

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
33 LAUREL STREET
BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06405-3644
MINUTES OF MEETING: September 9, 2024

Commissioners Present:

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

Also present was Chief Mulhern and RTM Members: Peter Hentschel, Tracy Everson and John Hartwell.

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the minutes from May 13, 2024. Seconded by Commissioner Heggie Margolis. Vote unanimous. Motion made by Commissioner Austin to approve the minutes of June 25, 2024 (special meeting) as corrected. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Vote unanimous.

Report of the Chief:

Chief Mulhern provided copies of the Monthly Statistical and Training Reports for June and July 2024. He reported that there are changes to the groups and classifications on the reports due to changes in the NIBRS system. Some crimes have been recategorized. Therefore, there are significant changes in some of the categories. Currently, the department is at full staff with 52 officers. There are 3 Officers in the Academy, one Officer on light duty and one Lieutenant on Light duty. They are working with the union on the union contract. Anticipates that there will be some vacancies coming up. The entire department completed the Body-Worn Camera Training. He reported that the department will host the 30th Tip a Cop event to support the Special Olympics at Lenny's. The department will also participate in the town's annual 9-11 ceremony. He reminded the public to be cautious now that schools are back open. On August 6, 2024 the department participated in the National Night Out. He reported that the South Central Regional Traffic team has been active. They will continue to be out. They have encountered a significant number of unregistered vehicles, uninsured vehicles, operators operating under suspension, etc. There is a demand so they will continue to focus on traffic safety. They are also seeing a reduction in crimes, specifically, shoplifting in the areas where the stops are occurring. The department is also using drone detection software and drone detection equipment. The sensors tell them where a drone is, what its intended flight path is and where the drone operator is. Two Officers are trained with this technology. South Central Regional SWAT team responded in an

incident in North Haven a 14-hour standoff ensued. The suspect exchanged fire with SWAT officers. The suspect finally surrendered. Fortunately, the suspect and the officers were not injured. The Chief commended the team and command staff for a successful outcome to this situation.

Letters:

Letters of Recognition and appreciation were received recognizing the following: Officers R. Morgan and Richardson, Officer Crowley, Officer Cassella, Sgt. Carney and K9 Arrow, PSW Danielle Suraci, Officers Johnson and Weber, McCone, Pomaes and the Branford Police union.

Police Department Renovation Project – Chief Mulhern reported that the Chairman of the Public Building Committee Peter Banca has passed away, he offered condolences to his family. He reported that the team has started holding biweekly meetings in August. Jacunski Humes has provided a furniture plan and assessed all the mechanical and electrical needs for the temporary move to fire headquarters. The official project kick off will be late October.

Report of the Chair – Extended congratulations to the Regional SWAT team and departments for the resolution in the stand off event in North Haven.

Peter Hentschel, Chairman, RTM Rules and Ordinance Committee addressed the Board concerning the noise ordinance. He submitted a letter dated September 9, 2024 to the board. He stated that there are concerns with the ordinance and its enforceability. The Rules and Ordinance Committee is considering possible changes to the ordinance. A meeting will be scheduled with the Chief and this item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Chief also addressed the board to provide additional information concerning the enforcement of this ordinance and the need for changes. Consideration should be made for enforcement by another entity. He is concerned with the enforcement of the ordinance and response to complaints and the ability to challenges faced by the department, such as call volume, types of calls, increase of mandated training for the department, etc.

Motion made by Commissioner Heggie Margolis to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Nash. Vote unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trista Milici
Clerk