

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: May 13, 2024

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner John Sousoulas
Commissioner Patty Austin
Commissioner Janice Heggie-Margolis
Commissioner Christine Ciociola
Commissioner Robert Nash
Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins.

Also present was Chief Mulhern and Deputy Chief Alves.

The meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Sousoulas.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to approve the minutes from April 8, 2024.
Seconded by Commissioner Sousoulas. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided copies of the Monthly Statistical and Training Reports April 2024. He reported that that arrests are down in April; Theft from Motor Vehicles are fairly consistent; Domestic Violence calls are trending down but up overall for the year; Larcenies are down a little bit; The Regional Traffic Enforcement Team will be starting back up targeting the high-volume areas; The traffic trailers have been deployed and will be moved around throughout town; and accidents were down in April.

Training Synopsis – Another heavy month of Training; Officer Caroline Massey successfully completed two-week SWAT school, now is a certified operator with the South Central Regional SWAT Team; 20 Officers completed state mandated drug and steroid testing; Officer Kustra is completing training; Officers Mitchell-Carter and Ricciardelli are in week 2 of their FTO training;

Personnel Overview – One officer still on long term light duty due to on the job injury and one recruit officer that is still recovering from a broken bone injury sustained at the Academy and one Lieutenant on leave.

The Branford Police Department vs. Branford Fire Department charity softball game will be held on May 18 at Foote Park.

Police Department Renovation Project – Deputy Chief Alves reported that the Architect, Brian Humes is actively working on the construction documents for the project. The Building Commission has a working group meeting twice a month and they are actively looking at maximizing energy efficiencies of the project. The Interior design team will be having a meeting with staff on Thursday.

Letters:

Letters of Recognition and appreciation were received recognizing the following: K9 Arrow and Sgt. Carney; Detectives Eula, Andrew, Herten and Ferris and North Branford Police Department.

Report of the Chair – Reminded residents to be mindful of pedestrians, motor cycles and bicyclists.

Citizens Comments -

Resident Naomi addressed the board concerning the Be Smart Program - The Be SMART campaign was launched to raise awareness that secure gun storage—storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition—can save children’s lives. Be SMART emphasizes that it’s an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer. She requested that the Police Department work with the BE Smart program by offering information at the Police Department and sharing their link on the website.

Motion made by Commissioner Ciociola to add the Traffic committee Report to the agenda. Seconded by Heggie-Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Heggie-Margolis provided information concerning a request for the addition of pavement markings on Thimble Island Road from Squaw Brook Road to Three Elms Road. The Chief and Deputy Chief reviewed the area, Deputy Chief Alves discussed the recommendation with Engineering and there are no objections to the request. The Traffic Committee recommends approval. The Chief will reach out to DPW to request that it is done before the summer.

Motion made by Commissioner Wiel-Wilkins to approve the recommendation from the Traffic Committee. Seconded by Commission Heggie Margolis. Vote unanimous.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie-Margolis to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Ciociola. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici

Clerk