

SEYMOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MICHAEL E. METZLER
Chief of Police

MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016 7:00 P.M. 11 FRANKLIN STREET SEYMOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

Members present: Robert Koskelowski, William Paecht, Lucy McConologue, Frank Conroy and David Bitso. **Also in attendance:** Chief Metzler, Deputy Chief Satkowski, Inspector DeNigris, Officer J. Martin, Cmdr Rinaldi, Officer Oczkowski, John Miller and Troy Raccuin (union reps) the public and the press.

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Koskelowski
2. **Pledge of allegiance:** was led by Chairman Koskelowski
3. **Public Comment:**

Officer Jonathan Martin, President of the Police Union- explained that there was discussion at last month's meeting regarding vests. New vests have been ordered, however, handed out paperwork showing that some current vests have expired. Per manufacture guidelines the life span of a vest is five years.

4. **Approval of minutes of regular meeting on July 20, 2016**
William Paecht/Lucy McConologue motion to accept the minutes.
Motion: 4:1 (David Bitso abstain)

5. **Commissioner's Comments:**

Commissioner Bitso was questioning what the phrase "in recent events" in last month's minutes refers to. This phrase refers to the nationwide shootings against officers.

Chairman Koskelowski stated that the information handed out under public comment shows a number of vests that have expired as of 2016 and wanted to know when they will have new ones? We should know a year in advance when they will expire. Even though the Chief states the process for ordering vests is the same since 1999, feels the administration is not doing it right if the officers are wearing expired vests. There is more than one person that knows how to do a grant. How much does each vest cost? You are looking at the manufacture saying it expires on a certain date the liability alone is great, we have a number of officers with expired vests. It seems we have enough money in our budget that we could just buy the vests and forget about the grant. From now on if anyone has any information like this, please get it to us in advance so no one gets upset about what's going on here. The Chief and I should not be yelling back and forth here and I'm very upset because I got information

tonight at the beginning of the meeting that something is expired that shouldn't be expired and they are giving us reasons why we don't have new vests, for \$ 9800.00 dollars I would have bought the vests and forgot about the grant this year. From now on, if anyone gives us documentation at the beginning of the meeting we are not going to discuss the issue until the next meeting, because it isn't fair to management or this board. I apologize to the Chief. I'm just very upset about what is going on.

Deputy Chief Satkowski stated the process had been started but was put on hold while the Grants Coordinator was out on sick leave now that she is back the vests have been ordered and take approximately 4-6 weeks to come in. The vests are not really expired, the vests are still good, the manufacturer recommends every five years so we are within that time frame to get these replaced and the officers are in no way in jeopardy. Yes we have a running record of the expiration dates of the vests. We applied for the grant last year and were approved for the monies. I have been working with the Grant Coordinator because she was on sick leave there is no one else that handles that grant and we have been waiting for her return, she needs to file all the paperwork to make sure we go through the proper channels. This is a federal grant program with the DOJ. Each vest cost about \$ 800.00 dollars. New officers have brand new vests. The manufacturer, for legality reasons, only guarantees the vests for five years, they are good longer than five years. We apply for the grant and they approve it based on your needs.

Commissioner McConologue wanted to know if the grant was through the Matthies Foundation? Were new vests ordered for everyone of these on the list showing expired? Is the grant a set amount each year? This used to be in the five year plan all the time?

Chief Metzler stated that new vests have just been ordered and we do know in advance when the vests will expire- they are in the budget every year. They are purchased through the Bullet Proof Vest Program and the current vests expire this month. This is the process we have been doing since 1999. Wants to know who says the vests are expired? The paperwork handed out is a recommended expiration date. We put up the full dollar amount of each vest and we receive half the money back through the grant. This is in the five year plan.

Commissioner Conroy says that if he is reading this right, June of 2016 the vests expired so other words the vests were expired in July and we don't have the new vests yet? Being in August now, when do you think we will get these vests? So we could go from June to September with expired vests? I'm a little confused, last month we asked if we were all in order with the vests and everything was suppose to be on line, if it wasn't just give us an explanation. All the new people are all set with the new vests? It doesn't look good when you see a report like this showing expired, there are 16 expired vests.

Commissioner Paecht do you have a running record of vests about when they are coming up to expire? Would like to know where the administration is getting the information that the vests have not expired. The document handed out was printed on 8/6/16 and there was plenty of time to get us this information.

Chairman Koskelowski stated that a letter went out to DPW regarding the stop bars, are those being painted yet?

Commissioner Paecht stated that all the school stop bars have been done, this week they are starting all the new paved roads and the other roads are being worked on as we speak.

Downtown Parking Hours

Chairman Koskelowski stated at last month's meeting the Board approved the no parking over night hours, would like a motion made on that tonight under old business. The hours are different on Friday and Saturday because we do have a bar on Main Street and they don't close until 2 am and it would not be fair to them.

Commissioner Bitso stated he spoke with the First Selectman who recommends the hours be the same all 7 days.

Chief Metzler will write a letter regarding hours of overnight parking to the First Selectman.

6. Old Business:

6a) Patrol reports: Board accepts the reports and when possible officers have been doubling up.

6b) Detective report: Board accepts the report. Inspector DeNigris stated that there have been a string of car break-ins, 19 in total, with an arrest being made, as well as an arrest regarding the 6 commercial burglaries.

6c) SRO report & Community Police: No SRO report as school is out. Board is not happy the CP report is late again and why does the CP report always show working with the merchants regarding the construction of the new building. Inspector DeNigris will speak with the officer on his report.

At last month's meeting, the Chairman of the Democratic Town Committee stated they would like to help us. Chairman Koskelowski would like the Chief to write a letter to them asking if they would like to buy Block Watch signs.

Commissioner Conroy believes that a letter should be sent to the Republican Town Committee as well to see if they would like to join in and help.

Chief Metzler will send a letter to both committees.

6d) K-9 reports: Board accepts the reports. New K-9 doing well-started narcotics training. The old Ames building, which is now a training facility, will no longer be able to be used. Looking for another area to train in.

6e) Car Report: Board accepts the report. New cars have been ordered.

7. New Business: None.

8. Management Report: Chief Metzler reports that he and Deputy Chief Satkowski attended an Opioid conference, went to Washington DC with Deputy Chief Satkowski and Inspector DeNigris to the presidents crime summit, August 24, 2016 an event will take place at Tea with Tracy called "have a cup with a cop"-everyone is invited from 8 am to 11 am, Boys and Girls club appreciation day was a great day, people have been dropping off tokens of appreciation and the department is thankful for their support, Officer Vega started on her own, Detective Bureau and Patrol did a great job working together to solve a case, still waiting on holsters for the guns, over time and budget look good, some issues with the air conditioning in the building and met with Mr. Whitemey who would like to have a forum with emergency services.

9. Correspondence: None.

10. Other Business:

William Paecht/Frank Conroy motion to add to the agenda purchase of rifles for all cars.
Motion: 5:0.

Chairman Koskelowski states that not all vehicles have rifles in them.

Chief Metzler states that the same rifles we use now will be bought as the officers are already trained on them.

William Paecht/Lucy McConologue motion to purchase rifles for all cars. **Motion: 5:0**

Commissioner Conroy wants to know how much more radar can we do to slow down cars and how do we get the information out to the public that we are out there doing radar and catching speeders.

Chairman Koskelowski suggests painting the speed limit on a few roads as a trial bases to see if it helps with speeding. Maybe put up more speed limit signs or radar in use signs.

Chief Metzler suggests putting more information on the police website informing the community of what is going on, being more transparent.

Deputy Chief Satkowki states he is looking at more social media outlets to get the information out there.

Chairman Koskelowski would like to know how the town engineers came up with their list of priority roads in town that need to be paved. Have they ever asked us how many cars use the roads, we do have a counter that counts how many cars use the road and could tell them which roads are the most traveled.

Commissioner Bitso would like to say the new DPW regime is doing a good job and he has heard positive comments.

11. Public Comment: None.

David Bitso/Frank Conroy motion to go into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and strategy issues. In attendance: Board only. **Motion: 5:0**

William Paecht/David Bitso motion to come out of executive session at 8:26 p.m. No votes or motions made. **Motion: 5:0.**

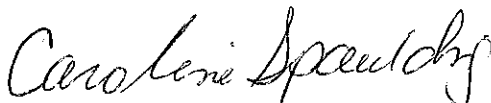
William Paecht/David Bitso motion to add to the agenda downtown overnight parking hours. **Motion: 5:0.**

Chairman Koskelowski recommends that Sunday through Thursday, 12 am to 5 am and Friday and Saturday 1 am to 5 am would be the no overnight parking hours in the downtown area excluding the side where the railroad station is and any parking lots. This includes Columbus Street, First Street, Wakeley Street, DeForest Street, Bank Street (Main Street to Wakeley Street) Main Street (West side from Route 67 to Broad Street) and Main Street (Train Station to Broad Street). This would be effective October 1, 2016 and request public works order the signs and have them installed. **All in favor. Motion passes 5:0**

Chairman Koskelowski requests executive session be placed on the next agenda regarding personnel, notifying the Chief, the Deputy Chief and the Inspector. They can have representation if they want. He has some issues he would like to discuss under personnel.

12. ADJOURNMENT William Paecht/Frank Conroy motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. **Motion: 5:0**

Respectfully submitted,



Caroline Spaulding
Recording Secretary