

TOWN OF PLAINFIELD, CONNECTICUT

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

The Police Commission, for the Town of Plainfield, held a regular meeting on Monday, September 27, 2022, at 6 P.M. at the Plainfield Town Hall. The meeting was brought to order at 6:00 P.M. by Chairman Daniel Hutchinson.

Members Present: Daniel Hutchinson, Joe Sangermano, Kenneth Sheldon, Commissioner Colleen Lugauskas, and Bruce Dawley.
Chief Mario Arriaga, Deputy Chief William Wolfburg were also present.

Acceptance of the Minutes:

Commissioner Sheldon moved to accept the minutes for the Special Meeting on September 19, 2022, as presented. Commissioner Dawley seconded that motion. Commissioner Colleen Lugauskas abstained due to her being absent last meeting. All in favor. Motion passed.

Citizen Participation:

First Selectman stated that he invited Chief and Deputy Chief Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., for a meeting with the Zoning Officer, Town Planner, Chair and Vice Chair of Planning and Zoning, as the Town is faced to figure out what to do with Marijuana/Cannabis Dispensaries in Town. On whether to move forward to work with it, to ban, to make modifications on it. Would like to get the opinion of the police to see what the impact would be to the police department.

Would like to speak to the Chief regarding the National Opioid settlement. Received about \$8,900 from that settlement and would like to see if there are any programs or plans that the money could be used for.

One signage is purchased and installed. Trying to work with a company to get another at a reasonable price.

Correspondence:

No correspondence

Executive Report:

Chief Arriaga stated that a few Commissioners expressed concern that the department was losing many officers. He handed out a packet to all Police Commissioners. The packet contained information from other Law Enforcement Agencies about departure statistics, among other things. This is a brief overview of other Connecticut Agencies, which in approximately the last two (2) years have had Law Enforcement Officers, either transferred or left law enforcement all together. This list contained 14 Connecticut agencies and the total numbers. Plainfield was at the bottom with the lowest number along with another agency. Retirement numbers were not included in these figures.

A listing of history, since 1982, was also included, which showed more loss then than it does now.

We can do better for our Police Officers and there is work to do. Both Chief and First Selectman have been pushing for this and the current contract shows this. This needs to be done in steps and can't be done all at once.

As discussed in the previous meeting, there were many other agencies hiring. Only fourteen (14) showed up to the physical agility process. Only seven (7) passed. Now, only two (2) remain.

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Training:

SWAT Team training up-to-date.

K-9 Training up-to-date.

Deputy Chief went to an ATV training course and is certified. Officer Wright is also certified. Hopefully we can find a grant to purchase a ATV. This will help with missing persons in wooded areas. DEEP Officers response times can be, at least, 2 ½ hours out because of how their protocol is. There is only one (1) DEEP Officer per sector. Most come from the shore area, an hour or more away. If they need an ATV, they have to come to access the situation, then request the ATV through their Dispatch center, which gets approved by their Major. Then once approved, the secondary officer, usually coming from central or western CT, has to get the ATV and bring it to the location.

Traffic:

October 1st, at 10:30 a.m.-Jane Arruda 5K (3.2 miles) run/walk. Starts at the Plainfield Memorial School going to Cemetery Road and on the side road and finishing at the school.

New signage: Solar speed signage will be placed at Daggett/Allen Streets. Two (2) solar speed signs will be placed on Black Hill Road once a reasonable price and specs can be found.

Blind pedestrian signage was requested at Main Street/Ward Avenue/Prospect Street. Deputy Chief is concerned that putting up too many signs at a specific location, no one will pay attention to the signs. As it is, there are many signs at that location. This was explained to the requestor and the requestor is accepting of the reason.

Executive Session:

At 6:13 P.M., a motion was made by Commissioner Sangermano to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Sheldon seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

At 7:28 P.M. Commissioner Sangermano motioned to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Dawley seconded. Commissioner Lugauskas made a motion to amend the motion to exit Executive Session with No Action Taken. Commissioner Sheldon seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Commission Comments:

Adjournment:

At approximately, 7:29 P.M. Commissioner Dawley moved to adjourn this meeting, Commissioner Lugauskas seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Noelle Engle

Noelle Engle
Recording Secretary