



TOWN OF MONROE

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – February 15, 2023

The Monroe Board of Police Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 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

Absent: Commissioner James Weinberg

Also Present: Chief Keith White
Captain Gregory Smith

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion: E. Deak

MOTION TO APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2023.

Second: D. Hunsberger

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

Absent: J. Weinberg

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Chief White was in receipt of a letter from a resident thanking *Officer Panza*, *Officer Joyce*, and *Sergeant Muccioli*. The resident was involved in a potential scam, and these officers were able to assist and prevent a loss of \$4,600.

Chief White was in receipt of an email from *Sergeant Muccioli*. He stated that an elderly resident came into the Police Department to commend *Officer Joyce*. *Officer Joyce* assisted changing a tire for this resident while she was off duty.

Chief White was in receipt of an email from a resident of Boulder Colorado. He stated that *Officer Frizinia* assisted his elderly mother, who lives in Monroe, on Christmas Eve. He wanted to thank *Officer Frizinia* for getting his elderly mother into a hotel while she had no power.

Chief White was in receipt of a letter from the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. This letter was inviting him to the Connecticut Law Enforcement Torch Run Kickoff event at Foxwoods Casino. The Letter also stated that the Monroe Police Department will be receiving an award for their efforts in 2022. The event takes place on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

CHIEF'S REPORT

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT:

Commissioner Geismar noted the air temperature problem in the building and was wondering if there was a way to rectify the situation for the time being. *Chief White* explained that Edgerton performed work on the ducts today, 2/15/23. They changed the ductwork from the bathroom into the office. *Chief White* also stated that the architect is returning with his group to do a walk-through of the building again. *Chairman Vitello* then asked how ACU operations will be affected if a new building is required. *The Chief* stated that there would be temporary trailers on the property that Animal Control would work out of. *Commissioner Deak* suggested that a committee be formed to assist in having contact with the community if ACU needs any type of assistance. *Chief White* stated that *Animal Control Officer Gambino* has worked with multiple other agencies around the state and has a lot of contacts. *The Chief* continued that if there is a new building, a Building Committee with a Chair will most likely be formed.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Patrol Division

Chairman Vitello noted the monthly calls for service and was wondering the average time spent on a call. *The Chief* explained that it depends on the call type; domestics are very time consuming compared to a location check.

PROJECTS:

Chairman Vitello noted the 200-year anniversary event will include all of our sworn personnel and possibly neighboring departments. *Chairman Vitello* questioned how many additional departments will be needed. *Chief White* stated that it will be based on what the Town proposes for the event. *The Chief*

continued that this is a big commitment and burden for the Police Department and all officers, including SRO's and Detectives, will have a post that day. *Chief White* explained that this will be an all-day event for the Department. There will have to be extra patrols for regular shifts because the town will be split. The west side of town officers will not be able to respond to the east side of town to assist and vice versa. *The Chief* stated this would include fire and EMS as well and that there has to be west side services and east side services. The Department will also have to borrow cones, light towers, and Variable Message Signs (VMS) from other departments. CERT members from Monroe and Trumbull will also be volunteering to assist. *The Chief* explained that he has concerns over the traffic when the event is over. He continued that Wolfe Park is a great location, however the side roads leading to the park cannot handle the traffic that will occur at the end of the night. *The Chief* compared the Monroe Night at the park event to this event. The August 2022 event was the largest the Department has seen and there was no parking which led to side roads being utilized by residents. *The Chief* stated that that was only a fraction of the people compared to who will be attending the Bicentennial event. *Chairman Vitello* asked if there was an estimate for how many people will attend. *Captain Smith* explained that they have not gotten an answer from the Bicentennial Committee Chair, however the fireworks vendor stated approximately 2,000 – 3,000. *Captain Smith* continued that he reached out to Orange Police Department because they hold annual 4th of July fireworks. Orange Police stated that in an average year they have 8,000 – 10,000 people attend. *The Captain* stated that there may be a need for 4-5 extra officers from Trumbull and possibly Newtown. The discussion continued for some time regarding the operational plan. *Commissioner Deak* then suggested that the Bicentennial Committee Chair attend next month's regular meeting to give more information and answer any questions the *Board* has. A request will be sent to the Chair and the *Board* will be copied.

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Patrol Division

Commissioner Deak noted that there were 31 collisions and he believed that number to be high. He also asked the *Chief* if any particular location stood out. *Chief White* stated that collisions were down from last month. *The Chief* continued that Route 25 and Route 111 south have more accidents than the northern portions, however no specific location stood out.

DIGITAL FORENSICS:

External Work:

Commissioner Deak questioned what "GK" stood for. *Chief White* stated that it was the Gray Key Software.

PROJECTS:

Commissioner Deak stated he does not remember a long-term intern in the past. *Chief White* stated the department usually has one intern a semester. *Chief White* continued that there were no interns during COVID-19, and this is the first one since then.

TRAINING:

Commissioner Deak noted that *Sergeant Ramalhete* attended the Accreditation Manager Course and was wondering if Dan Brennan was still doing it for the Department. *Chief White* stated that Dan is still the Accreditation Manager and assists other agencies, including the state, with their accreditation. *Chief White* continued that Dan has also been working closely and training *Sergeant Ramalhete*.

COMMUNICATION CENTER:

Commissioner Deak noted a new dispatcher was offered the position and has since started and wanted to confirm that dispatch was now fully staffed, which *Chief White* confirmed.

POLICE ACADEMY:

Commissioner Deak noted that all seats are currently commuter based. *Chief White* stated there are currently no overnight stays and the recruit will have to travel each day.

EVENT OF INTEREST:

Commissioner Deak asked what a PRAWN Warrant was. *Chief White* stated that it is a Paperless Arrest Warrant Network and the charges are mostly Failure to Appear. *The Chief* continued that any department can serve these warrants, it does not have to be the department with the original charges.

STAFFING:

Chairman Vitello asked when the long-term absence will be back. *Chief White* stated possibly the beginning of April.

Chairman Vitello discussed the Detective Bureau Training position, and how an officer can bid for the spot. *Chief White* explained that officers and detectives are able to submit their shift preferences every six (6) months. There is a detective training position that they can bid for during this process. This position will take place over the 6-month period. During that time officers learn the function of the bureau, along with the court system. *Chairman Vitello* asked how many full-time detectives the department has. *Chief White* stated there is one Lieutenant, one Youth Detective, one Computer Forensics Detective, and three regular Detectives.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Building and Equipment: *Commissioner Geismar* stated 2 vehicles are coming in this spring, and everything else is running smoothly.

Budget and Overtime: *Commissioner Weinberg* was absent, *Chairman Vitello* will discuss the budget during Town Council Liaison.

Personnel and Labor: *Commissioner Hunsberger* reported there have been no complaints.

Rules and Regulations/Public Relations: *Commissioner Deak* stated he believes the Bicentennial events should be made public. *Chief White* stated that they are working on that with the First Selectman.

Town Council Liaison: *Chairman Vitello* stated that he spoke with *Town Council Member Terry Rooney*. *Chairman Vitello* commented on *Councilman Rooney's* behalf, stating that the budget looks good and he thinks its great to see the department budget always coming in reasonably. *Chairman Vitello* stated that he reviewed the Town Charter and *Commissioners* do not have input over the budget and do not have a say regarding money being moved around. *Chairman Vitello* continued that the *Commissioners* review the budget once it comes back from the *First Selectman*. *Chairman Vitello* stated that the budget discussion under *Commissioner Weinberg* is to make sure the department is on track through the fiscal year and is for information only.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Commissioner Geismar asked if we were involved with the 1033 Program. *Chief White* stated that the department currently has 2 ceremonial rifles that the Honor Guard uses through the 1033 Program.

Commissioner Geismar asked if the Department was going to be a part of the regional training range. *Chief White* explained that the Department will not be participating. *The Chief* continued that there is a large initial fee of approximately \$85,000, and he believes that the department's outdoor range is sufficient for the firearms training.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Future of K9 Unit

Chief White stated that *Lieutenant Sweeney* has been in contact with Bethel Police Department. Bethel did a similar study and felt the Blood Hound fit their needs. *Chief White* stated he is interested to see how the next couple of months play out for them.

Chairman Vitello asked how *Sergeant DeCarli* was doing in his position with *K9 Riggs*. *Chief White* stated that everything has been going well and there have been no issues.

b. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget

Chief White reported that the *First Selectman* did not significantly cut the Department's proposed budget. He continued that the Town Wide Radio contract and 50% of the new vehicles were taken out of the budget and will be coming out of the special duty account. *Commissioner Deak* asked if the \$44,000 cut from the overtime line will cause a problem. *The Chief* stated he does not believe so because of the DUI and Click it or Ticket Grants. The money awarded for those overtime shifts gets put back into the overtime account. *Chief White* explained that there is also a monthly deposit from the Violent Crimes Task Force that goes back into the overtime account while *Officer Frizinia* is assigned to it. The discussion continued over increases in salaries, leap year, and what the next step was. *The Chief* will advise the *Board* once he finds out when the department meeting time with the town council will be.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Red Dot Optic

Chief White and *Captain Smith* wanted to present the *Board* with information regarding the red dot optics. *Captain Smith* explained that it is a small square sight that goes on top of a handgun with a red dot inside that serves as the sight. *Captain Smith* continued that this gives officers the opportunity to shoot with both eyes open. Additional training would be required due to a learning curve; however, it will make each officer a better shooter. *Commissioner Hunsberger* asked if this was a laser, which the *Captain* stated it is not a projected laser and the red dot is in the sight glass. *The Captain* stated that the department would need to buy new guns and holsters that are compatible with the optic. There is also a trade in value for the current guns the department uses. *The Captain* stated that minus the trade in value, the cost is approximately \$925 per set (gun, optic, and holster) which would be approximately \$40,000 total. *Captain Smith* reported that this was not a new technology and it has been used on long guns, however it is new for handguns. The discussion continued regarding warranty and training.

MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD

Motion: D. Hunsberger

MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD and acquire a formal quote for new guns, red dot optics, and holsters.

Second: D. Geismar

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

Absent: J. Weinberg

b. Policy—Interactions with LGBTQ Individuals

Chief White explained that the State has new requirements through accreditation and each department has to have a policy regarding interactions with the LGBTQ population. *The Chief* stated he has gone through several other agency's adopted policies, and presented the *Board* with the Wallingford Police Department and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. *Chief White* stated he likes the definitions page in the State's policy and likes the body of the Wallingford's policy. *The Chief* wanted to present these to the *Board* so they can come to a policy as a group. The *Board* will be reviewing these policies and the discussion will stay under Unfinished Business for next month's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned by ***unanimous consent*** at 8:31 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: January Monthly Report
DATE: February 15, 2023

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Patrol Division:

- Criminal Arrests: 28 Individual criminal charges filed
- M/V accidents 31 collisions

- Issued: 40 Motor vehicle infractions
26 Written warnings
07 Misdemeanor motor vehicle summonses
00 Parking ticket
01 DUI arrests
04 Narcotics
03 Psychiatric/ EMS

Patrol Division officers responded to 10 Domestic/Family Violence incidents in January, resulting in 05 arrests.

Traffic safety - Officers were assigned to 39 Directed Traffic Details during the month in response to citizen concerns and/or identified problem locations and offenses. If the current weather pattern continues the speed sign details will begin March.

Prisoner Watch: Personnel performed 90.5 hours of prisoner watch for the month.

The total monthly calls for service were 1600.

Detective Division:

- Received 26 cases from Patrol, including Burglary, Fraud, Larceny Narcotics, and sex crimes.
- Initiated another 15 investigations
- Cleared 01 cases by arrest
- Closed 12 cases
- Submitted 05 arrest warrant applications to court
- Received and/or executed 11 search and seizure warrant
- Initiated 12 pistol permit applicant investigations
- Executed no Ex-Parte Orders for the month

- Laboratory transports 01
- Background investigations 01

Department-Wide Warrant Activity:

- 01 arrest warrants served
- 06 FTA (Failure to Appear) or Violation of Probation warrants executed

DIGITAL FORENSICS:

Internal Work

MPD 22-18661

Details: 2 cell phones for a burglary investigation

Status: Waiting on GK (01-2023)

MPD 23-1413

Details: 1 cell phones for a sexual assault investigation

Status: Waiting on GK (01-2023)

External Work

MPD 23-616 Ansonia PD 23-219

Details: 1 cell phone for narcotic investigation

Status: Complete (01-2023)

MPD 23-624 Ansonia PD 23-197

Details: 5 cell phones for a narcotics/weapons investigation

Status: 4 Complete 1 waiting on GK (01-2023)

MPD 23-1072 CSP 22-518034

Details: 1 cell phone for a narcotic investigation

Status: Complete (01/2023)

PROJECTS:

Planning for the 200-year Anniversary firework display continues. Captain Smith will be the police department OIC for the event. The operation plan currently calls for assigning of all sworn personnel to various posts. Should the event be expanded beyond the current projections, additional resources will have to be requested from neighboring departments.

Monroe K9- Research: Lieutenant Sweeney has been in contact with New Milford Police Department regarding their newly acquired Blood hound.

Internship- One current student (Housatonic Community College) began his Spring 2023 Internship. He will be scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays for four hours through the end of May 2023. He will be split time between various job assignments throughout the department. Total Internship hours needed: 120.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

There were three child safety seat installation/inspection during the month.

Upcoming events being planned:

- February 26th Faith and Blue, Coffee Hour with St. Peter's Church, 175 Old Tannery Rd. At 1045am.
- April 25th, Tea with a Cop at the Senior Center at 10am.
- May 13th, Kids Fishing Derby at Great Hollow Lake from 6am to 8am.

Upcoming Planned events

The Annual plunge at the Park to benefit Special Olympics has been scheduled for April 01, 2023.

TRAINING:

January 3rd-5th: Sergeant Keeping attended Simulation based Training for Command Personnel held at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden. The training was conducted by BOWMAC. The course centered around critical incident management.

January 23rd-January 27th: Lieutenant Sweeney, Sergeant Muccioli Detective Lazzara, Officer Larkin, Officer Boucher and Officer Silkman attended CT In-Service Recertification hosted by the Newtown PD. This course was held at the Newtown Police Department. All officers have recertified and should be valid through June 2026.

January 23rd: Captain Smith and Lieutenant Corrone attended Crowd Control and Management at the Connecticut Police Academy in Meriden, CT. The course was conducted by the Daigle Law Group.

January 26th: Detective Marcel and Detective Stevens attended Evidence Collecting Techniques held at the State Lab in Meriden, CT.

January 11th, January 18th, January 25th, February 1: Sergeant Ramalhete attended an every Wednesday, four-week, on-line Accreditation Manager course conducted by the Daigle Law Group.

Department Training

SWRERT Training- January 11, January 18 and January 25th, held in Trumbull, CT and Monroe, CT. These trainings were attended by Captain Smith, Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant McAulay, Officer Phillips and Officer Johnston.

Crisis Negotiator Team: No January training

Dive Team – January 27th: Held in Easton. Attended by Officer Ebert and Officer Johnston.

K9 Training January 11th and January 26th: Held in Danbury, CT. Attended by Sgt DeCarli and K9 Riggs.

Field Training- No Field Training for December

Military Training: Ofc. Andreozzi was on Military Leave January 7rd and January 8th.

Communication Center

Taylor Reeve was offered the position of Dispatcher and accepted. She will start on February 13,2023.

Animal Control Unit:

Silver/Petrucelli & Associates, Inc has a second on site visit scheduled for the week of February 13, 2023.

The animal control building continues to have issues with maintaining the required floor and air temperature per state requirements. The electric and heating budget lines are nearing depletion with five months remaining in the fiscal year.

Police Academy

No recruits in the current academy. The department has one seat in the July 2023 police academy to be held in Meriden CT. All academy seats are now commuter based. The need for this seat will be determined by the current lateral transfer interest.

STAFFING:

The department currently has one unfilled position. A lateral certified officer posting was opened on policeapp.com. The closing date is February 21, 2023. This would place an expected hire date sometime in late April.

One current long-term absentee continues which began on December 26, 2022.

Event of Interest:

On 1/18/23, Officers were dispatched to a report of a stolen motor vehicle. Victim 1 stated he went to Bridgeport to get narcotics and solicit a prostitute. While in Bridgeport he met the suspect. An arrangement was made to go back to his home in Newtown. After leaving his home, he and his mother allowed the suspect to drive his vehicle to a bank in Monroe where money for the suspect was to be withdrawn. After retrieving the money, the suspect forcefully took \$300.00 cash from him and an argument ensued. The suspect pulled over Main Street and demanded the victims get out of the vehicle, which they did. The suspect then fled with the vehicle, while the victims contacted the police. Patrol Officers and Detectives searched the area and located the vehicle in a nearby parking lot. After

searching the area, the suspect was located in one of the businesses. The suspect denied being involved and told officers the person that parked the vehicle fled the area on foot. The suspect also gave officers on scene several false names and continued to deny any involvement. The suspect's description matched and surveillance footage from an area business confirmed the suspect pulled into the lot in the stolen vehicle. The complainants both declined to press charges on their initial complaint after receiving the vehicle back.

The suspect had two PRAWN Warrants. While searching the suspect, officers located drug paraphernalia, crack cocaine, narcotic pills not in proper containers, and syringes. The suspect was charged with Interfering with a Police Officer, 3 counts of Possession of Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Failure to Keep Narcotics in a proper container. The suspect was held on the MPD \$10,000 bond and processed for the PRAWN warrants. She was transferred to court the following day.