

Town of Auburn
AUBURN POLICE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2021

D. Dion – calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Steve Grange, Neighborhood Watch Leader.

ELECT CHAIRPERSON

D. Dion – mentions new commission member and need to elect chairperson. **D. McCarthy** – nominates Dave Dion to remain chairperson. **P. Bergeron** – second. All Favor. **Motion passes.**

REVIEW MINUTES

D. McCarthy - motion to accept the February 9, 2021 public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. **P. Bergeron** – abstained. **Motion passes.**

D. McCarthy - motion to accept the February 9, 2021 non-public minutes as presented. **D. Dion** – second. **P. Bergeron** – abstained All in favor. **Motion passes.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief – comments current cases of COVID-19 are significantly down, mentions down to sixteen long term cases. He further mentions no officers or staff are out or quarantined, commenting all officer and staff that wanted to be vaccinated have received second dose. He comments PPE supplies are very good and Auburn FD continues to provide necessary supplies and replacement supplies are quickly attainable. He comments PD and FD have had multiple staff members working a lot of hours at the COVID vaccination sites, along with the National Guard. **D. McCarthy** – asks how it is going at the site. **D. Dion** – mentions seeing Auburn Fire at the Londonderry site. **Chief** – things are well and comments on discussions had with Selectmen related to reimbursement and mentions the town will be taking it out of the OHRV account for tracking purposes. **D. Dion** – comments for the benefit of new commissioner that the OHRV line is one the department keeps open in case they are awarded grant funds. **Chief** – mentions the 2021 budget passed, new hybrid cruiser has been ordered, body cams have been purchased and are now up and operational. He mentions the Lieutenant will talk a little about body cams at his presentation. He comments on the recent death of Mr. Sampson, long time Auburn resident and past police commissioner is Auburn. He further comments the PD will providing an escort. **D. Dion** – mentions Mr. Sampson was also a Selectman and served on Budget Committee. **Chief** – mentions discussions with Mr. Herman, adding the town will represent. He comments Drug Take Back is April 24, 2021 and mentions attending the Chief's Association meeting today via zoom. He comments out of that meeting, PSTC mentioned new training requirements around three, two-hours blocks of instructional training on ethics, de-escalation and implicit bias training. He comments Auburn has already covered the implicit bias

training with a recent purchase of a training program and mentions the State through PSTC are working to completing some online tracking for officers for the other two, two-hour blocks. He mentions officers will be able to watch on duty. **D. Dion** – mentions the cost saving from having officers go to Concord for training. **Chief** – comments PSTC was anticipating this for April or May but if this doesn't happen the PD will follow up to make sure Auburn Officers get the additional mandated training. He further mentions at the Chief's meeting, DEA discussed NH overdose numbers are down, however the fentanyl wave however is up across mid-states as moves across country. He mentions the LT will address Auburn's recent drug fatality. He updates the commissioners the department is looking to fill one more part-time position and mentions having good candidate. He mentions the department was planning on running a PT test and will begin work on a conditional offer of employment. If all passes the commissioners will likely be seeing him next month. He further mentions as a long-term update that the department's dispatch software offered through Rockingham County appears to be being phased out. The IMC company has been bought out and no longer will be doing patch and updates. He mentions this only the put commission on notice there will likely be future costs and changes as more information is provided and will update Selectmen on this cost as information becomes available. **D. Dion** – mentions having to subscribe because we are under the umbrella of Rockingham County data. **Chief** – again explains he is trying to forewarn Commissioners of the future cost. **P. Bergeron** – questions the Chief where funds were derived to purchase the body cameras. **Chief** – comments surplus 2020 budgeted funds were utilized. **P. Bergeron** – mentions the law that going to mandate officer worn body camera has funding for purchase price and suggests looking into when cost reimbursement can be grandfathered. **Chief** – comments it's an optional idea, however the department made an effort to get ahead of mandates to maintain control of data and policies to be active, rather than re-active. **P. Bergeron** – comments his understanding and mentions it was the cost savings he was looking at. **Chief** – mentions the decision was made to store the data in house.

LIEUTENANT'S REPORT

C. Chabot – comment on the fatal overdose last month. He comments on the influx in motor vehicle accidents and attributes to weather and mentions the five arrests involving domestics and Op Afters. He mentions one arrest was for assault of officer and the 21 activity generate reports and 181 car stops. He mentions the positive effect on burglaries people working from home is likely having. **D. McCarthy** – questions whether the assaulted officer is OK. **C. Chabot** – affirms officer received a push not to minimize it. He comments on why the adjustment were made to the new evaluation forms in an effort to streamline number of printed forms and mentions the policy updates that reflect changed forms. He comments the body cam program has rolled out, with positive feed back from officers. He explains the system is a charger and download port all in one for camera. He outlines how footage is saved. **D. McCarthy** – asked if footage is periodically reviewed. **C. Chabot** – comments he also reviews it for customer service and mentions the department policy closely mirrors the State policy. **D. Dion** – questions who has access. **C. Chabot** – explains himself but plans on training a few others to operate system in his absence. **D. McCarthy** – questions whether cameras are assigned to each officer. **C. Chabot** – explains each full-time officer has his own and part-time officers share. He further explains footage shows which officer is recording. **D. Dion** – clarifies how the cameras are activated. **Chief** – explains officer activates camera and there is a thirty second look back. **C. Chabot** – explains the thirty second buffer and mentions today firmware update which will activate camera automatically if the officer falls. **D. Dion** – mentions good plan to move forward as times change for accountability. **Chief** – mentions it will be required within the next few years.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATE

D. Dion – looks for update from Steve Grange. **S. Grange** – mentions to new active group leaders and mentions the Commissioners have asked for member numbers in past. He comments 448 Facebook members, and 200 email members and mentions might not be final number because over the last week or so has received additional people looking to become members. He also presents copies of the first quarterly Auburn Neighborhood Watch Newsletter. He also mentions the meeting the NW Leaders had on the 23rd of last month and ideas that were discussed, which included Logo contest for NW for the AVS and discussions were had about becoming a member of the National Neighborhood Watch group. He mentions National members would be able to get free materials and mentions these new ideas are coming from the new leaders. He comments that the Auburn Neighborhood Watch group donated a NH flag to the AVS. He mentions the email download issue he had but mentions he resolved it.

OLD BUSINESS

D. Dion – comments nothing under old business but mentions Commissioner Bergeron has some questions and items he wanted to discuss. **P. Bergeron** – mentions likely have questions as he becomes acclimated with duties of commission and looking forward to the opportunity working with everyone. He asks if the department has a plan in place for with K9 Athos ages out. **Chief** – comments plan that Athos will be done in December. He mentions the department will re-group, explore participating again with training with the State Police. He mentions discussing it with Sgt. Cashman or another younger officer about taking on K9 duties. **D. Dion** – mentions if quite the commitment. **Chief** – mentions spending sixteen hours a day with the dog and training on top. He further mentions Sgt. Cashman had questions at the polls asking if its worth the \$3000 and explained finding a lost girl in the woods parents might find cost worthy but comments short answer is there is a plan. **P. Bergeron** – asks about the cost of the dog. **Chief** – mentions Commissioner Dion has helped with funds in the past. **D. Dion** – mentions fundraising that was done for Athos. **P. Bergeron** – mentions legislative changes coming in NH for Law Enforcement officers, commenting he plans on keeping up with it and provided the Chief with paperwork for the body camera funding he raised earlier. He mentions also as an FYI – HB CACR 8 related to bills for Second Amendment another is HB 153 and HB 307. **D. McCarthy** – mentions one of the bills speaks to taking away immunity. **Chief** – comments it is a Federal one discussed at Chief's meeting but mentions discussion is that both Senators are opposed. **P. Bergeron** – mentions it likely won't pass filibuster and mentions another bill that discusses deadly force and will likely have questions as he moves into this new position. **D. McCarthy** – asks if Patrick was able to be sworn in. **P. Bergeron** – relays there is little COVID delay.

NEW BUSINESS

D. Dion – mentions last on agenda is one employee evaluation. **D. McCarthy** – motions based on the satisfactory evaluation of Officer Matt Webber to award him a step increase from Labor Grade 8, Step 7 to Step 8. **D. Dion** – second. All in Favor. **Motion passes.**

D. Dion - motion to adjourn at 7:32 PM. **D. McCarthy** - second. All in favor. **Motion passes.**

Meeting closed at 7:32 pm.

Minutes approved by _____ on _____.