

**Town of Auburn  
Police Commission  
March 4, 2014**

**Present:** David Dion, Police Commissioner, Dennis McCarthy, Police Commissioner, Ken Robinson, Police Commissioner, Chief Edward Picard, Captain Gary Bartis and Annie Flight, Administrative Assistant.

**Also Present:** Russell Sullivan, Audrey Trickett, Tom Gonyea, Jim Cloutier, Lt. Ray Pelton, Officer Chris Beaule, Greg Santuccio, Anita Lombardo, David Fletcher, Peter Lennon, Jeff Mullaney, Scott Rogers, Aaron Chappell, Norma Picard, Sean Wheeler, Mary Ann Rolfe, Scott Eaton, Rick Eaton, Deirdre Cleary, Linda Dross, Jill Dross, Mike Dross, Scott Rolfe, Michael Rolfe, John Rolfe, Sue Jenkins, David Jenkins, Susan Thibeault, Scott Norris, Karen Norris, Pauline Vieira, Dennis Vieira, Kim Sargent, Brad Sargent, Mike Dipietro, Kevin Babcock, Cliff Noyes, Rick Gilbert and Jack McFarland.

**D. Dion** – the meeting was called to order at 7:00 and the locations of the exits and restrooms were identified.

**REVIEW THE February 4, 2014 MINUTES**

**K. Robinson** - motion to accept the February 4, 2014 minutes with corrections. **D. McCarthy** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes**

**REVIEW BILLS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**D. Dion** – comments there are no bills or correspondence tonight.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE**

**D. Dion** – looks to Mr. Cloutier for an update on what has been happening with the NW. **J. Cloutier** – stated there was not much going on during the winter months and that Detective Chabot had communications with him regarding some of the burglaries that had occurred this past winter and related information utilized from Leads on Line. He also commented on his update to the NW group contained a reminder to check batteries in smoke detectors in light of the recent deaths with home fires. Also commenting Dennis is looking in to see if smoke detectors can be provided to residents in need. **D. Dion** – remarks he was glad Detective Chabot communicated that information he had requested because these results heard at the station dealt with the solving of one leading to another was positive feedback the NW likes to hear on their success. **J. Cloutier** – comments the NW wants to hear that the calls they are making on suspicious activity is paying off. **D. Dion** – asks if there has been more discussion on having a rally this summer. **J. Cloutier** – comments that there hasn't been much traction but would like to set a date to meet with the commission to further the rally idea.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**Chief** – comments statistically on the success of the NW and relays that Sgt. Garofano is now part-time, Officer Cashman is now full-time and Lil is at the part-time academy. He further comments the Captain will speak to his pending leave of absence.

## **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**

**G. Bartis** – comments on his pending knee replacement and anticipates being out for approximately six weeks. He further comments on the calls for the month of February commenting the weather played a big part in those with nine being accidents, expounding that there were no calls relating to burglaries for February but were a few criminal mischief, thefts, vandalism and fraud. There were forty motor vehicle stops for the month with thirty-eight of them resulting in warnings only being issued.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**D. Dion** – comments there was nothing under old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**D. Dion** – comments that the next item on the agenda was discussion on reclassification but that issue has been tabled to the next meeting and indicates the next discussion relates to the Road Agent Investigation Findings report. **D. McCarthy** - comments on the receipt of the report and relates according to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement the Commission is deferring the report to the Chief to determine if any personnel action or any other action is warranted. **D. McCarthy** – Motions to move the report for the Chief to review for action. **K. Robinson** – seconds, **D. Dion** – asks if there needs to be any discussion. **D. McCarthy** –requests that the Chief move through his investigation as quickly as possible. **Chief** –confirms. **D. Dion** – requests something be reported to the commission by next meeting. **D. McCarthy** – comments at the least, an update. All in favor. **Motion passes.** **D. Dion** – went on to relay to the audience that earlier this evening the commissioners had met with town counsel and he has a prepared statement. **D. McCarthy** –comments the commission will take public comment but commission response will be limited due to the contract. *D. Dion reads the prepared statement.* **D. McCarthy** – asks for public comment. **M. Dross** – asks when and how notification will be made of action, if any, that gets made. **D. Dion** – asks the Chief to comment. **Chief** – explains there is an active investigation taking place by the County Attorney's office, hopes that will be completed by next month and comments internal investigations are reported back to the Police Commission. **D. Dion** – asks if the department has received complaints regarding officer's behavior within the last six months. **Chief** – comments not to this date. **M. Dross** –comments on if the commission can't respond then how notification will be made to the public. **D. McCarthy** – explains there is no binding arbitration and that the commission is the unions members final recourse relating to disciplinary actions and at the least the commission could report whether there was going to be disciplinary action or not. **D. Cleary** – identifies herself and refers to conversations she had with Chief Picard this past fall, commenting she likes Eddie. She further comments she was there in the fall to interview the Chief about the Historical Society and relates conversation she had with the Chief where he relayed he had two drawers full of files on Mr. Dross and Mr. Herman and asks if the investigation looked at these files. **D. McCarthy** –comments the commission is not aware what the investigator reviewed as the investigation was requested by the Board of Selectmen. Specifics to what was being investigated and what the investigator did was contained in report. **D. Cleary** – asks if those files are open to the public for further investigation. **D. McCarthy** –comments he couldn't answer that, that the Chief may be able to but that the Commission is not involved in any actual investigations and that is done at the department level. **M. Rolfe** –identifies himself and asks how much the investigation cost. **D. McCarthy**

– comments unsure.... as again the investigation was not done by the Police Commission and suggests may want to question the Selectmen. **R. Sullivan** –comments 23,500 plus or minus. **G. Bartis** –asks Mr. Sullivan to clarify the investigation he is referring to as that of the Staples investigation. **M. Rolfe** – comments on the cost for Officer Barry. **D. McCarthy** – relates time sheets not itemized but expects there was a cost as he was on the town clock. **J. McFarland** – ask about where things stand with the Silva investigation where gravel was taken from someone's land. Further commenting arrests are being sought in relation to what was buried at the town shed but wants to know about what arrests will be made related to things buried on the Silva property. **D. McCarthy** – suggests asking the Chief as that is a present investigation. **Chief** – comments it is an ongoing investigation and can't comment on it. **D. Vieira** –identifies himself and asks why the Auburn Police Department couldn't conclude and what motive Mr. Dross would have to bury the items at the town shed and goes on to comment that a bunch of people had opportunity but again questions motive, commenting Mr. Wetherbee was paid. **D. Dion** - comments again this is an ongoing investigation. **D. McCarthy** – comments again the commission is limited on what can be said but shares Mr. Vieira's concerns and views the reading of Mr. Staple's investigation as the very things being suggested. **D. Vieira** – goes on to comment the items buried were not toxic and the tires could have been brought to the transfer station. **D. McCarthy** – explains it is not a question the commission can answer. **D. Dion** –acknowledges Mrs. Picard to speak. **N. Picard** –comments earlier it was discussed how important it is for NW members to call the police and the police have an obligation to respond, further commenting a complaint was received and because the department looked into such complaint the department is now labeled vindictive and in her opinion as a tax payer the department was doing their job and let the investigation run its course. **D. Dion** – comments as the chairman he runs the meeting and only one person should be speaking at a time. **J. Dross** – asks why incident wasn't addressed when it happened. **Chief** –comments again it is an ongoing investigation. **D. Cleary** – comments she has fear...further relating her house has been robbed twice in past year and not only is there a lot of robberies in Auburn but that she is afraid of the police due to what she has witnessed further commenting she did not go looking for this information but that the Chief shared his agenda and tax payer's money is being spent and further claims she has a right to stand up but she is afraid. **D. Dion** – relays that the Department received reports that toxic substance dumping had taken place on Eaton Hill but the Commission didn't call a drilling company, relaying Chief presented the complaint to the Selectmen and the BOS made the decision to verify with a company taking boring samples. **R. Sullivan** – confirms the BOS made the decision. **M. Dross** – comments DES was called and he was never asked what was buried on Eaton Hill Road. **D. McCarthy** – comments that the chain of notification relating to that issue was discussed at the previous commission meeting and is reflected in the minutes of that meeting. **J. Dross** – asks if all the reports are coming back false... why things are continuing. **D. McCarthy** – comments that the Staples report was received and the commission has moved things into the Chief's hands and hopefully things will move forward keeping things focused. He further comments it hurts to hear "whatever you do...don't call the Auburn Police Department. Going on to explain he has been on the commission for many years and as many attending realize is not always happy with the way the commission operates but promises the issue will continue to be looked at and the healing begin and make some changes so this doesn't happen again. In addition, adding this is one of the largest attendances and believes there are problems. **D. Vieira** – comments he also believes there are problems and the town is split going on the explain in detail some of his history helping the Methuen Police and then went on to talk about someone he knew from Amesbury Police and how he'd like to support the Auburn Police and doesn't want to be the person trashing them. Further comments not wanting to see people afraid to go to a Selectmen's meeting or Police

Commission meeting and speak, relating his daughter and future son-in-law are afraid because of his speaking out and he supports Mr. Dross and doesn't want the Police Department targeting people. **K. Sargent** – comments she wants to see this fixed and she is not afraid of the police department and feels Auburn has the best emergency services in New Hampshire. Further commenting Mr. Vieira took out a full page article in the Crier yet claimed yesterday didn't know what was in article but relays the article was a decisive move and didn't benefit anyone and would like the legal system to take care of resolving the issues and believes Mr. Dross was shorted but puts some of the blame on the fact Mr. Dross couldn't answer questions on the advice of his attorney. **R. Gilbert** – introduces himself and comments on the full faith he has in both the police and fire department here in town and suggests letting the investigation be completed before placing judgment. **A. Lombardo** – introduces herself commenting her sorrow that people express a fear of the police, understanding people may express a hate for the department but requests those people not to put their safety or the safety of their family in jeopardy but call, asking them to ignore the fact may be mad but let the police do their job to protect and relates she takes personal pride in protecting the public. **J. Mullaney** – introduces himself as an officer and resident reiterating people should not fear the police and asks anyone in attendance that has fear to take the time to meet the individual professional police officers in Auburn and asks the residents not to paint the entire department with a broad brush. **D. Vieira** –relates an incident from this morning on Bunker Hill, noting did not get a plate number of a late model black Ford pick-up that drove into his lane of travel and made rude gestures. He further comments didn't call the department for obvious reasons. **J. Rolfe** – comments on the article in the Crier, relating his personal experience how such things can ruin a business and the bell cannot be un-rung. **R. Eaton** – identifies himself commenting on a different note attesting from personal experience the NW works because while he was out within the neighborhoods the police made contact because someone had called. **D. McCarthy** – comments the next meeting will be the first Tuesday of April and welcomes anyone present tonight to return next month.

**D. McCarthy** - Motion to adjourn. **K. Robinson** –second. All in favor. **Motion passes**

**Meeting closed at 7:42 pm.**