



**WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Convene Regular Meeting
Vice Chair David Jannetty called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman (having technical issues online)
David Jannetty, V. Chairman
Carmine Verno, Secretary
Robert McCarthy
Richard Rossi

ABSENT:

ALTERNATES Ken Demirs
PRESENT: Brian Mays

ALTERNATES
ABSENT:

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

Ken Demirs and Brian Mays were congratulated as being alternate members.

3. Public Participation
Bill Mazzetti, 166 Ice House Road, Unit 36 spoke about geese crossing in the street getting hit by cars and asked about geese crossing signs in either direction. Mr. Mazzetti also had concerns with speeding vehicles on Ice House Road.

Joshua Bernegger answered I can inquire with our Public Works Department if they would be able to erect any type of signs for goose crossings appropriately placed, and I will also take a look at the speed limit signs on the road to make sure the signs are appropriately placed on the roadway.

4. Minutes Approval
 - a. Regular Meeting – July 8, 2026

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Richard Rossi to approve meeting minutes of July 8, 2026.

Discussion: none.

Motion passes unanimously

5. Correspondence – none.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion on coyote problem. – Lieutenant Loren Angiolillo described incidents on Kimberly Lane and Loop Road area. Both animal control officers have been working with the Nuisance Wildlife Control Officer. We got a permit to trap on August 10th on town property and able to get permission to hunt them. On August 21st trail cameras were deployed and are being monitored. It's a long process, and we are doing everything that we could to ensure the safety of the community up there making residents aware of the issue.

7. Old Business

- a. Mr. Greenwood's Request for a "Stop" sign installed at the intersection of Belden and Trumbull Street. – a report is in the packet from the town's engineer for the commission to review. The conclusion in the investigation is the existing yield sign that controls the intersection is valid and should continue with no alterations finding there is no warrants that are listed in the manual for traffic control devices that would change the regulatory signage.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Robert McCarthy: A motion to table the issue with Belden and Trumbull.

Motion passed unanimously

- b. Update concerning the Department of Transportation evaluation of a passing zone located in the vicinity of 251 Lichfield Road. – being a state road, it was referred to the State Department of Transportation for their review and received I traffic investigation report. They concluded a site line study of that area recommending the north bound passing zone be revised as previously described by the department's latest standards for passing zones. They are not getting rid of the passing zone but shortening it.

- c. Correspondence from Mr. Victor Torres regarding a request for a traffic study of Mt. Fair Drive and Vista Drive in Watertown. – this was referred to the Town Engineer for a study finding no warrants to change the existing regulatory signage. In summation, based on the recorded data road geometry and lack of crash incidents, I believe the additional signs are not warranted at the referenced intersection.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded Richard Rossi: a motion to table Mt. Fair Drive and Visa Drive until the next meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

- d. Correspondence from Dr. William Zarillo regarding a request for the installation of stop signs for both northbound and southbound traffic on Lake Winnemaug at the intersection of Caruso Drive and Raspberry Lane. -this was referred to the Town Engineer to do a study of that intersection, which has been completed. In summation, based on the recorded data, geometry and lack of crash incidents, I believe the installation of additional intersection control signs is not warranted at the referenced intersection. It was noted that the Highway Department maintain the slope at the easterly side of Caruso Drive intersection trimmed of grass and brush as low as possible for adequate site line visibility. I have been in contact with the Highway Department, and they are aware of the site line issue there and it is on a regular maintenance cycle.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Robert McCarthy: to table Caruso and Winnemaug until the next meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

8. Chairman's Report: none.
9. Chief's Report
- a. Month 2026– Monthly Department Activity Report
- Joshua Bernegger reported:

Attached

10. Adjournment
- Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by Brian Mays to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

David Jannetty
Vice Chairman



WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

195 FRENCH STREET
WATERTOWN, CT 06795
860-945-5200



Joshua N. Bernegger
Chief of Police

Jared D'Andrea
Deputy Chief

TO: Town Manager Mark Raimo
Watertown Town Council
Watertown Police Commission

FROM: Joshua Bernegger, Chief of Police

DATE: 9 September 2026

RE: September 2026 Chief's Report

- 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 were sworn in on August 27th and started the Milford Police Academy on August 28th. The hiring of these two applicants have filled the police department's roster with 42 sworn.
- 3) A new full-time dispatcher and three per diem dispatchers continue to progress through the telecommunicator training program.
- 4) The Town of Watertown Radio Communications Upgrade Project continues as scheduled. All equipment has been received. Our radio vendor, NORCOM, is projecting a cutover to the new system by the end of October.
- 5) The new school year started up smoothly. Officer Willie Quarles continues as the School Resource Officer at Swift Middle School, and Officer Walter Weidemier has started his service as the SRO at Watertown High School.
- 6) 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.
- 7) The Watertown Police Department has accepted a new intern, Clarise Blakeman, from POST University who will be completing approximately 120 hours of service over the next several weeks.
- 8) Officer Austin Keeney and Sergeant Christopher Donston will be recognized by Mother's Against Drunk Driving for their outstanding efforts in DUI Enforcement at a ceremony held at Mohegan Sun on September 18th.
- 9) The Watertown Police Department has been a long-time partner of the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI) and is proud to have been selected by PAARI to be the first law enforcement agency in the country to have all sworn officers be certified in the practice of deflection through completion of three new courses:
 - a. Addiction 101 For First Responders
 - b. Deflection and Diversion Foundations
 - c. The Trauma-Addiction Connection