

**Town of Auburn**  
**AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 15, 2022**

**D. Dion** – calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and leads the pledge of allegiance.

**Present:** David Dion, Police Commissioner, Patrick Bergeron, Police Commissioner, Joseph Rossino, Police Commissioner, Chief Pelton, Lt. Chabot and Lillian Deeb.

**Also present:** Steve Grange, Neighborhood Watch Leader

### **REVIEW MINUTES**

**P. Bergeron** - motion to accept the February 8, 2022, public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. **J. Rossino** – abstained. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

### **CHIEF'S REPORT**

**Chief** – comments a mutually agreed date for Annual Awards night will be April 14, 2022. He mentions it will take place in the FD bays. He mentions Drug Take back is April 30, 2022. **D. Dion** – comments on the drug drop off box that remains in the lobby for those that can't make the day. **Chief** – comments on the Department's grant funded Hands-Free patrols coming up in April, mentioning an article went in this month's Crier and some signs will be going up to remind residents. He further comments LEAD program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) began Monday with 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the AVS and will run for the several weeks. **P. Bergeron** – asks if Officer Ryan Goulet is instructing class again as his son enjoyed it last year. **Chief** – mentions this month's training Active Shooter Response Plan review. He further explains there is a formal plan in place, and this will be a review for officer and tour of the school. He comments the April training with F & G for OHRV and their enforcement policy. **D. Dion** – mentions getting the word out about what law requires. **Chief** – mentions the use exceptions and mentions has some additional items to discuss but will wait till old business.

### **LIEUTENANT'S REPORT**

**Lt. Chabot** – comments on 939 calls for service and mentions while there was only 8 arrests for month, multiple charges came out of those arrests keeping prosecution busy. He further comments on 185 motor vehicle stops. He mentions some tweaks to policies made this month, explaining as situations arise it prompts modifications siting a recent change was made to policy about Use of Force and about chain of command notification on certain calls.

### **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE**

**S. Granger** – mentions he doesn't have a whole lot for commissioners tonight, he's been busy personally but mentions in his area of town there have been OHRV issues. He comments a gate was put up on trail near his home and riders have been opening gate. **D. Dion** – asks about NW news letter. **S. Grange** – mentions meeting being scheduled for leaders this Spring and hopes PD will get back on sending out notifications to share which keeps interest.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Chief** – comments on the 2022 cruisers, looking to keep PC up to date. He explains one cruiser is in and being outfitted. He mentions PD was informed there have been lots of issues with the 2022 Hybrid cars and high percentage are experiencing them and the department is going to split and purchase 1 hybrid and 1 regular cruiser to limit the chances of 2 cruisers being down at one time. He mentions the current hybrid experienced the computer issues, but that cruiser has been in for repair and hasn't experienced the issue again. He comments the second cruiser will be ordered later in the year and outfitted and by gapping out order the department isn't down 2 cruisers while both are being outfitted. He comments one should be in service in April and order the other in service by June. He further comments a change to cruiser assignments due to the gas price situation. He mentions the officers that drive the most have been switched into the hybrid in an effort to conserve fuel. He mentions if a more aggressive approach needs to be taken other alternatives will be made. **D. Dion** - asks how the department is doing with the fuel line budget. **Chief** – comments the numbers from the town have not been provided. He explains each year it isn't until four months into the year that the approved budget figures get added. **D. Dion** – mentions he noticed the spreadsheet in the packet, numbers weren't right and keep eye on fuel line and discuss later in summer. **Chief** – mentions other ideas have been tossed around, like getting the motorcycle out there but if the department must will consider putting put mileage restrictions on as a last resort. **D. Dion** – mentions the fuel line over the years have been reduced when gas prices were \$1.75 a gallon. **Chief** – mentions working through this and once the second hybrid comes in, they will be used predominantly as duty units. He further updates the commission about the furnace problem, explaining the Fire Chief is spearheading issue but that Selectmen approved bid to replace the failing unit, mentioning a month to order unit and maybe another month to install. **D. Dion** – mentions seeing State is giving out grant money for body worn cameras and asks if the PD was too early ordering them already or can apply retroactively. **Chief** – explains the money can not be gotten back but mentions not being too far off because Auburn paid significantly less than what they are charging now, and the system Auburn purchased does not use the cloud. **D. Dion** – comments not having a continuing cost with the cloud. **Chief** – mentions Auburn paid significantly less, than what is being offered now and grants are 50% funding and will have the continued cloud cost. **P. Bergeron** – mentions if used grant funds would need to comply with grant parameters. **Chief** – comments Bill Herman had brought the grant to the department's attention, and they did look into it and no retro funding allowed. **D. Dion** – asked how officers are with BWC. **Chief** – mentions they have been well received and used frequently in prosecution. **Lt. Chabot** – explains officers also have used it to critique tactics and interactions. **D. Dion** – asked newly elected Commissioner Rossino if Hudson Police had BWC. **J. Rossino** – explain during his tenure dash cams and audio was used.

## NEW BUSINESS

**D. Dion** – mentions the election of a chairperson. **P. Bergeron** – motions to elect Dave Dion as the chairperson. **L. Deeb** – comments that newly elected commissioner Joseph Rossino had not had an opportunity to get sworn in and therefore can't cast a vote and mentions commissioner can wait until he is sworn in to elect a chairperson. **D. Dion** – comments there is a majority, and he will second the motion. **J. Rossino** – abstained. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

**P. Bergeron** – comments based on satisfactory annual review, motion to award an increase to Matt Webber from a Labor Grade 8, Step 8 to a Labor Grade 8, Step 9. **D. Dion** – second. **J. Rossino** – abstained. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

**Chief** – mentions another item he had under new business. He explains his discussions with the town administrator back when meeting for union negotiations. He comments sergeant and full-time officers contract prearranged substantial increases and the town administrator suggest the chief reach out to a retired municipal association person to look to see about having he look at job descriptions of non-union positions. He further explains in the previous union contract raises were given and again now with the new contract and there is now little pay separation between admin positions compared to other agencies Auburn's size, exactly what was discovered during union negotiations. **Chief** – explains this person has experience and the town has used this person before and he will discuss payment for re-classifications with Bill Herman. He further mentions he is raising this with the commission because they will likely see this issue come before the Joint Personnel Board when they meet later in the year. **D. Dion** – asked if other positions in the town will be reviewed. **Chief** – comments he hadn't heard because he wasn't sure the issue of position separation was an issue within the other town offices but will be in communication with town administrator. **D. Dion** – mentions a study being down in 2011. **L. Deeb** – mentions the full study was in 2011 and modifications were later made in 2014.

**D. Dion** - motion to adjourn at 7:23PM. **P. Bergeron** - second. J. Rossio – abstained. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

**Meeting closed at 7:23 pm.**

Minutes approved by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_.