



TOWN OF MONROE

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – December 20, 2023

The Monroe Board of Police Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, at 7 p.m. in the Monroe Police Department Training Room.

Present: Chairman Michael Vitello
Commissioner Daniel Hunsberger, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Edward Deak
Commissioner David Geismar
Commissioner James Weinberg

Also Present: Chief Keith White
Captain Gregory Smith
Town Council Liaison Vincent Duva

ROLL CALL

Chairman Vitello opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., and noted that all *Board* members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

There was a short discussion regarding the Officer killed in East Fishkill, New York.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion: E. Deak

MOTION TO APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2023.

Second: J. Weinberg

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, *Chairman Vitello* introduced the new Town Council Liaison, *Vincent Duva*. *Councilman Duva* then went into detail regarding his personal and professional life, and stated he looks forward to working with the *Board of Police Commissioners* and Police Department.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Chief White was in receipt of a card from the Beacon Hill Church Women, thanking the department for their service to the community.

CHIEF'S REPORT

DEPARTMENT TRAINING:

Chairman Vitello asked for clarification on what SWRERT stood for. *Captain Smith* advised that it is the Southwest Regional Emergency Response Team.

Chairman Vitello asked how an officer becomes a member of the Crisis Negotiating Team. *Captain Smith* explained that the unit is part of the SWRERT team. When the team has an opening, the *Chief* will post the position. Officers who are interested will respond with a letter of interest. They will then go through the selection process with the commanding officers of SWRERT.

POLICE STAFFING:

Chairman Vitello noted that there was a long-term absence, to which *Chief White* confirmed.

TRAINING:

Commissioner Hunsberger asked what the difference was between training and department training on the Chief's Report. *Chief White* explained that training is for individual classes that officers attend and department training is for teams the department is involved in; such as Dive Team, SWRERT, etc.

POLICE STAFFING:

Commissioner Weinberg asked if there has been an application out for new officers. *Chief White* stated that the application is on Policeapp.com and there are 17 candidates for new hire and no candidates for lateral transfer. *Commissioner Weinberg* then asked if the officers that left were on probation. *Chief White* stated no, but there was one on officer who was still under the statute required 2-year duration, and the Town Attorney has the information and will be sending out an invoice to the Town where the officer now works.

Commissioner Deak asked if there were any adverse comments from the officers who resigned. *Chief White* stated that he spoke to both officers and there was nothing negative. One officer left because of travel purposes and another left due to having family ties to another department.

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT:

Commissioner Deak noted the 2 openings for part time positions and believed it would not be difficult to draw people in. *Chief White* explained that it has been the opposite, and the people who have been hired have left for full time positions elsewhere.

POLICE ACADEMY:

Commissioner Deak noted that the report says next available for the academy. *Chief White* stated that the department has reached out to all Academy's; Meriden, Bridgeport, Waterbury, and Milford. He continued that no one has seats available as of now.

EVENT OF INTEREST:

Commissioner Deak asked if OSHA responded to the scene. *Chief White* stated that the Fire Marshall's office contacted OSHA and the Police Department provided pictures of the scene.

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT:

Commissioner Hunsberger asked if there is consideration changing the part time positions to full time. *Chief White* stated that the positions are kennel cleaners and there is not enough work to be full time.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES: PATROL DIVISION

Chairman Vitello noted that domestics and traffic details were tripled this month. *Chief White* confirmed that this was a busy month for domestics.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Building and Equipment: *Commissioner Geismar* had nothing new to report. *Chairman Vitello* wanted to know how many vehicles we have and where they are assigned to. *Chief White* stated there are 10 vehicles assigned to patrol, 8 vehicles assigned to road jobs, 6 vehicles and 1 crime van assigned to the detective division, 2 vehicles assigned to animal control, 1 truck assigned to SWRERT, 1 truck assigned to traffic for signs and storms, and 2 vehicles assigned to administration (Chief and Captain). *Chairman Vitello* then asked what the status is for the vehicles on order. *Captain Smith* stated that the dealer currently has 1 vehicle for us, and is waiting to be upfitted. The *Captain* continued that there should be another vehicle with the dealer within the next few months. *Chairman Vitello* then asked what happens to the current vehicles when the new ones come in. *Chief White* explained that the vehicles trickle down, new cars become patrol and the patrol vehicle would go to the road job fleet. A current road job car would either be end of life or transferred to another Town department. *Chairman Vitello* asked if the Department was ever reimbursed for the totaled vehicle. *Chief White* stated that we were reimbursed, and will be buying a new detective division vehicle and send a current one to another department.

Budget and Overtime: *Commissioner Weinberg* asked how many vehicles we have left from last fiscal year and what we have for this fiscal year. *Captain Smith* stated that the vehicles are paid for out of last fiscal year, however we are still waiting for 1 more to be delivered. He continued that there are still 3 vehicles that we are waiting for from this fiscal year. *Commissioner Weinberg* questioned if the Record Room had enough money to cover the remainder of the fiscal year. *Chief White* stated that it will not cover the year, as that line just went negative. The *Chief* continued that the price of file folders increased, and there was an unanticipated vendor increase. *Commissioner Weinberg* asked the Chief if he has any idea which account will be black, where it can cover other accounts. The *Chief* stated that he doesn't have that information right now, but is hoping to have a better idea in the next couple of months. The discussion

continued regarding the fuel line and other encumbrances on the budget. *Commissioner Weinberg* then suggested to *Chairman Vitello* that the Board invite the Town's Financial Officer to discuss the unbudgeted funds coming from the Special Duty fund, to get a better understanding of everything as a whole.

Personnel and Labor: *Commissioner Hunsberger* had nothing new to report, still no contract. *Chairman Vitello* reported that he spoke with the First Selectman today, and they have come to an agreement, however it is not in writing as of now. *Chairman Vitello* stated that it will benefit the taxpayers and the Police Department. *Commissioner Hunsberger* asked what will happen with the uniform salaries budget line item when the contract goes through. Chief White stated that it is processed through the finance department as a wage adjustment.

Rules and Regulations/Public Relations: *Commissioner Deak* wanted to discuss License Plate Readers, however he would wait because the topic is under Unfinished Business.

Town Council Liaison: *Chairman Vitello* reported that Mr. Duva is Department's new Town Council Liaison.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Commissioner Hunsberger stated that he knew this past week was the anniversary of Sandy Hook, and he knows how involved our Department was, including the Chief. The *Chief* expressed his thanks and stated that it was a group effort from top to bottom.

Commissioner Hunsberger wanted to thank *Chairman Vitello* for possibly getting him into the FBI Citizen's Academy starting in March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. New State Retirement Plan

Chief White stated that there will be 2 retirements next year, and the others are still to be determined. He continued that the deadline is June of 2025.

b. License Plate Readers

Chief White stated that there are 2 companies that work with the State of Connecticut. He continued that our area; Fairfield, Bridgeport, and Trumbull, all use a company named Rekor. The other company is Flock, which Norwalk uses. The *Chief* reported that Flock will be attending the January Fairfield County Chief's meeting to pitch their equipment for a one year service. *Chief White* stated that Rekor is \$21,950 for one camera with a recurring \$2,500 annual fee. The discussion continued for quite some time regarding what was included in the price, how it will benefit the Town, and how to notify the Town residents.

MOTION TO GIVE

Motion: J. Weinberg

MOTION TO GIVE the Chief instruction to work into his budget for next fiscal year 24/25, a line item to cover 2 license plate readers and to have the commission move forward with a public hearing to explain what they are all about to the public at the next regular meeting.

Second: E. Deak
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

There was then a discussion on how to work 2 LPRs into this year's fiscal budget. *Chief White* stated that as long as the *Board* supports the idea of the LPRs, he will work on finding the funds.

MOTION TO SUPPORT

Motion: E. Deak
MOTION TO SUPPORT the concept of License Plate Readers
Second: D. Hunsberger
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

NEW BUSINESS

a. 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule (Vote Anticipated)

MOTION TO ADOPT

Motion: J. Weinberg
MOTION TO ADOPT the 2024 Regular Meeting Schedule
Second: D. Hunsberger
Discussion: There was a discussion regarding the June 19th meeting on the Holiday Juneteenth. It was decided to change the meeting to Tuesday, June 18, 2024.
MOTION PASSED: 5-0

b. 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Chief White reported that he is eliminating a few things, and with vendor increases, there is currently a 1.2% increase. *Chief White* stated this will increase once the Police Union Contract is finalized. He continued that this will be going into year 3 of the contract, and there will be large salary increases for all uniform employees. *Chief White* stated that the budget is almost complete, and once it is in the proper format it will be emailed to the Board.

Commissioner Weinberg wanted to discuss the Hammertown Road and Fan Hill Road intersection. *Chief White* stated that it is in the Town Engineer's hands and he has not heard any update.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned by ***unanimous consent*** at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Guerra, Recording Secretary
Board of Police Commissioners

**TOWN OF MONROE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

TO: Board of Police Commissioners
FROM: Chief Keith White
SUBJECT: November Monthly Report
DATE: December 20, 2023

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Patrol Division:

- Criminal Arrests: 18 Individual criminal charges filed
- M/V accidents 42 collisions

- Issued: 72 Motor vehicle infractions
31 Written warnings
07 Misdemeanor motor vehicle summonses
00 Parking ticket
01 DUI arrests
01 Narcotics
10 Psychiatric
111 Medical calls

Patrol Division officers responded to 13 Domestic/Family Violence incidents in November, resulting in 07 arrest.

Traffic safety - Officers were assigned to 133 Directed Traffic Details during the month in response to citizen concerns and/or identified problem locations and offenses.

Prisoner Watch: Personnel performed 80 hours of prisoner watch for the month.

The total monthly calls for service were 1656.

Detective Division:

- Received 23 cases from Patrol including burglary, death investigation, fire, larceny, fraud, and weapons violations.
- Initiated another 12 investigations
- Cleared 01 cases by arrest
- Closed 14 cases
- Submitted 07 arrest warrant applications to court
- Received and/or executed 16 search and seizure warrant
- Initiated 08 pistol permit applicant investigations
- Executed no Ex-Parte Orders for the month

- Laboratory transports 02
- Background investigations 07

Department-Wide Warrant Activity:

- 02 arrest warrants served
- 03 FTA (Failure to Appear) or Violation of Probation warrants executed

DIGITAL FORENSICS:

Internal Work

MPD 23-15428

Details: 2 cell phones for a threatening investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-15546

Details: 1 cell phones for a stolen car investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16202

Details: 1 cell phones for a CP investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16202

Details: 4 cell phones for a Larceny investigation

Status: 1 complete, 3 other waiting on GK update

External Work

MPD 23-15236 Newtown PD 23-16300

Details: 1 cell phone for an assault investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-15502 Seymour PD 23-10150

Details: 2 cell phones for an OD death investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-15683 CSP 23-436737

Details: 1 cell phone for a voyeurism / CP investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16051 CSP 23-444895

Details: 2 cell phones for a narcotics investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16234 Ansonia PD 23-16690

Details: 1 cell phone for an OD death investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16663 Seymour PD 23-9348

Details: 1 cell phone for a harassment investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16717 CSP 23-430903

Details: 1 hard drive for a narcotics investigation (TF)

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16736 Ansonia PD 23-18266

Details: 1 cell phone for a school threat investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-16786 CSP 23-368361

Details: 1 hard drive for a Burglary investigation (Glastonbury)

Status: In Work

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

There was one child safety seat installation/inspection during the month.

The holiday food drive was held on November 12, 2023 at Century Plaza. All donations went directly to the Monroe Food Pantry. The Food Pantry received \$795.00 in donations and 1,495 pounds of food.

The holiday toy drive was held on December 12th at the Town Gazebo. Proceeds were delivered to the Center for Family Justice which serves the greater Bridgeport area, including Monroe. The full crime van indicated a strong community showing and a successful event.

Upcoming Planned events

The Special Olympics plunge at the Park will be held on April 13, 2024

Training

Officers attended the following training:

Lt. McKellick completed the ten-week **Southern Police Institute Command Officer Development Course** held at Wethersfield Police Department, graduating on November 17, 2023.

November 1st- November 2nd: Lieutenant Corrone attended **CT DOT Where and When to Use Traffic Signs, Signals and Markings** training held on-line.

November 3rd, 10th, 17th: Lieutenant Sweeney, Officer Boucher and Detective Cascante attended **SMART 911 Wellness Training** class held at the Newtown Police Department and instructed by Newtown PD Lt Richard Robinson and Newtown Sgt. Scott Ruscyk.

November 6th – November 8th: Sergeant McAulay, Officer Boucher and Officer Wahib attended **EMR Recertification** held at the Waterbury Police Department Training Academy.

November 6th- November 7th: Chief White and Sergeant Thompson attended CT DOT Training - **LTA 101** hosted by University of Connecticut T2 Center.

November 14th: Dispatcher Justin Kelly **Dispatcher Emergency 911 Training** held at the Connecticut Police Academy Meriden, CT.

November 1st, 9th, 16th and 24th: Sergeant Johnson attended **IPTM Accident Reconstruction School** on-line.

Department Training

SWRERT Training- November 8th and November 22nd held in Westport, CT and Trumbull, CT. These trainings were attended by Captain Smith, Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant McAulay, Officer Phillips and Officer Johnston.

Crisis Negotiator Team: November 3rd- This training was held in Meriden, CT and attended by Officer Franzago and Officer Twohill.

Dive Team – November 16th and November 17th: Held in Easton, CT. These trainings were attended by Officer Silkman, Officer Johnston and Officer Ebert.

K9 Training- November 9th and November 21st: Held in Danbury, CT. Attended by Sgt DeCarli and K9 Riggs.

Military Training: Ofc. Andreozzi did not have military training in November. Officer Johnston Had military training November 4th – 5th.

Taser Recertification: Officer Boucher and Officer Johnston began Taser familiarization and Recertification at Shift Roll Call beginning November 30th.

POLICE STAFFING:

Officer Breann Joyce has resigned as of 12/01/2023 to accept a position with the Darien Police Department.

Officer Joseph Dzurenda has resigned as of 12/15/2023 to accept a position with the Trumbull Police Department.

The (2) open positions have been posted for new hire and lateral transfer possibilities.

There is currently one long-term absentee.

Communication Center

Justin Kelly is currently in the final phase of dispatch training.

Beatrice Grant began training on November 6, 2023 and is currently in phase two.

This leaves only one remaining open position in the dispatcher room.

Records Room

There is currently one open position in the records room. The top three candidates are in the background investigation portion of the hiring process. The position is expected to be filled by January 2, 2024.

Animal Control Unit:

The town received the scope of work from Silver / Petrucelli and it has been put out for design architectural bids from four architects on the Metrocog vetted list.

There are currently two open part time animal control positions.

Police Academy

The department is down two officer's and has requested seats in the next available academy. Seats may not be available until July 2024.

Event of interest

On November 20, 2023 at approximately 1:08 pm, Monroe Officers responded to a construction site at the end of Sandbar Road for a site worker having been electrocuted. Upon arrival, the officers met the crew who had the victim in the back of a pick-up with severe burns to their back and lower extremities. Officers worked with the construction crew and Monroe Volunteer EMS personnel to get the victim out of the construction area and up to the ambulance staging area. The incident occurred in a remote area below the high voltage power lines which was not accessible by ambulance. Thanks to the hard work of the construction crew, Monroe Police Officers on scene, and MVEMS personnel, the victim was safely transported to Bridgeport Hospital for treatment.

During the course of their subsequent investigation, the officers learned the bucket contacted a high voltage line. The victim, who was leaning against the metal rim of the bucket was electrocuted by an estimated 27,600 volts.

Officers later received updates from the hospital that the victim was critical, but was expected to survive their injuries.