

**Town of Auburn**  
**AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 12, 2020**  
**Public Access by Remote Teleconference**

**D. Dion** – calls the meeting to order at 6:46 PM

**Present:** David Dion, Police Commissioner, Dennis McCarthy, Commissioner, Michael Rolfe, Commissioner, Chief Pelton, Lt. Chabot and Lillian Deeb.

**D. Dion** - motion to go into non-public pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) and (c). **D. McCarthy** – seconds and polled the members having received the affirmative from all present. **Motion passes.**

**D. Dion** –at 7:00 pm reconvenes public meeting.

**Also present:** Bill Herman, Town Administrator

**D. Dion** – announced as Chairman of the Police Commission, he is declaring that an emergency exists and was invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b). Federal, State and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to the community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of Town government and services, which are vital to the public safety and confidence during this emergency.

Governor Sununu issued Emergency Order #12 on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, which provides local government boards the ability to conduct business using technology to hold remote meetings and not provide a public place of meeting but provide for the public's ability to listen to the meeting. As such, this meeting will be conducted with the Commission present in one place and the public having the ability to telephonically listen to the meeting.

The Commissioners announced they were present by roll call: Commissioner Dion, Commissioner McCarthy and Commissioner Rolfe.

*Bill Herman monitored the meeting checking for public comment.*

**D. McCarthy** – motioned to seal the minutes of tonight's non-public meeting. **M. Rolfe** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

## **REVIEW MINUTES**

**D. McCarthy** - motion to accept the March 17, 2020 public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. All in favor. **M. Rolfe** – abstained because he was not present for that meeting. **Motion passes.**

**D. McCarthy** - motion to accept the March 17, 2020 non-public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. All in favor. **M. Rolfe** – abstained because he was not present for that meeting. **Motion passes.**

## **ELECT CHAIRMAN**

**D. McCarthy** - motion to maintain the present Chair, Dave Dion. **M. Rolfe** – seconds and questions whether Mr. Dion wants to continue. **D. Dion** – confirms his desire to remain chairperson. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

## **CHIEF'S REPORT**

**Chief** – begins by updating the commissioners on the two officers that had un-protected exposures and explains they quarantined and returned to duty and mentions the shift coverage for those patrols. He mentions it took some time to assemble PPE equipment, but the department has now assembled adequate supply with the assistance of the Auburn FD, commenting they've been fantastic. He comments on the decontamination station the department erected for when officers come in contact with suspected cases and comments the Department is in a good position moving forward. He comments of the continued conferences with Town officials and Emergency Management officials and the stress level has been decreasing. He mentions the department training continues as it relates to handling cases and social distancing and protocol changes made. He mentions this has been a stressful event for officers since because it's been going on so long and the threat of bringing it back home and to family. He mentions the residents of Auburn have been doing a great job following the guidelines, further commenting at the high point Auburn had 14 active cases at one time and is presently down to one active case. He comments many of the cases appear to be household members rather than community spread. He mentions there has been an increase in mental health calls and neighbor dispute calls. He comments on the two drug overdose calls, mentioning one was a fatal overdose. He comments on the recent parking complaints, especially at Tower Hill and Front Park but they appear to be under control with the assistance of the Road Agent and Manchester Water Works. **D. Dion** – mentions the parking at Front Park when closed had moved to roadway. **Chief** – mentions following the guidelines the park was closed and mentions the radar sign is at Tower Hill and people are complying. He further mentions the parades the officers have been participating in when they can. He mentions discussions are in the works with AVS and Pinkerton about graduations and will see where that leads. He mentions Officer Webber is attending the Academy and explains the virtual classes and how PT testing was conducted. He comments he will wait till later in presentation to talk about the budget.

## **LIEUTENANT'S REPORT**

**Lt. Chabot** – comments he would like to publicly commend the Chief for his leadership during this crisis, further commenting officers have stated their appreciation for the Chief actions during crisis. **L. Deeb** – mentions officer have commented the Chief has been proactive and supportive during this time. **M. Rolfe** – comments commission picked the right guy for the job. **Lt. Chabot** – comments changes have been made to law enforcement tactics and enforcement, mentioning interview are conducted outside home and with social distancing practices. He comments April had 771 calls for service, commenting less than normal. **D. Dion** – questions the 500 building and property checks. **Lt. Chabot** – explains that that entails. He comments there were 3 arrests and explains what circumstance and mentions department had 17 investigative reports. He comments on the illegal dumping calls are up but unsure whether it

can be contributed to transfer station's hour changes and mentions the 56 car stops but comments the department will be stepping up MV stops. He comments on the overdose calls. **D. Dion** – comments on his observation that he has noticed cruisers at station. **Chief** – comments for the past month there has been no outside details and changed the number of officer coverage during the crisis. **L. Deeb** – comments the mileage is listed in the packets provided. **D. Dion** – comments noticed a decrease of State Police on roadways. **Chief** – explains there were general guidelines to focus on serious MV violations ONLY to limit contact. **M. Rolfe** – mentions the department could have kept the fuel line reduced as Commissioner McCarthy suggested. **Chief** – comments who could have predicted.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE**

**D. Dion** – none tonight

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**D. Dion** – comments discussing the 2020 budget. **Chief** – comments in light of all that has been going on the budget remains pretty good. He comments the part-time line is high and full-time lower because part-time has been filling the gap presently in the full-time line. He mentions the department has made a lot of expenditures in equipment that they normally wouldn't have made but the department is working with the Town Administrator for grant funding and other State funding which will hopefully cover some of the costs incurred for COVID related items. **B. Herman** – comments Auburn has been slighted for \$132,000.00 in funding. **D. Dion** – questions the cruiser costs. **Chief** – explains were the department stands to date. **L. Deeb** – explains that line will be over due to the encumbered funds. **Chief** – explains that vacant shifts because officers were out can be reimbursed and will likely come back into the payroll lines. **D. Dion** – questions whether it will actually come back into budget. **B. Herman** – comments it the Town's plan is to apply it to the budget line in which it came from. **Chief** – mentions during the crisis he increased supervisor coverage during weekend mornings, explaining weekends have been busy with increased number of people outside. **D. Dion** – asks if Chief is breaking up groups over the guideline. **Chief** – explains the department has not and will be talking only right now to people exceeding the recommended guideline. **D. McCarthy** – questions why there are two sergeant wage lines on budget sheet. **Chief** – explains past practice had detective sergeant and sergeant lines. **D. McCarthy** – comments the budget looks reasonable but comments on the medical line. **L. Deeb** – comments a psychological evaluation was done on the new hire. **D. McCarthy** – understands and mentions in past department hired certified officers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**D. Dion** - motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM. **D. McCarthy** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

**Meeting closed at 7:25 pm.**

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