

Suffield Police Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Jan 21, 2009

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, Jan 21, 2009 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Jack Quinn, Linda Stevenson, Matt Joyal, and John Zavisza. Commissioner Peter Hill arrived at 7:17 p.m. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Capt. David Bourque, Recording Secretary Karen McKown, and Ms. Ilene Krar of 9 Somerwynd Lane. Officer Osowiecki was in attendance for a short time.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chairman Miner.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Miner read a note from Janette Frchette from Emergency Aid Association, thanking the department for the contribution to the annual holiday baskets.

From the Gavonni-Shuman's, a note wishing the department a safe new year. The note came with a plate of home-made treats.

(This letter was read following the Chief's report). Mr. Miner read a letter from a Janice Carmichael, of unknown address, thanking Officer Osowiecki for coming to her aid when she was broken down on the bridge.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Ms. Ilene Krar lives on Somerwynd Lane, on the corner of Halladay Ave East. She stated the traffic on her road "flies". She said she has noticed an increase in number of cars and speeding. She is requesting a stop sign, perhaps at Shadow Pond or Somerwynd and Halladay. Chief Manzi explained the process of doing a traffic study which would be needed before any traffic signs can be added. He told her traffic studies cannot be done in the winter, and in fact, one had been done there, a number of years ago. Ms. Krar was told the study would be done in the spring.

No other public input

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, and approved by all.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Zavisza motioned to accept all the department reports as presented, barring any questions the commissioners might have. Mr. Quinn seconded. **Mr. Zavisza amended his motion to exclude the Chief's Report.** Discussion: Mr. Quinn had a question regarding the activity report, why there was such an increase in numbers of calls for service. Capt. Bourque explained that there is new protocol in place for generating dispatch numbers, including the prison program, and the addition of 2 new officers.

Mr. Miner inquired about the inclusion of the UCR forms, end of the year report, in the commission packet. Capt. Bourque stated he included it for Commission information. This year end report compares 2007 to 2008.

There has been some snow-mobile patrol in response to complaints.

Mr. Miner called for a vote on the motion to approve the department reports. The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Manzi explained how he believes he prevented an armed robbery at the Valero gas station in Windsor Locks. He observed a male who made a motion as if he was reaching for a gun, until he spotted the Chief standing in the store. As he identified the Chief as a police officer, the man ran out of the store and jumped into a waiting car.

The Chief reported that persons unknown were shooting a gun from the Enfield side of the river, with the bullets hitting houses on the Suffield side. Suffield and Enfield investigated.

Cars with personal items in them were broken into in the High School parking lot. The Chief has been trying to get the message out that nothing visible should ever be left in a car.

The Chief and Capt. met with Southwick, Ma. town manager and chief of police and our first selectman regarding Southwick's plan to impose a "fee" for Connecticut residents living around Lake Congamond who have docks out into the water. The Southwick people were hoping Suffield's leaders would endorse their fee and recommend the land owners comply with it. The Chief does not feel it is appropriate for the department to endorse such a thing. Southwick was also seeking patrol help for around the lake in the summer. The Chief said he would help Southwick when possible, but he is not planning to pay anyone overtime to supplement their lake patrol.

Linda Stevenson motioned to accept the Chief's report, seconded by Mr. Joyal, and approved unanimously

PROBATIONARY OFFICERS –

Chief Manzi reported that both new Officers (Justin Nelson and Justin Fuller) have completed their field training and have satisfied all state training requirements and effective Jan. 12, have been on their own patrol. Both Officers remain probationary, from the end of their field training for one year. The officers are doing well.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CHAIRMAN COMMENT –

Mr. Miner commented on the obviously worsening state budget picture. The state is projecting a huge deficit of 900 million dollars, and Mr. Miner is pessimistic about the ability of the state legislature to cope with this. He predicts an "ugly budget year". He believes for the town that the Board of Finance presents a town budget that is accepted the first time out, because if the voters don't accept it then, he fears the finance board will probably come back and ask for reductions in personnel, across the board. Mr. Miner said he feared town government is set to repeat the budget nightmare of the early 1990s.

A new schedule of Commission Meetings for 2009 was presented to the members.

At 7:50, Mr. Quinn motioned to go into executive session seconded by Mr. Hill, and passing with unanimous approval. The executive session was to discuss an ongoing personnel issue.

At 9:01, Mr. Quinn motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Stevenson and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKown,

Donald Miner Chairman

Recording Secretary