WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.

1. Convene Regular Meeting
   Chairman Richard Antonetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

   PRESENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman (phone)
   Carmine Verno, Secretary
   Richard Rossi

   ABSENT: David Jannetty, Robert McCarthy

   ALTERNATES PRESENT: Brian Mays

   ALTERNATES ABSENT: Ken Demirs

   OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief
   Jared D'Andrea, Deputy Chief

   Brian Mays sat in as a regular member for David Jannetty.

3. Public Participation
   Frankie Popilowski thanked the Chief for the stop sign at Warner & Chestnut. Ms. Popilowski asked if they were doing the Citizens Police Academy this fall?

   Joshua Bernegger answered last year we didn't get enough interest; may be in the Spring we will attempt it again.

   Frankie Popilowski talked about the coyote problem and how were they going to handle it.

Candance Waynewright, 157 Slade Street requested to have a marked crosswalk to go across Buckingham Street at Booth Avenue for the connection from the neighborhood to John Trumbull School.

Joshua Bernegger stated I completely support that proposal, I think it is wise to have crosswalks, especially in the vicinity of school zones. It would take an affirmative vote of this commission for me to send a request letter to the State Department of Transportation to request that. I don't think getting the approval from the state is going to be the issue here. It's going to be at the cost of the town to install. It's not just about putting paint on the road to install a new crosswalk, especially on a state road, they are going to require ADA compliant pads on either side with an implant into the concrete. There would some construction cost involved and it would have to be funded through the Department of Public Works and would qualify for the rapid rectangular flashing beacons in that area.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays: I make a motion based on the citizen's request and the Chief's concurrence.

Motion passed unanimously

Meg Eversano, Westbury Park Road stated I walk continuously around and noticed you put a new one going from the Police Department across to the sidewalk on French Street. The crosswalk from Westbury Road going across the sidewalk is not up yet. Also Ice House Road has the curb cut with that the ADA compliant that you are talking about and but it goes to nowhere there is no crosswalk. Ms. Eversano talked about traffic control at high school football games.

Joshua Bernegger answered the Ice House Road crosswalk, 100% I agree with you. Again, it requires construction because we cannot install a new crosswalks without the ADA compliance. The sidewalk will have to be modified on each side. We need a crosswalk there and I 100% agree and I have had the conversation with the Director of Public Works. We will do this again to request the same at Ice House and French. The one in front of the Police Department was existing and simply got repainted. At Westbury Park Road, it purposely did not get repainted because the plans for the Steele brook Green Brook Greenway going to be passing a couple dozen feet to the west right there. To put two crosswalks in such close vicinity to each other would be inappropriate. That one at Westbury Park Road is purposely being eliminated and it is being moved to the west at the Steele Brook Greenway where there will be a rapid rectangular flashing beacon. The football games we will see what we can do up there.

Lynette Anousky, 709 Bunker Hill Road stated the issue on Bunker Hill Road is the traffic and the speed. Cars are speeding both ways and my house happens to be in the middle of Bunker Hill from the stop sign off Middlebury Road and from Straits Turnpike. At night is horrendous and I appreciate the sign up how fast you are going but the location of the sign does not work.

Bill Zarillo, Caruso Drive wanted to confirm that everyone has seen the emails sent. Mr. Zarillo believes the four-way stop sign at Lake Winnamaug Road and Caruso Drive and Raspberry Lane is necessary for safety and questioned the report's findings.

4. Minutes Approval
a. Regular Meeting – September 9, 2026

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays: to accept meeting minutes of September 9, 2026.

Discussion: none

Motion passes unanimously

5. Correspondence – none.

6. New Business
a. Discussion and possible action regarding the installation of a "Stop "sign on Warner Avenue at the intersection of Chestnut Avenue.

Joshua Bernegger stated Public Works was not suppose to install the stop signs there until the commission voted on it. I received correspondence through the Department of Public Works and I will read it, from Bob Grandpre. My recommendation is the existing sign coming down Chestnut Avenue down the hill to Warner Avenue that a placard gets added to the stop sign that states oncoming traffic does not stop. To have a stop sign installed at the end of Warner Avenue where it meets Chestnut at a T intersection that also has an advisory placard that says traffic from the left does not stop. The reason what would not become an all-way stop is because of that significant grade on Chestnut Avenue.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays: I make a motion to put a stop sign at the end of Warner at Chestnut and a placard about oncoming traffic doesn't have a stop sign on both.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Old Business

Chairman Richard Antonetti asked have you had discussions with the Paul Bunevich, Town Engineer to go over the reports?

Joshua Bernegger answered I have been in contact Paul the Town Engineer with his reports.

Chairman Richard Antonetti asked do you feel that Paul is accurate in his analysis of these various districts, where stop signs should go, where they should not go and do we get a report on the number of accidents at these intersections that have occurred?

Joshua Bernegger answered Mr. Bunevich's engineer reports did take into consideration a 5 year look back of traffic accidents at the intersections in question, at each there were no crashes in the last 5 years.

Carmine Verno stated taking the first two A and B what is your recommendation on those?

Joshua Bernegger answered for the commission to accept the report as written and the regulatory signage at those intersections is appropriate as is.

a. Review and possible action of the Town Engineer's traffic report regarding Belden and Trumbull Streets.

Joshua Bernegger recommended to accept the report as written, that the regulatory signage at those intersections is appropriate as is.

b. Review and possible action of the Town Engineer's traffic report regarding Mt. Fair Drive and Vista Drive.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays: I make a motion based on the Chief's recommendation that 7A and 7B remain as is.

Motion passed unanimously

c. Review and possible action of the Town Engineer's report regarding Lake Winnamaug at the intersection of Caruso Drive and Raspberry Lane.

Carmine Verno stated based on the citizen's testimony and the amount of information he submitted. I think we should table it with a bit more discussion and review. I want to consider your input on that and asked what do you think.

Joshua Bernegger answered it is totally up to the commission.

Chairman Antonetti stated I agree, it will give us a chance to digest the report given by the speaker tonight. The department will back come at our next meeting in November with a complete report to be given to both the commission and to the citizens as to what action should be taken for the safety of the public.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays: I would like to make motion to table 7c regarding Winnamaug and Caruso to consider testimony and documents submitted until the next meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

8. Chairman's Report:
Richard Antonetti stated you have received the architect's book on building a new Community Police Station and we have to wait until after the November election.

9. Chief's Report
a. September 2026– Monthly Department Activity Report
Joshua Bernegger reported:

1) Recruit Officer Arnaldo Santos is currently attending the POST Academy in Meriden and scheduled to graduate in December 2026.
2) Recruit Officers Aleury Ramirez and Michael Helvenston are attending the Milford Police Academy and are scheduled to graduate in March 2027. The hiring of these two applicants has filled the police department's roster with 42 sworn.
3) The full-time dispatcher who was hired a few months ago failed to complete training and is no longer employed by the Town. The position has been posted and interviews are forthcoming.
4) The Town of Watertown Radio Communications Upgrade Project continues as scheduled. The Fire Department received all of their radios last week. The vendor anticipates cutting over to the new system on October 28th. Once the new equipment is operating normally and is stable, the system will begin to broadcast digitally which may affect the ability of analog scanners to receive the signal.
5) A promotional process for the rank of sergeant has been posted, and four candidates have applied. The written and oral exams will take place on October 22nd. A vacancy in the sergeant rank does not currently exist. This process will establish a two-year list in the event a vacancy does occur.
6) The Watertown Police Department has received the Connecticut Police Chief's Association's "Serve well, Be well" award which recognizes the Department's efforts and dedication to the overall wellness of our staff.

10. Adjournment
Motion Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Antonetti
Chairman