



TOWN OF MONROE

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – October 18, 2023

The Monroe Board of Police Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, October 18, 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 September 20, 2023, pending the removal of a sentence on page 3, under Event of Interest, paragraph 3.

Second: D. Hunsberger

Absent: J. Weinberg

Abstaining: D. Geismar

MOTION PASSED: 3-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Chief White was in receipt of a letter from the property manager of 30 Knollwood Street, thanking *Officers Legen, Larkin, and Sergeant Ramalhete*. The letter stated that there was a quick response on the Officer's behalf and no entry was made into the residence. The *Chief* stated that 2 officers suffered minor injuries in the incident and are both back to work.

Chief White was in receipt of a letter from the Center for Family Justice thanking the Department for their participation in the Speaking of Women Event held at the Waterview in September.

CHIEF'S REPORT

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Chairman Vitello asked about traffic safety, and how the traffic complaints are made. The *Chief* explained they are made a number of different ways; emails, calling dispatch, or through the First Selectman's Office.

DETECTIVE DIVISION:

Chairman Vitello noted there were 4 pistol permits done, however 0 background checks and wanted clarification. *Chief White* explained that the pistol permit may have come in, however the background check has not been completed.

COMMUNITY SERVICES; Upcoming Planned Events:

Chairman Vitello asked if the Tip a Cop event was being planned. *Chief White* stated that there is no date for the event as of now, he will update the *Board* once there is a date. *Chief White* notified the *Board* that he was made aware that the Youth Commission has cancelled their Trunk or Treat Event.

TRAINING:

Chairman Vitello asked how many officers were on the Dive Team and if there was a supervisor. *Captain Smith* explained that there were 3 Monroe Officers on the team and their in-house supervisor is the Lieutenant of Support Services. The *Captain* continued that there is a Team supervisor that takes control when responding to a call out.

Chairman Vitello asked how *Officer Tuccinardi* was doing within the Department. *Chief White* stated that since this report was written, he has completed his FTO program and is now on his own. He stated that he is acclimating well.

POLICE STAFFING:

Chairman Vitello noted there was a long term absence back at work, however another officer out. The *Chairman* wanted to know if this was affecting overtime. *Chief White* stated that was correct, and not creating an issue with only one officer down. The *Chief* continued that the Officer should be back in a month.

COMMUNICATION CENTER:

Chairman Vitello asked how attendance was and if there were any issues manning the Communication Center. *Chief White* stated that the current Dispatchers are showing up for their regular shifts and are doing a lot of overtime. He continued that certified officers have also been assisting with working approximately 2 dispatch overtime shifts a week. *Chief White* stated there is one dispatcher in training, and the Detective Division is finishing the background on another applicant. There will still be one opening, to which the *Chief* stated that there are no other applicants at this time.

COMMUNITY SERVICES; Upcoming Planned Events:

Commissioner Deak wanted to know how the information about the planned events gets out to the public. *Chief White* Stated that the VMS signs, Facebook page, and the Monroe Sun will all be utilized. *Commissioner Deak* then asked if there is ever any feedback on coffee with a cop. *Chief White* stated that *Administrative Sergeant Ramalhete* writes a report after the event. *Commissioner Deak* asked if the *Board* can read one of these reports, which *Chief White* stated he would supply them with the report after the event.

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT:

Commissioner Deak asked if there was a timeline regarding the Animal Control Building and the STEAP Grant. *Chief White* stated that the next step moving forward is the architect's plans will go out for bid. The Town will have to come up with the remaining money, which is approximately \$300,000. *Chief White* stated that this will most likely be funded out of the Special Duty Fund.

POLICE STAFFING:

Commissioner Deak asked if there was a procedure in place that the Town can have someone take a physical in order to come back to work. *Chief White* stated that if a person is out for a long period of time, yes, the Town can have that party take a physical.

EVENT OF INTEREST:

Commissioner Deak wanted to know if the suspect was taken for a psychological evaluation. *Chief White* stated that he was transported to court, and if not released then he is committed to the Department of Corrections. The Department of Corrections will make those arrangements for the suspect, as they have those resources.

DIGITAL FORENSICS; Misc:

Commissioner Hunsberger asked what the miscellaneous training meant. *Chief White* stated that this was miscellaneous, not training. The Detective testified in a criminal court case.

TRAINING:

Commissioner Hunsberger wanted to know if the dates under Child Seat Installation class was a typo. *Captain Smith* explained it was not, and it is a 4 day class in order to be certified to install Child Safety Seats.

Commissioner Hunsberger asked how the Legal Updates course was. *Chief White* stated it was good, and that this is an annual course that the *Chief* and *Captain* have to attend.

Commissioner Hunsberger asked why we don't use Monroe EMS for the Emergency Medical Responder Training. *Chief White* explained that Monroe EMS was used in the past, however they became too expensive. The outside vendor was less costly than using the Town.

Commissioner Hunsberger asked if there was a typo for Military Training. *Chief White* stated this was not a typo, the two officers who are Active Military did not have training this month.

Chairman Vitello asked how the Red Dot training went. The *Chief* stated training is finished, and everyone has passed. The *Captain* went into detail regarding the length of the training.

EVENT OF INTEREST:

Chief White stated that this was not on the Chief's report, however it took place today, October 18th. The State Tobacco Compliance came to Monroe and went to all business to buy tobacco. He continued that this was an all day event going business to business. *Chief White* stated that 4 businesses failed and sold tobacco to minors, and as a result they were given infractions. The *Chief* continued with how the purchases take place.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Building and Equipment: *Commissioner Geismar* stated that a new vehicle from last fiscal year will be on the road tomorrow, October 19, 2023. The last vehicle from last fiscal year is in the process of getting upfitted.

Budget and Overtime: *Commissioner Weinberg* was absent. Chairman Vitello stated that the budget is on track and looks good.

Personnel and Labor: *Commissioner Hunsberger* stated that there is still no contract. *Chief White* stated that there is a scheduled zoom meeting at the end of this month for mediation.

Rules and Regulations/Public Relations: *Commissioner Deak* stated he discussed his public relations during the Chief's Report.

Chief White wanted to discuss the Local Traffic Authority with the *Board*. *Chief White* explained that there is a new law stating that the Local Traffic Authority or it's designee must attend an annual training. This year, it is taking place at UConn on November 6th and 7th. The *Chief* stated that he will be attending and asked if any of the commissioners would also like to attend. There was then a discussion about what the class entails.

Town Council Liaison: *Chairman Vitello* notified the Liaison of the step 2 grievance. He will also notify him once the scheduling is confirmed.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Commissioner Hunsberger wanted to apologize to *Chief White* regarding the last meeting, and it was not his intention to be disrespectful.

Commissioner Hunsberger asked about speeding on Wheeler Road, specifically by Glen Hollow Road. *Captain Smith* stated that there has never been a formal complaint made for that area, but he would make a note of it for traffic enforcement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Intersection of Hammertown Road and Fan Hill Road

Chief White stated that he spoke to the Town Engineer, who found the previous proposals for this intersection. *Chief White* stated that a round-a-bout was one of the options. The current Town Engineer will be taking a look to see if he can come up with other options.

Chairman Vitello asked about the K9 research, as it has been tabled for quite some time. *Chief White* stated that the research is on hold until K9 Riggs is close to retirement.

Chairman Vitello wanted to discuss the new State Retirement Plan. He wanted to know if there were definitely people leaving and how to prepare. The *Chief* stated that there are approximately 5 people that would be affected by the new plan, but there have been no formal retirements. *Chairman Vitello* requested this subject is added to the Agenda under Unfinished Business to have a monthly check in.

NEW BUSINESS

a. New Portable Radios

Captain Smith stated that years ago, the Department had to replace all the portable radios because the current ones were not being made anymore. The *Captain* continued that we are approximately half way through the replacements, however we will never catch up before new radios come out. This will create the same problem we are in now. *Captain Smith* explained that the Department needs 25 new portable radios, which is approximately \$92,000. He stated that he submitted an application to the First Selectman and Finance Department to use the Special Duty account to purchase the remaining radios. This application was approved and he will be moving forward with upgrading all portable radios.

b. No Shave November

The *Board* had a copy of a memo from *Officer Nicholas Franzago*, who is organizing No Shave November.

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion: D. Hunsberger

MOTION TO APPROVE the request to participate in No Shave November starting November 1, 2023 and ending Christmas Day, December 25, 2023.

Second: E. Deak

Absent: J. Weinberg

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

c. Step 2 Grievance Scheduling

Commissioner Hunsberger stated that he has been in contact with the Union’s Attorney, and the Attorney was going to speak with the Town’s Attorney to schedule the date and time. *Chief White* explained that the Town was waiting on the Union to make the decision on whether the grievance would be Executive Session or not. *Chief White* stated the Town’s Attorney is away during the regular November meeting, however he can zoom in on the meeting if it is in Executive Session. The *Chief* continued that if the grievance will be open to the public, the Town’s Attorney must be present and the November meeting will not work. There was a small discussion on how long the grievance may take, and if it should be at a regular meeting or Special Meeting. *Commissioner Hunsberger* stated he would reach out to the Union again to finalize the information.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned by ***unanimous consent*** at 8:22 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: September Monthly Report
DATE: October 18, 2023

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Patrol Division:

- Criminal Arrests: 15 Individual criminal charges filed
- M/V accidents 52 collisions

- Issued: 31 Motor vehicle infractions
18 Written warnings
05 Misdemeanor motor vehicle summonses
02 Parking ticket
02 DUI arrests
00 Narcotics
03 Psychiatric
102 Medical calls

Patrol Division officers responded to 08 Domestic/Family Violence incidents in September, resulting in 03 arrests.

Traffic safety - Officers were assigned to 73 Directed Traffic Details during the month in response to citizen concerns and/or identified problem locations and offenses.

Prisoner Watch: Personnel performed 8 hours of prisoner watch for the month.

The total monthly calls for service were 1463.

Detective Division:

- Received 9 cases from Patrol including computer crime, burglary, fraud and sex crimes.
- Initiated another 03 investigations
- Cleared 03 cases by arrest
- Closed 07 cases
- Submitted 06 arrest warrant applications to court
- Received and/or executed 02 search and seizure warrant
- Initiated 04 pistol permit applicant investigations
- Executed no Ex-Parte Orders for the month
- Laboratory transports 03

- Background investigations 00

Department-Wide Warrant Activity:

- 05 arrest warrants served
- 02 FTA (Failure to Appear) or Violation of Probation warrants executed

DIGITAL FORENSICS:

Internal Work

MPD 23-12578

Details: 1 cell phones for a fraud investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-13433

Details: 1 cell phones for a weapons investigation

Status: Complete

External Work

MPD 23-12421 CSP 23-347293

Details: 1 cell phone for a ROI investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-12854 Ansonia PD 23-9512

Details: 1 cell phone for a juvenile sexual assault investigation

Status: Complete

MPD 23-13100 States Attorney's Office St. v. Davidson

Details: 1 iPod for a sexual assault investigation

Status: Complete

MISC / Training

Court testimony in CT. v. Davidson 10-02-2023 through 10-03-2023

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

A child safety seat inspection event was being held at the library September 23, 2023, but due to the weather issues it was moved to the police department's bay 2. This event was not well attended with only two vehicles showing.

There were twelve child safety seat installation/inspection during the month, not including the special event.

Upcoming Planned events

The police department will participate in several Halloween based events including the Trunk or treat at Clock Tower Square, the youth commission's event at Masuk High School and the three individual events held at the three elementary schools

Coffee with a cop will return in the fall but a location and date has still not yet been determined.

Town wide drug Take back is scheduled for October 28, 2023

The holiday for drive is being planned for November

The holiday toy drive is being planned for December

Training

Officers attended the following training:

September 11th - September 22nd: Lt. McKellick attended **the Southern Police Institute** training held at Wethersfield Police Department.

September 5th- September 7th: Sergeant Thompson attended **Penn State University's Acting in Rank** training held on-line.

September 12th – September 15th: Detective Cascante and Officer Panza attended **Child Seat Installation** class held at the New Haven Fire Academy.

September 15th: Chief White and Captain Smith attended **the John M. Bailey** Legal Updates Seminar held in Wallingford, CT.

September 18th: Detective Cascante attended the Lethality Assessment Train the Trainer class. This class was held in Glastonbury, CT.

September 19th- September 21st: Officer Doyle attended Emergency Medical Responder training held at the Waterbury PD Training Academy.

Department Training

SWRERT Training- September 13th and September 27th held in Westport, CT and Trumbull, CT. These trainings were attended by Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant McAulay, Officer Phillips and Officer Johnston.
Crisis Negotiator Team: September 7th - This training was held in Trumbull, CT and attended by Officer Franzago and Officer Twohill.

Dive Team – September 18th and September 19th: Held in Easton, CT. These trainings were attended by Officer Silkman, Officer Johnston and Officer Ebert.

K9 Training- September 6th and September 21st: Held in Danbury, CT. Attended by Sgt DeCarli and K9 Riggs.

Field Training- Officer Tuccinardi has progressed into the final phase of Field Training.

Military Training: Ofc. Andreozzi and Officer Johnston did not have military training in September.

Red Dot Site Firearms Qualification- Sergeant McAulay, Sergeant Johnson and Officer Johnston began their instruction of the department wide weapons conversion to Red Dot Site. There were two training periods in September (September 25th and 26th and September 28th and 29th). Each class size was 9-10 officers per class. September 29th's class was cancelled due to heavy rain and re-scheduled for October 4th.

Communication Center

Justin Kelly started on September, 11th, 2023. He completed phase one of the Communications training with Dispatcher McAulay and has moved onto phase two with Dispatcher Koval.

Dispatcher McAulay's last day of employment was September 30th. He has decided to not stay on as a part time dispatcher.

Animal Control Unit:

The town has been awarded the (2023) \$500,000 STEAP Grant.

Police Academy

Department at full staff, no seats needed.

POLICE STAFFING:

One long term absentee has returned to work, but we have been notified of another long-term absentee in the patrol division.

Event of interest

On September 17, 2023 approximately 2244 hours officers were dispatched to 30 Knollwood

Street, Monroe CT. for the report of a suspicious person. Responding officers were informed an unknown individual was observed walking on the property on exterior surveillance cameras by the property caretaker.

Upon arrival, the first responding officer encountered a male in the rear of the residence attempting to make entry into an out building. The officer began to give instructions to the suspect and quickly determined the individual was either emotionally disturbed or under the influence of some type of substance. The first responding officer, understanding this individual was in the need of assistance used de-escalations tactics to take the individual into custody. As the back-up officer arrived, the suspect changed their tone of voice between a calm state to an agitated and aggressive state. The suspect stated they were the Archangel Michael and they had a sword. Officers did not see a sword, but the suspect did throw into the woods from his pocket what appeared to be a small folding knife indicating it was his sword.

As the suspect began to walk back toward the out building, the first responding officer attempted divert the suspect by stepping in their path. This is when the suspect attacked the officer with a closed fist to the face. The back-up officer immediately deployed their conductive energy weapon (Taser) striking the suspect causing them to fall to the ground. The suspect again began to resist and a secondary CEW cartridge was deployed, but missed. The suspect then attacked the back-up officer and a physical struggle continued. Upon the arrival of the third officer, the suspect was controlled and taken into custody.

The suspect was charged with Interfering/Resisting, Assault of a Public Safety Officer, Breach of Peace 2nd, Criminal Attempt/Burglary 3rd, and Criminal Trespass. He was held on a 200,000.00 bond and transported to court on September 18, 2023.

Both officers were check by Monroe Volunteer EMS and one was taken to Bridgeport Hospital for a minor injury.