



MINUTES (*Revised)
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

November 13, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commissioner C. Gamble, Commissioner R. Brule, Commissioner M. Gelinas,
Commissioner T. Sheridan, Commissioner Dimmock

DEPARTMENT: Chief M. Balestracci, LT N. VanOverloop, LT D. Ferland,
LT P. Flanagan, Sgt. J. Nickerson, Traffic Officer Mark Devine

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM:

Commissioner Gamble called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. in the General Meeting Room of the Waterford Police Department. A Quorum was established.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC INPUT:

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Sheridan and seconded by Commissioner Gelinas to accept the minutes from the October 10, 2023 Regular Meeting. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was reviewed.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and Seconded by Commissioner Sheridan to move Police Chief Selection Process to the top of the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Rick Wells, Chairperson of the Personnel Review Board and Kristi Kelly, Town Labor Attorney answered questions from Commission members regarding changes made to the Chief of Police

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*Revised to correct date from October 10, 2023 to November 13, 2023.

job description. Discussion regarding sections of the Town Charter and Town Ordinances related to supervision of the Police Chief ensued.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Gelinas and Seconded by Commissioner Sheridan to approve the Chief of Police job description as presented. No vote was taken.

Commissioner Gelinas withdrew the motion pending additional information.
Topic was tabled till the next BOPC meeting.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW:

Sgt Nickerson discussed details related to a stop sign request at Ridgewood Avenue/Birch Street from a resident of Ridgewood Avenue. He specifically presented details related to line of sight issues, the number of accidents at this intersection and the proximity of other stop signs in the area. Summer beach traffic traveling at speeds well above the speed limit was discussed. Commissioner Dimmock suggested a speed study be done in the summer during high traffic times. Traffic Officer Devine will follow up in the summer.

A resident of Ridgewood Avenue asked to speak on this topic. He complained about high speeds and out of town beach traffic in his residential neighborhood. He's concerned about safety and said it's bad and getting worse for residents in that area. Chief Balestracci said speed issues should be addressed now.

Sgt Nickerson presented the Niantic River Road sign and painting request submitted by Waterford Ambulance.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Sheridan and Seconded by Commissioner Dimmock to approve the Niantic River Road Sign/Painting Request as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- a. K9 Reports for October
October report was received.
- b. Youth Reports for October
October report was received.
- c. Investigative Services for October
October report was received.
- d. Training Report for October
October report was received.

- e. Records Report for October
October report was received.
- f. Community Service Officer Report for October
October report was received.
- g. Patrol Report for October
October report was received.
- h. Animal Control Report for October
October report was received.
- i. Community Engagement Report for October
October report was received.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Police Chief Selection Process – Moved to the top of the agenda.
- b. Recording Commission Meetings – Chief Balestracci updated the Commission on the progress of the project. No completion date has been set at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Balestracci updated the Commission on the status of the FY24/25 budget preparation and deadlines.

Chief discussed the pressure of police work on officers and shared an article on officer wellness. He presented Calmpaks to the commissioners and explained that he had presented one to each of the staff at the PD to help with stress, anxiety and sleep. He talked about the importance of reaching all officers to promote officer wellness.

Commissioner Dimmock mentioned that they will have to appoint a new member to the Retirement Commission at the December meeting.

MOTION: Made by Commissioner Dimmock and Seconded by Commissioner Gelinas to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:



Diane E. Driscoll
Recording Secretary