



**MINUTES OF THE SUFFIELD POLICE COMMISSION**  
**Police Headquarters - 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078**  
**26 April 2023 – Regular Meeting**

**Commissioners:** Chairman Anthony Greco, Jason Trombly, Kristina Hallett and Terrence Plakias.

**Also Present:** Chief James Canon, Captain Robert Palmer and Susan Smyth

Chairman Greco called the Regular Police Commission meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Paul Christian from 281 Hill Street attended the Police Commission Meeting and would like to thank Chief Canon for working with him on increasing Police presence in the neighborhood. He stated that he has noticed a majority of the speeding cars are residents of the neighborhood and that is very disappointing to him. Mr. Christian would like to continue to work with Chief Canon on this issue. Mr. Christian also inquired to Chief Canon if it is possible to add the number of speeding offenses into the Suffield Observer statistics.

**Communications and Announcements:**

Communications Secretary Kristina Hallett read aloud a card from a resident Thanking Officer Reagan for rescuing her dog from down a hill.

Communications Secretary Hallett also read an email commending Officer Dabkowski and ACO Selig for coming to the aid of a dying Possum in the process of giving birth. They were very professional, kind and efficient.

Communications Secretary Hallett read aloud a card from Daisy Troop 10961 Thanking Officer Donnelly for giving the Troop a tour of the Department.

A letter was also read that was written thanking Officers for promptly responding to a call that was placed for a slow-moving vehicle that was concerning in an over 55 development late in the evening. They would also like to thank the very pleasant Dispatcher.

**Previous Minutes:**

Chairman Greco asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of the February 22, 2023 and January 18, 2023 Commission meetings. There was no March 2023 Commission meeting held.

Commissioner Jason Trombley made the motion to approve the submitted minutes of the regular meeting minutes with no changes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kristina Hallett. Motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

## **DEPARTMENT / CHIEF REPORT**

### **1. SRO Report – Submitted by Officer Randy Roman**

- a) There were no comments from the Commission.

### **2. Detective's Report – Submitted by Detective Shawn St. John**

- a) There were no comments from the Commission.

### **3. Operations Report – Submitted by Lieutenant Ryan Burrell**

Lieutenant Burrell's report indicated the following:

#### **Arrests:**

- Officers made (19) Nineteen arrests in the last Month. (3) Three of the arrests were made for Driving Under the Influence (2) Two arrests were made for domestic related Disorderly Conduct charges. (2) Two arrest were made for domestic related Protective Order violations. (1) One arrest was made by warrant for domestic related Criminal Mischief and Larceny. (1) One arrest was made for Evading a motor vehicle collision. Officers responded to an address on East Street South after several 911 calls came in reporting several gun shots in a residential area. Officers located two male parties in possession of an AR-15 style assault weapon. Investigation revealed that the two suspects were recklessly and illegally firing this weapon in close proximity to other houses and were arrested. (1) One arrest was made for Negligent Homicide related to a motor vehicle fatality that occurred last summer.

#### **Burglaries/Larcenies/Motor Vehicle Thefts:**

- Officers have responded to multiple motor vehicle burglary complaints. Several items were stolen from the vehicles and some had the window broken to gain entry.

#### **Internet Crimes/Scams:**

- Community members are still reporting a large number of internet and phone scams. (12) Twelve fraud complaints were made in the last month.

#### **Domestic / Mental Health Related:**

- Officers responded to approximately (7) Seven domestic violence related calls in the last month and (2) Two arrest were made.
- Officers responded to multiple mental health related calls and completed (2) Two Emergency Examination Requests.

#### **Motor Vehicle Collision:**

- On 3/24/2023, Officers responded to Route 190 for a collision between a tractor trailer truck and a commercial work van. Officers found that both vehicles had struck head on and tractor trailer was fully engulfed in flames. The flames quickly spread across the roadway in the area of the work van. Officers found that the operator of the tractor trailer had exited the truck but found the operator of the work van stuck in the vehicle unconscious. Officers and fire fighters were able to hold back the flames long enough to remove the driver from the vehicle. The operator is still alive and the incident is being investigated by the reginal accident reconstruction team.

### **Equipment Update:**

- The third Explorer has been upfitted and is on patrol. This was the last cruiser to be built from the 2022-2023 cruiser budget.
- Work is currently being done with DPW mechanics to convert an older cruiser into a School Resource vehicle. We are also converting another old cruiser into a detective vehicle.

### **Administrative Updates – Submitted by Captain Robert Palmer**

Captain Palmer's report highlighted on the following:

#### **Communications:**

- Dispatch desks are broken and not reparable. We are looking to upgrade the desks so that the standing components work for the dispatchers.
- Dispatch Monitors have been installed and are working well. Further modifications are being looked at to maximize the ergonomic layout of the Dispatch area.

#### **NexGen:**

- The system went live on March 27<sup>th</sup> about 0900. Agency members are becoming more comfortable with the system and feedback has been positive in terms of end user competency. We are working on detailing the system to Suffield PD operations with the addition of specific permissions and drop downs within NexGen. Operational considerations are being made in every facet of SPD work habits to streamline and maximize the potential to fit with the system. Trouble tickets are pending for a variety of issues relative to the system and NexGen has been responsive to requests although some are still pending. There is more training that will be coming after we pass through the initial learning curve.

#### **Training:**

- We are working on a possible grant to support the training of 4 personnel in operation of the drone that was donated to the department. This would include the FAA Part 107 licenses as well as hands on training the drone unit.

#### **Policy Development:**

- We are working on completing the review of all DLG policies. We have approximately 40 left to review and get back from DLG at this time.

#### **Promotional Exams:**

- We are discussing future promotional opportunities and identifying needs for a new Sgt promotional process. We are looking to make the testing entirely relevant to the Suffield Police Department and CT Law Enforcement. There is a CBA aspect to this process so we are engaging the Union in an effort to provide the most effective evaluation process for new Sgts in the Suffield Police Department. DLG provided a quote for the creation and implementation of a testing process for Suffield Police Department.

### **Commission Meeting Report/Police Budget and ACO Report – Submitted by Chief James Canon**

Chief Canon reported on the following:

**Budget Highlights:**

- Currently, the Animal Control budget is operating as expected. In light of the new agreement with River Valley, lodging costs have risen, thus depending upon events for the remainder of the year, there is the possibility of an overage related to the use of River Valley, however we currently remain within budget. This issue will be addressed for the FY 23-24 budget request.
- The Police Department Budget is currently on track from a salary/benefits perspective, but we may experience an overage in expenses. The overage is primarily attributed to fuel costs, which was known at the time of budget approval last year, so will get addressed through contingency.

**Contract Negotiations:**

- The Town and Suffield Police Union have reached a tentative agreement on a labor agreement, which is currently being rewritten in contract form for signature.

**Grants:**

- The Joe Courtney Grant application has been submitted, as a matter of process, even though it has been approved through the appropriations bill. The closing date has passed and we await the final notice of the depositing of funds. All costs associated with the NexGen project will be covered by this grant.
- We continue to assign personnel to the Rural Roads Speed Enforcement grant, Click It or Ticket Grant and DUI enforcement
- The SAMSHA Grant has been returned to Suffield. This was the result of multiple retirements over the past year. This grant is what provided an in-house crisis worker for purposes of substance abuse and mental health referrals and is joint effort with Windsor Locks, Windsor, East Windsor and Suffield. Chief Canon is in the process of addressing the administrative end for online access to the grant.

**Chairman's Update:**

Chairman Greco would like to thank Commissioner Trombly for locating the Police Commission By Laws. There was discussion about updating the By Laws. What the process is to do that and what would need to be done. There will be further communication on this.

**Adjournment:**

With nothing further, Chairman Greco asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Police Commission Meeting. Commissioner Trombley made a motion to adjourn at 7:02 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Hallett. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Susan Smyth