

Town of Auburn
AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
January 2, 2024

D. Dion – calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and leads with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: David Dion, Police Commissioner, Patrick Bergeron, Police Commissioner, Joseph Rossino, Commissioner, Chief Pelton, Sergeant James Huard and Lillian Deeb.

Also Present: Neighborhood Watch Leader, Steve Grange and Officer Lennon

REVIEW MINUTES

P. Bergeron – motion to accept Public Minutes of December 5, 2023, as presented. **J. Rossino** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

P. Bergeron – motion to accept Non- Public Minutes of December 5, 2023, as presented. **J. Rossino** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief – mentions all the Department's Christmas activities have wrapped up, comments the Giving Tree was successful and thanks the residents for their generosity and mentions the Santa Parade Melissa organized with Auburn Fire was well received. He further comments Melissa did a great job. **D. Dion** – comments on the great public relations. **Chief** – mentions the four elections this year, commenting two Tuesdays from now is primary and officers will be present. He further comments on the Cross Walk update mentioning Manchester Water Works have been in contact with him and MWW looking to make some changes at Front Park which include discussions about the cross walk and plans to include Manchester Rd, along with Londonderry Tpk. and looking at Federal funding. He mentions the Rail Trail is owned by the Railroad and will be included in these discussions. **J. Rossio** – comments glad the ball has gotten rolling. **Chief** – mentions MWW discussions to move the trail crossing away from the traffic circle. He further comments Officer Lennon is here and can discuss the CIT program but comments appear Officer Lennon has a call and he updates the Commission. He comments on November's spousal training and officers are now certified to hold debriefing. **J. Rossino** – asked if FD is included in these debriefings. **Chief** – confirms they are.

LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

Chief – comments Sergeant Huard will be giving the LT report. **Sgt. Huard** – comments on the December 2023 stats, mentioning the 20 reports, 8 arrests and 209 MV stops. **D. Dion** – asks how that compares to calls from last year. **Chief** – comments calls are about 100 less this year. **D. Dion** – mentions reading about medical calls increase. **Chief** – comments medical calls were steady and have been overall somewhat elevated. **Sgt Huard** – comments arrests are up this year to approximately 130 to the 100 last year. He further mentions the 2100 car stops, comments there are new officers which attributes to this number. **D. Dion** – mentions he's noted the increase in car stops with the younger officers over the last two years. **Chief** –

comments COVID attributes to this too. **Sgt. Huard** – comments the K9 officer has completed training and comments will be drug training in the Spring. He mentions officers mandatory annual training was completed and that the officer that was deployed for year is back and on patrol schedule. **D. Dion** – comments he was gone for over a year.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

S. Grange – mentions things were pretty quiet this past month and reminds commissioners he met with Melissa and worked breaking down email distribution lists. **Chief** – mentions Melissa will send out message about the unique identity theft cases PD has recently gotten and remind residents to take the time to review bank statements more carefully. **S. Grange** – mentions similar circumstances with his account. **P. Bergeron** - mentions his similar experience.

OLD BUSINESS

Chief – comments purchase of gas cruiser was approved and paid for, and arrangements are being made to take possession. He further mentions the hybrid cruiser appears to be available sooner than anticipated. **D. Dion** – clarifies the gas was purchased and it is a hybrid on order. **Chief** – confirms and mentioned the town was helpful getting this done. **D. Dion** – asks about the final numbers for 2023 budget. **Chief** – explains the majority of the remaining funds are related to payroll lines that were proposed by the finance department last year. He further comments retirement was a large portion of funds being turned back in and the full-time payroll which was due to the officer that was out for year his salary remained. **D. Dion** – asked if the line items were overspent. **Chief** – explains the payroll was the bulk of remaining funds. **D. Dion** - asks if anything else under old or new business. **P. Bergeron** – comments under old business he wanted to let commission now he contacted the Town Administrator about scheduling a Joint Board Meeting and mentions plan to wait till budget committee met to raise a concern he had. He mentions cuts that were made to the budget at the meeting and members appeared to have had the particular cuts decided prior to the public meeting and be in agreement without discussions. He questions whether the Police Commission should look to address his concern. **Chief** – comments the BOS and TA are looking to treat the PD budget more as a bottom-line budget when spending down particular lines or going over on lines and give the Department ability to spend the money how they see fit and questions whether the Budget Committee was aware of this approach when lines were overspent this year. He comments maybe the Budget Committee was upset certain lines were overspent when the PD was directed to expend funds like this and maybe Budget Committee was not aware of this when they saw lines overspent. He mentions maybe a discussion with the Budget Committee prior to next year and that overall, the meeting went well because of the facts behind funded lines. **D. Dion** – comments to his surprise they cut the fuel line. **Chief** – comment on candid conversations. **D. Dion** - comments historically known bottom line budget and doesn't recall ever overspending. **Chief** - comment funding does back into general fund and doesn't save taxpayer but by purchasing cruiser this year does save on taxes. **D. Dion** – comments hopeful Joint Board Meeting will be scheduled or at least have date by next PC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS - none

D. Dion - motion to adjourn at 7: 20 PM. **J. Rossino** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**
Meeting closed at 7:20 pm.

Minutes approved by _____ on _____.