

Town of Auburn
AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2021

D. Dion – calls the meeting to order at 6:47 PM.

Present: David Dion, Police Commissioner, Dennis McCarthy, Police 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). **M. Rolfe** – seconds and polled the members having received the affirmative from all. **Motion passes.**

D. Dion – at 07:00 pm reconvenes public meeting and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also present: Steve Grange and Patrick Bergeron, Neighborhood Watch Leaders.

D. Dion – motions to seal the minutes of the non-public session. **D. McCarthy** – seconds. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

REVIEW MINUTES

D. Dion - motion to accept the January 12, 2021 non-public minutes as presented. **D. McCarthy** – second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

M. Rolfe - motion to accept the January 12, 2021 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 3 staff members were out, mentioning 2 were unprotected exposure and 1 positive and expects the employee that developed COVID it to return to work later this week. The overall town numbers are down to 18 cases. He explains the State provides a count to the police department listing anyone that has had COVID in the last 21 days dispatch knows to advise officer to prepare with additional PPE protocols and that number after the holidays was 77 but yesterday was down to 60 and today around 50. **M. Rolfe** – mentions good to see going in right direction. **Chief** – explains department was contacted by DHHS asking to provide officers to the vaccine sites. He comments Selectmen authorize signing an agreement for that and paperwork is in the works to complete this. **D. McCarthy** – questions who will be paying for this. **Chief** – comments FEMA, explaining that's the paperwork being worked on now for reimbursement and mentions the FD is involved in this also. He mentions speaking to the Selectmen about the leak and refers to the ceiling of the community room, explaining Selectmen were generous to support agency is covering this unanticipated expense. **D. Dion** – mentions in the past splitting such costs with FD. **M. Rolfe** – explains a town fund was established for such costs. **Chief** – mentions it is an emergency repair fund. He further mentions the department annual awards night usually held in February is going to be held in April when the weather might be better to hold event outside and hopes to have the night, a joint award night with the fire department. He mentions discussing the 2020 budget later in presentation. **D. McCarthy** – asks were the

department stands on vaccinating officers. **Chief** – comments on those officers that wanted to be vaccinated have received initial vaccination and many have already having received second. He comments those that haven't received second will be receiving it over the next few weeks. **D. McCarthy** - asked if staff received also. **Chief** – comments staff was afforded the ability to get vaccinated and imagines by March the department will be looking good when dealing with unprotected exposures and quarantining.

LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

C. Chabot – comment on the 6 MV related arrests, 176 stops for the month and 23 reports generated. He mentions the agency will likely see an uptick in fraud calls as tax season arrives. He mentions the reminder that was posted in the department's Crier article. He mentions the ice rescue last month and the nice letter written by the victim thanking the person that jumped in the assist. **M. Rolfe** - comments the victim's letter mentioned his body temperature was down to 86 and the person probably saved his life. **C. Chabot** – mentions the track that Sgt. Cashman and Athos did last month for burglary in progress in Candia. He comments Athos actively tracked the suspect for a couple of hours and State Police K9 came to relieve exhausted Athos and found the suspect minutes later where Athos had stopped track and was able to apprehend the suspect. **M. Rolfe** – comments he thought Athos was injured. **C. Chabot** – mentions Athos is showing his age and further comments on the near pursuit in which the suspect was arrested for possession of drugs and driving after suspension. **D. Dion** – comments DWI arrests were down during the holiday. **C. Chabot** – explains with COVID travel down and anticipate once more vaccinations people will be back out.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

D. Dion – greets Steve Grange and Patrick. He further comments on the positive articles he read in the Crier. **S. Grange** - comments on the new leaders had a zoom meeting and outline assignments for the leaders and plans for meeting February 23. **D. Dion** – comments on the renewed interest and sees it ramping up. **S. Grange** – mentions people have been signing up. **P. Bergeron** – mentions the private Facebook page the NW created, commenting they are up to 355 vetted members. **D. Dion** – mentions at one time thought there were 550. **S. Grange** – explains they are cleaning up to list to get accurate numbers and mention new leaders are enthusiastic. **D. Dion** – explains a little of the history when the NW started.

OLD BUSINESS

D. Dion – mentions the Commissioners took a vote to extend the Chief's contract for 3 years. **M. Rolfe** – comments the police department is in a good place. **Chief** – comments on the 2020 budget numbers and the available balance. He further mentions the encumbered funds for the cruiser and payroll adjustments still need to be made but will likely be a wash with the encumbered funds. He comments he believe remaining funds will be between 20,000 and 29,000. He mentions the Town Meeting was last Saturday and no major changes made in any of the articles. **D. Dion** – comments on changes coming out of Concord with Legislation. **Chief** – comments on the training notices the Academy have sent and imagines hearing more later in the year.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Dion – mentions last on agenda is one employee evaluation. **D. McCarthy** – motions based on the satisfactory evaluation of Sgt. Kevin Cashman to award him a step increase from Labor Grade 12, Step 15 to Step 16. **M. Rolfe** – second. All in Favor. **Motion passes.**

M. Rolfe – mentions the March 2021 Police Commission has been moved to March 16th after the election, therefore this is his last meeting. He further takes the time to thank the other commissioners and things running well at the department and will continue to see staff at the Select Board's meeting on Mondays.

D. Dion - motion to adjourn at 7:15 PM. **D. McCarthy** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

Meeting closed at 7:15 pm.

Minutes approved by _____ on _____.