

Town of Auburn
AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
June 9, 2020
Public Access by Remote Teleconference

D. Dion – calls the meeting to order at 6:50 PM

Present: David Dion, Police Commissioner, Dennis McCarthy, Commissioner, Michael Rolfe, Commissioner, Chief Pelton 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 6:59 pm reconvenes public meeting.

Also present: Bill Herman, Town Administrator and Ken Geddes, Neighborhood Watch Leader is attending remotely. M. DiPietro.

The commission experiences some technical difficulty with the public access, and it is not until 7:08 the meeting begins.

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 23rd, 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 McCarthy, Commissioner Dion and Commissioner Rolfe.

D. Dion – leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW MINUTES

D. McCarthy - motion to accept May12, 2020 non-public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

M. Rolfe - motion to accept the May 12, 2020 public minutes as presented. **D. McCarthy** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief – updates commissioners on the number of current cases of COVID-19, mentioning the number of cases continue to decline. He mentions the department has plenty of PPE supplies and supplies are delivered timely. He mentions the Chief Williams has been awesome supporting and furnishing supplies. He comments officers are now prepared to respond with protective gear, stress levels have been reduced and officers are doing good job. He mentions the recent protests and rallies, commenting Manchester and Chester have had them and Auburn hasn't but with the assistance of the State will notify if there are any plans in the works for one and State will assist. He mentions the uptick in general police complaints but mentions the agency has good repour with residents and suggests it's because people are home there has been increase. He updates the commission on the status of the second pod the Selectmen had cut from the budget, indicating PD has reorganized and second pod will be picked up at the end of the month. **D. Dion** – clarifies that one pod will remain at the PD. **Chief** – confirms and mentions the remaining pod will be packed to the top. He further mentions Officer Webber is in week six of the Academy and will report in-person next week for a trial run on reporting in and mentions in the next few weeks will be up at the academy for the driving and firearms portion of the training. He mentions Matt is doing well in all his classes, reports early at the department for PT and reports online, finishing after 4 pm. He comments on the new cruisers, mentioning the department hopes to have one of the new ones back into the fleet Friday or Monday. **D. McCarthy** – asks about the cruiser in parking lot outside town hall. **Chief** – confirms and mentions initially the building inspector was looking at the sedan but is happy with the SUV. He comments the department continues to get an increased number of MV complaints, commenting the radar trailer has been moved from the tower hill for parking control, so the department has begun to move the trailer around getting back into enforcement. **D. Dion** – mentions his comment at last month's meeting about the property checks, commenting realized after that is only 17 a day which is reasonable and wanted to retract statement. He asks about the number of arrests. **Chief** – comments increased number due to protective custody at a juvenile gathering.

LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

D. Dion – comments the Lieutenant is not present. **Chief** – comments covered patrol call items in his report.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

D. Dion – asks if Steve Grange is participating on public access. **B. Herman** – mention as he monitors it appears only Ken Geddes is on conference call. **D. Dion** – greets Ken. **Chief** – comments the Cloutier, leaders on Group C are moving and have transitioned operation of their NW web account over to Melissa. He further mentions the department is going to put something in the Crier seeking volunteer with knowledge of social media and comments hopefully by August will have a volunteer to relinquish control of Group C's site. **D. Dion** – questions who will take over the other duties the Cloutier had. **Chief** – mentions having a meeting with leaders and discuss details. **K. Geddes** – mentions possibly moving away from emails and using more social media but should be something discussed. **Chief** – comments more people are on Facebook and Twitter rather than email.

OLD BUSINESS

D. Dion – comments reviewing 2020 budget. **D. McCarthy** – comments took a quick look and things look reasonable. **D. Dion** – comments cruiser line is a large percent of budget. **L. Deeb** – comments the funds represented do not include encumbered funds or set up costs which have not been paid, mentioning that line will show a significant overage. **B. Herman** – comments the adjustment will be made later. **Chief** – mentions the COVID reimbursement being processed. **D. Dion** – asks if those costs are coming out of the present budget. **B. Herman** – explains that is were they are presently showing but once reimbursement comes in those lines with be have fund applied back. **D. Dion** – clarifies mentioning in past years reimbursed funds had to go into the general fund. **B. Herman** – mentions these funds will be handled and allied to 2020 budget lines. **D. Dion** – questions the amount of reimbursement being sought. **L. Deeb** – mentions approximately \$8000 to date. **B. Herman** – mentions town received same amount reimbursement this week and explains the first submission acted as a test to see what was going to be required when requesting funds. **D. Dion** – asks if those are State or Federal funds. **B. Herman** – explains they are Federal funds managed by State.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Dion – mentions last on agenda is employee evaluation. **D. McCarthy** – motions based on the satisfactory evaluation of James Huard to award him a step increase from Labor Grade 12, Step 8 to Step 9. **M. Rolfe** – second. All in Favor. **Motion passes.**

M. DiPietro – mention the Highway Safety has meeting coming up and questions whether there is anything they need to be aware of. **Chief** – mentions the Highway Department has been very helpful getting signage out on Morgan Drive concerning tower hill, mentioning as things begin to open the parking issues seem to be resolving. He further updates that Google was sending people to Morgan Drive for tower hill and they have been contacted and requested address change for location. **M. Rolfe** – mentions Selectmen will be revisiting that issue next Monday. **Chief** – suggested leaving a sign that says additional parking with location to send people in the right direction and mentions the barricaded cul de sac and signed seemed to work. **D. Dion** – asked it there was an increase in vehicle break -ins with all the cars on tower hill. **Chief** – said those thefts are down because people are home and around. **D. Dion** – asks about suspicious vehicle calls. **Chief** – mention those calls are up but that's because people are home.

Chief – comments it was mentioned skipping July meeting but wanted to verify. **D. Dion** – mentions it's been agreed to skip July meeting

D. Dion - motion to adjourn at 7:34 PM. **D. McCarthy** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

Meeting closed at 7:34 pm.

Minutes approved by _____ on _____.