

MINUTES

WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

WATERTOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS
195 FRENCH STREET
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012, 7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: James Blais, Chairman
Patricia Kropp
Gary Lafferty
Mark Tedesco
Jack Walton, V. Chairman/Secretary

ABSENT:

ALTERNATES

PRESENT: William Muccino

ALTERNATES

ABSENT: Michael Brown

OTHERS PRESENT: John Gavallas, Police Chief
Robert Desena, Deputy Police Chief
Matthew Stewart
Michael Bolton
Alan Mickel
David LeBlanc

- 1. Convene Regular Meeting**
Chairman, Jim Blais called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call**
The roll call was executed
- 3. Public Participation**
David LeBlanc
Mr. LeBlanc asked the commissioners if they received his e-mail regarding the F.O.I.A. complaint and asked if could talk during the action item.

Jim Blais yes

Matthew Stewart – Troop 140 – Boy Scouts – 222 Wheeler Farm Road

Mr. Stewart is doing his badge for the scouts in the community.

Jim Blais recused himself.

Mr. Bolton – Director of Campus Safety Taft School

Mr. Bolton basically what transpired is that the Taft School Corporation has purchased the property near the green. There is going to be some renovations done to the buildings, they may become apartment buildings. The church I believe is being used by the former congregation as well as Taft School to host different events. I don't know what the expansion plan entails other than the fact there will be a lot of pedestrians crossing from the crosswalk located at North Street across Route 6 to the green. We have looked at the possibility of pedestrians traveling down Woodward Road Extension which is a one-way street from the school, there is a double crosswalk. There is a cutoff in the bushes where the pedestrians can cross from campus to the Annex parking lot which is at the intersection of Woodbury Road. If they took left near the bushes they can cross the secondary crosswalk which leads them at the intersection of Route 6 and Woodbury Road. Then they would walk down the sidewalk to the property to participate in events. The issue is that the sidewalk on Woodbury Road extension is not capable of handling a lot of pedestrians and we have close to 600 students that may go to different functions back and forth. You have this site line that is going on with the crossing looking from the east to the west there is a blind curve by the Congregational Church and the Old Town Hall and you have moments to cross. Recently I sent e-mail to the Chief requesting DOT to do a site survey on the area; I believe they did come out and some type of a signal might be necessary to facilitate the large amount of children crossing from that area over. It will be kind of tight because the distance between the smaller green down by the Congregational Church and the Town Hall is not very far and it is a couple hundred yards when you approach the crosswalk. I believe that the school's position and I can't speak for them but I am on the safety committee is the concern about kids going down the proper sidewalk by the stone wall and crossing over and being a possible victim of a pedestrian accident. As a result of discussions on our safety committee we request that the site survey be done for a manual light or a traffic light and that is why I am here this evening.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular meeting – April 11, 2012

Correction: The address for the Katie Veilleux was written down as 37 Eddy Street it should be 37 Edith Street for Public Participation.

Patricia Kropp could we table this until another meeting and listen to the tape.

(Patricia Kropp sec. Michael Tedesco) to postpone approval of minutes for corrections until next meeting date.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passes unanimously

5. **Correspondence**
- a. **Report from D.O.T. on “No Passing zone” on Route 63.**
 - b. **F.O.I. complaint from David LeBlanc.**
 - c. **E-Mail from D.O.T. regarding traffic signal at French Street and Buckingham Street.**

Police Chief Gavallas the 3 correspondence items are also action items we should address them in the action items.

6. **Action Items**
- a. **F.O.I complaint dated 4/16/12 from David LeBlanc regarding voting on item that was not on the agenda.**

David LeBlanc: Mr. LeBlanc read the Freedom of Information Complaint
The Police Commission states at the April 11, 2012 Police Commission Regular Meeting that the Watertown Police Commission violated Section 1-225 of the Freedom of Information Act by discussing and voting on an issue that was not on the agenda or added to the agenda. Number two the Watertown Police Commission will attend a mandatory Freedom of Information training session. Number three the Watertown Police Commission will abide by all Freedom of Information Laws.

Jack Walton what is the training session?

David LeBlanc call Tom Hendricks, to schedule a training session, he comes in here and gives you a one hour session, he is the information officer. I can come in for 20 minutes it is not sanctioned by F.O.I.A. I am not an F.O.I.A. expert, I will sit here for 20 minutes and I will discuss it, there is a four page document that I handed out discussing the five points on F.O.I.A. and you are done.

(Mark Tedesco sec. Patricia Kropp) I make a motion to correct F.O.I. complaint by following David LeBlanc’s recommendations.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed unanimously

Patricia Kropp we have already earlier in the agenda and decided to not vote on the minutes until somebody listens to the tape, I think there has been a misunderstanding

Mark Tedesco Chairman could we push things along for this gentlemen, could we go to 6D.

(Mark Tedesco sec. Patricia Kropp) I would like to motion to go 6D to discuss pedestrian safety issue at Route 6 and the Green.

Jim Blais I am still recused.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed unanimously

6d. Discuss pedestrian safety issue at Route 6 and The Green.

Mark Tedesco we have already heard the discussion from the gentlemen in the beginning, Chief what do you recommend.

Chief Gavallas you are talking about a state road and you have to go through DOT. As far as the traffic signalization they tell me there is not enough pedestrian volume to warrant it. They have to meet a certain standard of pedestrian volume with the signalization. So that would be off the table as far the state is concerned.

John Gavallas an alternative to maintain that crossing walk farther left and you might alleviate that site line issue a little bit and then put in a sidewalk in across the street. If the state is okay with moving that crosswalk further left.

Michael Bolton I would move the crosswalk further west or eliminate it and not make that the crossing point, so you are taking the hazard away.

Mark Tedesco a recommendation from this commission would help, do you think with Town Council regarding the sidewalks.

(Mark Tedesco sec. Patricia Kropp) DOT Letter requesting Route 6 crosswalk painting be removed by the Green.

Jim Blais is back from being recused.

Aye: 4
Nay: 0
Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Mark Tedesco Mr. Chairman, there is going to be a letter sent to the council from this commission, Chief.

Jack Walton I will write it.

Jim Blais is back from being recused at 8:00.

b. Discuss stop sign violators at the intersection of Colonial Street and Candee Hill Road.

John Gavallas Ms. Veilleux came to the last meeting and we looked at the area with the traffic counter, there is no speeding problem there. We approached the Highway Department they are going to repaint the stop bar and install stop sign at that intersection.

Jim Blais does she know what you are going to do.

Police Chief John Gavallas we will send her letter.

c. Discuss possible closing of Main Street, Watertown, between Woodruff Avenue and Depot Street for "Night on Main Street" on June 29, 2012.

Police Chief John Gavallas it is a program that Park & Recreation is putting on and they are going to have vendors and food. It is a state road and we have sent a letter to DOT requesting permission to close the Main Street. We have had some dialogue with them and they are going to approve it. We will shut down the Main Street between Woodruff Avenue and Depot Street.

e. Discuss D.O.T. plan to replace traffic signal at Buckingham Street and French Street.

Jim Blais we voted on this several months ago.

Police Chief John Gavallas this is just to put the computer chip in to turn the light red or green.

(Mark Tedesco sec. Patricia Kropp) I would like to add an item to the agenda under New Business 7a.

Commission member what is he going to add though.

Patricia Kropp we have to add an item and then we go on a second vote and add the item we want to add.

Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed unanimously

Mark Tedesco the item would be 7a to discuss Chairmanship of this commission.

Mark Tedesco I want to speak freely here. Let me explain something about myself, I graduated high school and have done very well for myself and very successful in business and in doing so its when you know your limitation. I feel as a member here Jim that you are a great commissioner, I just feel as a Chairman and I am not trying to thrown you under the bus here, we are getting our heads handed to us here.

(Mark Tedesco sec. Patricia Kropp) to replace Chairman with another commission member..

Aye: 3
Nay: 2
Abstain: 0

Jack Walton you would need 2/3rds vote.

MOTION IS DENIED

8. **Chairman's Report** - none
9. **Chief's Report**
 - a. **Month 2011 – Police Dept. Activity**

10. **Adjournment**

MOTION: (Mark Tedesco sec. Gary Lafferty) to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Aye:5
Nay: 0
Abstain: 0

Motion passed unanimously

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Respectfully submitted,

James Blais, Chairman
Watertown Police Commission