



TOWN OF MONROE

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES

Regular Meeting – May 21, 2025

The Monroe Board of Police Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the Monroe Police Department Training Room.

Present: Chairman Michael Vitello
Commissioner Daniel Hunsberger, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Edward Deak
Commissioner James Weinberg
Commissioner David Geismar

Also Present: Chief Keith White
Captain Greg Smith

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairman Vitello recognized National Police Week and extended a thank you to all members of the Monroe Police Department on behalf of the Police Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion: J. Weinberg

MOTION TO APPROVE the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2025.

Second: E. Deak

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS

Chief White reported receiving three correspondence from members of the community thanking Officers.

Mr. Klein thanked *Officer Tim Larkin* for his patience and professionalism during a medical issue.

Ms. Bartlett expressed gratitude to *Officer Ahmed Arnold* for calming her during a health concern and helping her focus on her well-being.

Swanson Fuel commended *Officer Chris Marganski* for assisting their small business in resolving a criminal malfeasance issue.

CHIEF'S REPORT

POLICE STAFFING:

Commissioner Deak inquired on the current openings for police officers. *Chief White* explained we currently have two candidates who are being interviewed this week.

Chairman Vitello asked if candidates may be presented at the June commission meeting. *Chief White* said he believed they would.

Commissioner Weinberg confirmed if the two interviews were lateral transfer candidates. *Chief White* stated they were, but added we just posted for entry-level officers as well.

PATROL DIVISION:

Chairman Vitello noted there was almost a doubling of motor vehicle stops in the month of April, compared to March. *Chief White* explained this was due to the Distracted Driving grant and having additional patrol officers working the overtime.

Commissioner Weinberg inquired as to how the overtime for the grant is handled regarding the budget. *Chief White* explained it is taken out of our overtime budget and when the reimbursement is received that money is returned to that line.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Commissioner Deak inquired as to how much the bike grant received was for. *Chief White* said \$5000.00

ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT:

Commissioner Deak inquired about the renovations at the Animal Shelter and if we had a completion date yet. *Chief White* said it is a floating date at this point as they are trying to finish up "punch list" items.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORTS

Building and Equipment: *Commissioner Geismar* stated there was nothing to report.

Budget and Overtime: *Commissioner Weinberg* stated the department is doing well and in good shape, and he inquired about the salary lines that were particularly good; Holiday, Dispatcher and Overtime. *Chief White* explained the Holiday line gets paid out twice per year and will be near zero at the end of the fiscal year. He added there will be a surplus in the Dispatch line due to being one dispatcher down for a majority of the year. And we are on schedule with the overtime budget, with no overtime lines going in the red.

Commissioner Weinberg asked about the status of our remaining police cars we have not received yet. *Captain Smith* explained one is paid for and awaiting upfit and we should be receiving an invoice for a final vehicle in the next couple of weeks.

Personnel and Labor: *Commissioner Hunsberger* stated everyone was happy.

Rules and Regulations/Public Relations: *Commissioner Deak* stated there did not seem to be anything pertinent to law enforcement being discussed in Hartford at this time.

Chief White mentioned there is a proposed bill creating a second tier to the CMERS pension plan, which we currently have. He explained the new tier would not include overtime pay when calculating pension benefits, and would bifurcate the department's personnel into different plans, which historically creates issues within an agency. *Chief White* continued this plan is proposed to go into effect upon signing for non-CMERS agencies who wish to join it, and July 1, 2027 for current CMERS agencies. Meaning, all new hires would enter that plan. There was some discussion on this and that it appeared it was going to pass.

Commissioner Geismar mentioned the passing of a new law banning the handcuffing of juveniles under the age of 14, and there was some discussion on this.

Town Council Liaison: *Chairman Vitello* stated there was nothing to report, but well wishes were again passed along to *Councilman Duva* for a speedy recovery from some recent health issues.

COMMISSIONER'S FORUM

Commissioner Weinberg inquired as to the status of the planned upgrade to the intersection of Fan Hill Road and Hammertown Road, as he feels it is very dangerous. *Chief White* said the police department had no information, and everything was being done through the Town Engineer's office.

LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Chief White presented a request from the Barnum Festival requesting a road restriction permit between RT34 and Old Zoar Road during the car show and concert scheduled for May 30th and 31st. There was some minor discussion.

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion: D. Hunsberger

MOTION TO APPROVE Barnum Festival request to restrict traffic between RT34 and Old Zoar Road on RT111 for the Barnum Festival Car Show/Concert on May 30 & 31, 2025

Second: D. Geismar

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Department Parking Lot Gate

Chief White said he had no update at this time, that it is being handled by DPW.

b. 2025-2026 Budget

Chief White reported no further changes to the police department's budget proposal and it had passed. Commissioner Deak asked if the two additional officers were part of it, *Chief White* confirmed two quarter officers remained.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

EXECUTIVE SESSION; CHIEF'S CONTRACT REVIEW

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: D. Hunsberger

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:22 p.m. and invite *Chief White* for the Chief's Contract Review.

Second: E. Deak

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

Out of Executive Session at 7:58 p.m.

MOTION TO APPROVE

Motion: D. Hunsberger

MOTION TO APPROVE *Chairman Vitello* signing *Chief White's* contract and forwarding to the Town Council for approval.

Second: D. Geismar

MOTION PASSED: 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Meeting was adjourned by ***unanimous consent*** at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Gregory Smith
Monroe Police Department

**TOWN OF MONROE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

TO: Board of Police Commissioners
FROM: Chief Keith White
SUBJECT: March Monthly Report
DATE: May 21, 2025

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM MEASURES:

Patrol Division:

- Criminal Arrests: 15 Individual criminal charges were filed
- M/V accidents 37 Collisions
- Issued: 197 Motor vehicle infractions
94 Written warnings
10 Misdemeanor motor vehicle summonses
00 Parking ticket
05 DUI arrests
01 Narcotics
07 Psychiatric
136 Medical calls
1834 – Total Calls for Service

Patrol Division officers responded to 08 Domestic/Family Violence incidents in April, resulting in 02 arrests.

Traffic Safety—Officers were grant-funded and assigned to 85 directed Traffic Details during the month. As a result, motor vehicle stops were up.

Prisoner Watch: Personnel performed 86 hours of prisoner watch for the month.

Detective Division:

- Received 16 cases from patrol, including larceny, fraud, vandalism, juvenile, digital harassment, and sex crimes.
- Initiated another 09 investigation
- Cleared 03 case by arrest
- Closed 11 cases
- Submitted 06 arrest warrant applications to the court
- Received and/or executed 11 search and seizure warrants

- Initiated 20 pistol permit applicant investigations
- Executed 00 Ex-Parte Orders for the month
- Laboratory transports 00
- Background investigations 18

Department-Wide Warrant Activity:

- 03 arrest warrants served
- 00 FTA (Failure to Appear) or Violation of Probation warrants executed

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Sergeant Ramalhete, Detective Jimenez, Officer Panza, Officer Ebert and Officer Puglisi hosted a Special Education Parent/Child meet and greet at the senior center. The event was well attended and received positive feedback.

Officer Ebert and Detective Cascante also attended a YMCA health fair on April 24th.

The department applied for and received a bike safety grant through CT DOT. Bikes and helmets were purchased in March with the funds. We held a regional bike safety event along with the Center for Family Justice, Trumbull PD, Easton PD and Bridgeport PD during the Center's Festival of Hope event on May 3rd, 2025, at the Trumbull Mall. We gave away the bikes and helmets at that event.

The Monroe Police Department Kids Fishing Tournament is scheduled for May 10, 2025.

Our Special Olympic Car Show is scheduled for May 10, 2025

The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 25, 2025.

Projects:

The department has submitted a purchase order to Flock Technology. Flock is currently working with the State of Connecticut to obtain the required permissions to use the right-of-way at various locations. The LPR general order was approved last month and entered into our Power DMS system.

The distracted driving grant was written, completed and approved by Town Council and CT DOT. It was a single wave grant that began April 1st and ran through the end of April. We stopped a total of 193 vehicles and issued 120 distracted driving infractions. In addition we issued two misdemeanors and made one warrant arrest. Sergeant Ramalhete is completing the reimbursement paperwork. The reimbursement amount will be \$22,828.41.

Training

April 4th – Sergeant Thompson attended a Supervisor Decision Making course hosted by Elliot Spector in Ansonia

April 9th – 11th – Sergeant Ramalhete and Sergeant DeCarli attended a Mid-Management Supervision course hosted by Elliot Spector in West Haven

April 14th 16th – Officer Marganski attended a three day report writing class in Middletown.

April 20th – Officer Frizinia completed his once per week Traffic Crash Reconstruction class through IPTM. This was a virtual class which began in February and concluded the week of April 20th.

April 14th – 18th and 21st – 25th – Sergeant McAulay hosted a ten day handgun instructor certification course for the FCPTOA. The class was well received and a total of twelve new instructors graduated the class.

April 21st – April 25th and April 28th – May 2nd – Detective Jimenez attended the 63rd annual Fairfield County Detective School in Newtown

April 26th and 27th – Sergeant Ramalhete attended a two day grant writing class in Stratford.

April 30th – Officer Wahib and Officer Dos Santos attended the car seat installer update course in Clinton.

Department Training

SWRERT Training- April 9th, April 16th and April 23rd. The April 9th training was attended by Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant McAulay, Officer Rampino and Officer Phillips. The April 16th training was attended by Sergeant Johnson, Officer Rampino and Officer Phillips. The April 23rd training was attended by Sergeant Johnson, Officer Rampino and Officer Phillips.

Crisis Negotiator Team: Nothing Scheduled in April

Dive Team – April 25th in Easton and was attended by Officer Silkman and Officer Ebert.

K9 Training- April 7th and April 21st - Sergeant DeCarli and K9 Riggs attended the April 7th training along with Officer Frizinia. Sergeant DeCarli, K9 Riggs and Officer Frizinia also attended the April 21st training.

Military Training – Officer Johnston attended military training April 12th – 14th.

Officer Andreozzi completed his EMT training at Monroe EMS and is in the process of scheduling the State and National tests.

Recertification Training – April 7th – 9th – Officer Legen completed the rest of her recertification training online. Chief White also completed his recertification online.

March 31st – April 3rd—We conducted a week-long firearms simulator training program through CIRMA. This interactive program requires officers to utilize verbal commands, de-escalation techniques, and judgment in addressing varying computer-modeled use of force scenarios. The critique of our department’s performance was positive.

POLICE STAFFING:

May 2, 2025 is Officer Doyle’s last day of service. His retirement will leave the department with two open positions. The certified officers list will close in May, and oral board interviews will take place.

We currently have one long term absentee.

Communication Center

On March 31st we hired Nikolas Picon to fill the vacant dispatcher position. He has begun his CTO training which runs roughly 10 – 12 weeks. In April he completed Phase 1 and 2 and began Phase 3. At this point he is progressing as expected.

Animal Control Unit:

The renovation is nearly complete. The exterior metal siding for the kennel has been delivered and installed. A punch list of remaining items will be discussed in early May as we hope the reopening takes place by the end of May.

Budget

The department currently has no concerns regarding the fiscal year budget. All budget lines, including the overtime budget, are trending optimistically for the year. The new fiscal year budget was passed on May 6th.

Records

The Records Unit is currently fully staffed, and there are no issues.

Event of interest

Officers were dispatched to the Monroe Town Hall in response to a computer crime complaint involving a disruption of a public Board of Education finance meeting conducted in person and via Zoom on March 20, 2025. Monroe IT personnel reported that, shortly after the meeting commenced, several Zoom users displayed explicit animated images and usernames containing obscene content. The meeting was temporarily suspended by town officials, then resumed before being interrupted a second time by similar content and the use of racial slurs via microphone.

Initial attempts to trace the offending accounts indicated use of foreign IP addresses, including one resolving to Germany. On March 24, further investigation was conducted, and Monroe IT provided meeting recordings, transcripts, and Zoom attendee logs. One recording captures racial slurs being shouted during a public comment segment.

A separate incident occurred the evening of March 24 during another Zoom meeting. The disruptive participant used the alias "Nuke Hubert Gamer" and was linked to an IP address registered with Bell Canada. Monroe IT implemented preventative measures, restricting virtual participant access to minimize future disruptions. Relevant evidence was secured and logged into property.

A search warrant was signed and served to Sparklight for the IP address used during the March 20 incident. The account was registered to a household in Meridian, Idaho. Attempts to contact the registered parties resulted in a return call from a male resident, who identified himself and his juvenile son as being associated with the IP address. The juvenile, age 12, admitted involvement and stated he had joined a server named "CCP Thugs" after finding it on a public server directory site. The server organized and promoted Zoom disruptions and provided users with media tools to disrupt meetings.

A covert account was used to confirm the existence and structure of the "CCP Thugs" Discord server. It was found to be active, containing over 1,700 users and channels dedicated to sharing Zoom links for meetings across the country. The server was reported to Discord for Terms of Service violations.

Given that the only identified suspect is a cooperative out-of-state juvenile, all other investigative leads would require complex or nonviable legal processes. Monroe IT has implemented appropriate safeguards to prevent recurrence. Based on these factors, the case is being closed with no further action pending.