, during the time an officer would normally have been there to assist motorists leaving church, 7 calls for service came in to police H.Q. Among these were medical calls, and motor vehicle accidents, with injuries. The Chief hopes Father can understand that calls for police service have to be prioritized. It was suggested that, like the schools, perhaps someone from the church congregation could be trained to direct traffic.

(End of Chief's report)

Ms. Stevenson made a motion to accept the Chief's report seconded by Mr. Quinn and approved unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENT

Mr. Miner said the B.O.F. stated they would like the issue of a large monetary donation to the police association back on their agenda for June.

Mr. Zavisza asked if a traffic counter was going to be set up on Halladay Ave. He was told it would be. Chief Manzi had reviewed a traffic study done at that location a few years ago, and he concurs with the findings of that study. He said a stop sign at that location would be more hazardous than not.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hill made a motion to request from the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance in mid-May, a transfer of funds from the police payroll to the police vehicle purchase line item, for the purchase of 1, possibly 2, new police cruisers. Mr. Zavisza seconded. Captain said he would know soon if there was enough to buy 2. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:55 p.m. **Mr. Quinn motioned to go into an executive session** to discuss an ongoing personnel issue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hill and approved by all. Chief Manzi and Capt. Bourque were present for the executive session.

At 9:07 p.m., the Commission returned to regular session. At that time, **Mr. Quinn motioned to adjourn** seconded by Mr. Hill and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Miner Chairman

Karen McKown,

Recording Secretary