



## TOWN OF NEWTOWN

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Brian Budd  
Scott Cicciari  
Julia Conlin  
Rance Thompson  
Philip Cruz

### POLICE COMMISSION

**The Board of Police Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting, Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 6:30 P.M.**  
**191 South Main Street, Newtown, CT**  
**Conference Room**

#### **MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**Commissioners Present:** Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari, Julia Conlin, Philip Cruz, Rance Thompson

**Also Present:** Chief David Kullgren, Deputy Chief Bryan Bishop, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy, Lt Scott Smith, members of the public: Scott Baggett, Kara Gerace, Richard Hilton, Honey Hilton, Philip Carroll, Sheri Baggett, Jenn Larkin, Kevin Donovan, Barbara Rodriguez, and Chris Fallin.

Commissioner Budd called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Public Participation**

Richard Hilton, 2 Sealand Drive, stated he is interested in the discussion on Hall Lane. Chris Fallin, 6 Hall Lane, stated he is interested in less traffic coming down Hall Lane. Honey Hilton, 2 Sealand Drive, stated a concern about the lane being one lane, especially when there is bad weather due to the topography of the road. Kevin Donovan, 9 West Street, who grew up on Hall Lane and parents still live there, stated a concern of the road going to one way especially during snow, ice, or any bad weather. He also stated that the road is already hard to go up the hill in the winter and suggested limiting it to small cars, small trucks, and if only one way, then only one way during specified times. Barbara Rodriguez, 21 Hall Lane, stated a concern of the current rates of speed of traffic on the road. Scott Baggett, 26 Hall Lane, stated a concern regarding the topography of the road and the access to the roads during the winter. Kevin Donovan, 9 West Street, stated that the traffic on Hanover is just as fast as the traffic on Hall Lane.

#### **Police Union Participation**

None

**Consideration and Action on Minutes:** Commissioner Cruz moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 5, 2023. Commissioner Cicciari seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### **Chief's Report**

Chief Kullgren went over the personnel report. 45 strong, 1 retirement effective January 15, 2024, 2 personnel on leave, 1 on military leave. The effective strength is 41. 43 new applicants in the current hiring process. The selection process will be starting and a pool of candidates will be presented at the next meeting.

Patrol Report – There was a major incident on Boggs Hill on Christmas Eve. Credit given to all officers that responded. 20+ officers from adjacent towns supported the incident. Commissioner Budd asked which towns supported the incident. The towns that supported were Brookfield, Monroe, Bethel, Redding, Connecticut State Police, Ridgefield, Danbury, and our regional Emergency Services Unit.

## **Old Business**

### **Hall Lane, discussion and possible action on options for a one-way road**

Chief Kullgren gave a 6-month background on Hall Lane and the traffic situation. He stated that travel apps direct to these routes. One option is a one-way road for all or part of the road, the least impactful would be Sealand up to Currituck. He stated that the one-way during a specified time has yet to be investigated. The commission has approved advisory signs. An application with the state for a sign that says no-thru trucks has been applied for. Chief Kullgren went over the no-thru truck sign limitations. The road is a state road, so the state would have to approve any changes. He stated that a traffic light would be disastrous, especially during bad weather. Commissioner Budd went over peak hour limitations and the difficulty of enforcing a one-way with specific times. He also stated that from the comments made, the one-way would not be a feasible option. The most prudent option is the no thru traffic signs since there is no way to control travel navigation apps. Chief Kullgren stated that in a meeting with State DOT, a suggestion was offered to create legislation that would mirror the state DOT's protocol on diverting traffic so that travel apps can only recommend state roads. Commissioner Budd questioned signs that would not require DOT approval. Chief Kullgren stated that narrow roadway signs are on order. Commissioner Cruz questioned if the traffic study was done daily and which day or days had the most traffic. Chief Kullgren stated the study was done on all seven days. Commissioner Thompson inquired about a temporary barricade until traffic clears up. Chief Kullgren stated that it is a town road and that this could be an option to try. Deputy Chief Bryan Bishop shared the results from the study, which showed that Thursday and Friday were the busiest days except for when there is an accident on I-84 that is diverting traffic to Hall Lane. A local traffic-only sign is not enforceable as it would be hard to tell if traffic on the road is local traffic or not. Commissioner Cicciari stated that the initial step should be to install the signage and move forward from there if needed. Chris Fallin, 6 Hall Lane, stated that he has traveled that road for 27 years and that he thinks that the one-way road would be a good option as the inclement weather is about 10 days per year and the residents could adjust during those times. Scott Baggett, 26 Hall Lane, stated that having a specified part of the road as one-way may be a good. The federal manual on uniform traffic control and direction will be checked to clarify the requirements for a one-way road. Commissioner Cruz asked if the residents of Hall Lane could drive both ways and a discussion was held about the confusion of doing that. It was decided that all traffic on the road should have the same rules. Commissioner Conlin stated she liked the theory of the time restrictions but is worried about the confusion to the public. Commissioner Budd asked for Chief Kullgren to look at the federal manual on uniform control and direction. The first step will be to install the signage. Chief Kullgren clarified the signs that will be installed will be the narrow road signs (these signs are on order) and then the no-thru trucks signs (this request has been submitted to the state).

### **Flashing Auxiliary Lights for Warning Signs –Botsford Hill Road @ RR Bridge**

Chief Kullgren stated that the funding would be through the Public Works Department. One quote received and is looking for comparable quotes for commercial grade lighting. The quote is just over \$3200 and would be solar powered. Two more quotes are needed to meet town purchasing protocol. Commissioner Budd questioned the location of the lights. A discussion was held, and the locations for the installation of the lights would be just before High Bridge and the other coming off Botsford just before Swamp Road. Chief Kullgren stated that the current signs have been hit on multiple occasions and is hoping that the flashing lights will help alert drivers to the signs.

## **New Business**

### **Review of approval process for department policies**

Chief Kullgren has sent a google share folder invite to all commissioners for the policies that need review before the next meeting. These are all related to state-mandated accreditation. Commissioner Budd went over the state-mandated policies and the process of updating to accreditation standards.

### **Newtown Bee Radio Access, discussion and possible action**

An agreement is being worked on so the Newtown Bee can get the information they need in a timely manner.

**Correspondence**

Board of Education Letter (see enclosure)

**Commissioners' Participation**

Commissioner Ciccari was a responder on the Boggs Hill incident and commended all involved for the service that night. Commissioner Budd went over the approach, said the outcome was successful, and commended all parties involved.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business, Commissioner Ciccari motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners at 7:10 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Thompson. Motion Passed. All in Favor.

*Dana Ulibarri, clerk*

**Enclosures**

Chiefs Report

DB Activity Report

Incident Statistics

Newtown Stats

Training Report

BOE Letter