

Town of Auburn
AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2020

D. Dion – calls the meeting to order at 7:01 PM

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

Also Present: Bill Herman, Mike DiPietro and Steve Grange

D. Dion – leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

REVIEW MINUTES

D. Dion - motion to accept November 10, 2020 non-public minutes as presented. **M. Rolfe** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

M. Rolfe - motion to accept November 10, 2020 public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief – comments on the present community event, Giving Tree, the Department is conducting. He comments the event is very popular and community support and donations are pouring in. He mentions the turkeys that were donated went to the Giving Tree families. He comments the successful Citizen's Academy wrapped up and some of the attendees are finishing up participation with a ride-along. **D. Dion** – asked Mr. Grange about his participation. **S. Grange** – comments really liking this year but both years good. **Chief** – reports 26 active COVID cases, but mentions the State has the count at 30. **D. Dion** – comments 25-30 is high. **Chief** – confirms numbers high and mentions the department has PPE supplies and department has tightened up protocols when dealing with the public. He mentions the department is meeting with the Budget Committee Dec 17th and believes meeting is at AVS. **M. Rolfe** – confirms meeting in AVS cafeteria. **D. Dion** – asks if commissioners should plan on attending. **Chief** – mentions if they would like, he has heard from Selectmen the meetings are trying to be kept brief. He also mentions the Selectman will be holding the Deliberative Session but not be presenting the State of the Town address that they did last year and discussing have the Deliberative Session online somehow. **M. Rolfe** – mentions discussions had with Selectmen that people would not be able to vote. **Chief** – mentions the increase in Meth drug related calls and comments has budget related information but will wait till later in presentation.

LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

Lt. Chabot – takes the opportunity to mention Auburn officers continue to do a great job and have stepped up during the pandemic and all that is going on. He comments on 5 arrests for month and 281 car stops which is in line with last month. He further mentions the attempted

burglary and mentions neighborhood patrols are paying close attention to porch pirates. **D. Dion** – takes the time to remind people if you have cameras to make sure they are up and operational and questions vandalism calls having observed a few stop signs painted. **Chief** – mentions there were a few on Bunker Hill and Dearborn area. **M. Rolfe** – asks about the accident which occurred in front of the historical society. **Lt. Chabot** – mentions the roll over occurred when the driver hit the trailer and mentions thankfully there was only minor injury.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

D. Dion – greets Mr. Grange and mentions reminder can go out to NW members about the porch pirate. **S. Grange** – comments the new leaders of NW will be diversifying groups and breaking them down to smaller and mentions the meeting scheduled but COVID slowing things down some. He mentions some issues experiencing with Comcast and large group emails

OLD BUSINESS

D. Dion – asks the Chief where the budget stands relating to purchasing body cameras with encumbered funds. **Chief** – comments should have enough surplus money and was waiting till last pay period. **D. Dion** – questions plan to encumber funds is with Budget Committee or only Selectmen approval. **Chief** – comment Selectmen and have already discussed. *Commissioners all agree to encumbered funds.* **Chief** – mentions next year looking into purchases department motorcycle out right out of detail fund and no longer carry lease payment. **D. Dion** – comments some of the budget lines were over. **Chief** – mentions the cruiser line was over but will be adjusted with encumbered funds and so lines were over a little but mentions the surplus in full time payroll due to going a period of time with a full-time vacancy. **D. McCarthy** – questions uniform line. **Chief** – comments will be spent.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Dion – asks about the voted change to the cruiser line. **Chief** – explains the Selectmen had asked for information on going with Hybrid cruiser and explains Brookline MA PD was very helpful with information on cost savings. He further explains the savings in fuel costs will like make up for the additional upfront cost to purchase. He mentions the PD thought this year might be a good year to try because only slighted to purchase one cruiser in 2021. **D. Dion** – comments employee evaluations tonight.

D. McCarthy – motions based on the satisfactory evaluation of Gary Bartis and award him a step increase from Labor Grade 6, Step 15 to Labor Grade 6, Step 16. **M. Rolfe** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

D. McCarthy – motions based on the satisfactory evaluation of Charles Chabot and award him a step increase from Labor Grade 17, Step 18 to Labor Grade 17, Step 19. **M. Rolfe** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes**

M. Rolfe – comments he met with staff motions based on the satisfactory evaluation of Chief Pelton and award him a step increase from his present labor grade and recommend adding 3 years to the Chief contract. **D. McCarthy** – second. **D. Dion** – asks the Chief if he is satisfied with the contract. **Chief** – confirms. **D. Dion** – asks if the pay increase is covered under the contract. **B. Herman** – comments the wage increase would be approved. **M. Rolfe** – second motion to approve increase. All in favor. **Motion passes**

D. McCarthy – comments would like to make a motion for discussion then action. He further comments commission is redundant, offers little oversight and not necessary. He motions for the Auburn Police Commission to support the presentation of a warrant article to Selectmen to rescind the Town Action 1996 which created the Town of Auburn Police Commission in accordance with RSA 39:3. **M. Rolfe** – second for discussion. **D. Dion** – comments the Police Commission should not be taking action to dissolve itself and mentions 25 registered voters presenting warrant article for election day. He further questions whether the commissions should be making such a motion. **D. McCarthy** – comments commission not making motion just that they support the motion for a presentation of warrant article and that is what RSA 39:3 speaks to. He further states it's a good time to discuss it. **D. Dion** – asks if Mr. McCarthy doesn't want to run for office anymore. **D. McCarthy** – comments part of reason but the department is running well with a great group and lot of redundancy. **D. Dion** – reminds Mr. McCarthy there is no cost for the commission. **D. McCarthy** – comments there is a cost with Chief attending and thinks its time to put for a vote. **D. Dion** – comments on his displeasure of two of the board members coaxing voters to vote a certain way. He further comments 25 voters can certainly present the issue to the town. **D. McCarthy** – comments his motion is to "support". **D. Dion** – questions whether this is something the commission can legally do. **B. Herman** – comments not seeing why commission couldn't, not taking a political position. **D. Dion** – comments on two board members looking to make a motion partly due to attending and maybe new board members should be sought. **M. Rolfe** – comments on not seeing a purpose for the commission. **D. Dion** – asks Mr. Rolfe if over the last three years he didn't see board served a purpose. **D. McCarthy** – comments board cost the town a lot of money before the last three years. **D. Dion** – comments things can change. **M. Rolfe** – comments with Chief Pelton, Lt Chabot and Sgt. Cashman there is a good group of people. **D. Dion** – questions again able speaking to town counsel. **D. McCarthy** – comments on making the motion and legally if it can't be done, won't. **D. Dion** – comments it's advertising for the demise of the police department. **D. McCarthy** – comments his belief the commission didn't operate effectively in past years and protected people it shouldn't have. **D. Dion** – comments for staff maybe that was the purpose because policing and politics don't mix. He further comments on a scenario when an officer stops a town elected official's child unnecessary conflict can arise and the commission is that in-between. **M. DiPietro** - comments the commissioner are the political arm of the police and just another level of bureaucracy and comments last few years the commission wasn't needed. He further states there is excellent administration at the police department and doesn't see the administration doing much. **D. Dion** – comments he approves payroll and all the bills. **D. Dion** – asks for a vote of the motion. **D. McCarthy and M. Rolfe** – in favor. **D. Dion** – opposed. **Motion passes.**

D. Dion - motion to adjourn at 7:28 PM. **M. Rolfe** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

Meeting closed at 7:28 pm.

Minutes approved by _____ on _____.