

# WOODBIDGE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

## REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES

**June 9, 2020**

Via ZOOM Platform (Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7B)

Live Streamed – WGATV, Channel 79

YouTube link: [https://youtu.be/ez3p6wh\\_Jes](https://youtu.be/ez3p6wh_Jes)

The Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority took place Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:15 p.m., via ZOOM platform.

- *Chairman Berke called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.*

*Chairman Berke conducted Roll Call:*

*Commissioners and Liaisons Present-*

*Deborah Fried - Here*

*Deborah Desir - Here*

*Stephen Falcigno - Here*

*Andrew Esposito, Jr. - Here*

*Robert Berke - Here*

*Police Administration Present-*

*Chief Frank Cappiello - Here*

*Deputy Chief Raymond Stuart - Here*

*Administrative Assistant Janice Innocenzi - Here*

*Liaisons Present-*

*Joseph Crisco, Board of Selectmen*

*Paul Kuriakose, Board of Finance*

### **APPROVAL of MINUTES:**

- B.O.P.C. Regular Meeting – January 14, 2020:

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Falcigno/Berke*

*Abstained: Desir/Esposito*

*Motion approved.*

***The Board voted (Fried/Falcigno) to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority held on January 14, 2020.***

- B.O.P.C. Regular Meeting – March 10, 2020:

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Desir/Esposito/Berke*

*Abstained: Falcigno*

*Motion approved.*

***The Board voted (Desir/Fried) to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority held on March 10, 2020.***

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

- There were no Public Comments or Correspondence.

## **REVIEW of REPORTS:**

- **Financial Report:** Chief Cappiello reported that we are in the final month of the fiscal year with our overall budget at 88.1%. We are on target to finish the fiscal year within budget. In the Police-Overtime line, a portion of the overtime costs associated with the Coronavirus Pandemic are anticipated to be reimbursed to the Town through FEMA at 75%, which should offset some of those charges. Through the last payroll, a total of \$22,265 was spent, which represents supervisory coverage on evenings when no supervisor was working. We provided a supervisor to make sure everything went right. Our biggest fear was to put somebody in a situation that would jeopardize their health. With five sergeants, there are not enough supervisors to cover all shifts. It is part of the contractual agreement that we negotiated last time, instead of having an OIC, when it was deemed necessary that we wanted a Sergeant, we put a Sergeant on. Commissioner Falcigno questioned the Chief about the agreement with the Sergeants. Chief Cappiello said there was no end date on the agreement and all the benefits associated with the original agreement were incorporated into their salaries and that is how it continued. That was something that was negotiated between the Union and the Town. Commissioner Falcigno asked if that is a separate section of the contract. Chief Cappiello said no, there is not a separate section. Commissioner Falcigno said, so it is not a part of the contract, then. Chief Cappiello said it is because their wages and everything associated with that rolled into it from the previous year, so it continues and it will continue as we move forward. That is not my decision; that is what was negotiated between the Union and the Town when that happened.

Commissioner Falcigno asked to have a review of the Police Union Contract added to the next agenda. Chairman Berke said we will at least put the Union on notice that if it is in the contract, we will be addressing it in the future, just out of fairness.

### ***The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Fried) to accept the Financial Report.***

- **Criminal Activity Report (March/April/May):**
  - **Burglaries:** 4
  - **Stolen Vehicles:** 7
  - **Recovered Vehicles:** 1 (from another jurisdiction)
  - **Larcenies from Motor Vehicles:** 30 incidents
  - **ISU:** An arrest was made in conjunction with the February 24, 2020 TD Bank robbery.
  - **Gunshots:** March 13 - Reports of numerous gunshots in the area of Litchfield Turnpike and Bradley Road. Officers responded and found 15 to 17 expended shell casings were fired from and between a couple of vehicles. Two rounds hit a car and a house. A vehicle fitting that description was seen in Bethany; it came back into Woodbridge, and subsequently became disabled on Litchfield Turnpike. The occupants fled into the woods. Officers brought in K-9s and eventually three suspects were taken into custody. A loaded handgun stolen from another jurisdiction was recovered.
  - **Bank Robbery:** March 20, the TD Bank was held up by a male wearing a surgical mask, brandishing a firearm, and demanded money. Officers responded and followed a tracking device into New Haven, in the Westville area. Our Det. Luzzi and New Haven Officers saw someone fitting that description, approached him, he tried to flee, they were able to apprehend him, he still had the cash from the bank robbery on him and a BB gun-type handgun.
  - **Untimely Death:** April 17, there was an untimely death. A body was found at the base of West Rock Ridge in a wooded area at the end of Bradley Road. A call came in from a hiker atop the ridge who saw what he thought was a body. He called us and watched from above and directed officers to the scene where they found the body. Detectives worked with the State Police and determined that property actually belongs to the State of Connecticut, it was not Town property, therefore the investigation was turned over to the State Police. The body had been there for a couple of days and did not involve any type of foul play.

### Motor Vehicle Activity (March/April/May):

- Deputy Chief Stuart said there is not much to report as far as activity goes. Based on recommendations from the State's Attorney's Office and the Executive Orders from the Governor, on March 18, 2020, the Chief modified our operating protocols. Specifically, contact with the public should be limited and distance as practical, as necessary. Traffic stops should be carefully balanced between public safety and avoiding unnecessary contact. As you can see, motor vehicle stops actually stopped:
- Motor Vehicle Stops: March – 69 stops (down from 134 in Feb.) / April – 4 stops / May – 18 stops.
- The officers were out there doing their radar details and high visibility, but not stopping cars.
- Motor Vehicle Accidents were down, but in some cases, the accidents were more serious in nature. We had a fatal on May 15, one car, one occupant. Earlier that same day, we had another near-fatal motorcycle accident on Litchfield Turnpike near Downs Road. Some of the traffic accidents reported have been serious in nature and a lot of it has to do with speed during this period. Less traffic on the road, but the speeds were up there.
- Evading Responsibility incidents have increased. In March, we had 3; April we had 4; and in May we had 3. Those were accidents where one of the motor vehicle operators has left the scene of the accident.

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to accept the Activity Report.*

### REPORT of the CHIEF of POLICE

- COVID-19 Operations: Chief Cappiello reported that back in March, we made changes to protect ourselves and members of our community. For months, we are operating under a new type of normal, wearing masks, limiting and changing the way we have been interacting with the public, we staggered some shifts, we have modified the way we conduct investigations, the way we reach out to the public, and the way we deal with court. One key component that worked really well was the way we continued to work closely with American Medical Response and the EMS Sponsor Hospital in response to medical calls, especially at our extended care facilities and private residences for suspected or confirmed COVID positive cases. Most recently, in conjunction with the State's reopening, we have been coordinating the distribution of facemasks and infrared thermometers to local businesses to help them move forward. It has been challenging for everyone everywhere, but here at the Police Department, everyone has stepped up, worked together to stay healthy and get the job done, and to minimize the risks of potential exposure. Being a small department, it is even more challenging, if one person gets it, or two or three get infected and we have to put them in quarantine and they have to stay out, that is going to be a huge impact. The Building Maintenance staff and everyone worked together to thwart that and do a good job. Hopefully, as we move forward and hospitalizations continue to decline, and businesses open up, we will continue to move in the right direction.
- Neighbors App by "RING": We have partnered with the RING system accessing their Neighborhood portal to use it as an additional platform to collaborate with the residents of our community that have RING. It will allow us to receive and post images and videos. We went live a few weeks ago.
- ARHS Graduation: Tomorrow Amity High School will be having their graduation ceremony. Throughout the day tomorrow, it is being performed as a "drive up" type ceremony, so it will be something new in association with the pandemic. They have a graduating class of 373 and it is organized in different groups, staggered throughout the day, two cars per family. We have ample police staff scheduled to be onsite to assist with traffic and security. We are looking forward to helping them make that a successful and pleasant graduation experience for them. The school may also hold a more traditional type graduation next month, but the details are yet to be finalized.
- DARE Graduation: Last month, Officer Lynch concluded the DARE program at Beecher Road School with his first virtual graduation ceremony. He worked with school staff to produce that, it went well and was well received. Following that, Officer Lynch and the Principal delivered awards to several different students at the conclusion of the ceremony. Chief Cappiello recognized Officer Lynch on his completion of another successful year, his efforts getting it done virtually and finishing up the class with school being closed early.

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Falcigno) to approve the Report of the Chief of Police.*

## **PERSONNEL MATTERS**

**Request to Add Item to Agenda:** Chief Cappiello requested an item be added to the agenda under Personnel regarding a Dispatch retirement.

***The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to add the Dispatch retirement topic to the agenda.***

- **Dispatcher Retirement:** Dispatcher Joseph Zimkus gave notice of his intent to retire after 22.5 years of service. His last work day will be June 23, 2020 and his official retirement date is July 29, 2020. This will leave us short one Dispatcher and Chief Cappiello asked to post the vacancy as an Internal Job Posting, as required by contract. Our Dispatcher trainee is doing well, but her final certification is being held up because State classes have been postponed, so when Dispatcher Zimkus leaves us, we will be down to four (out of six) Dispatchers until Dispatcher Rivera can finish her classes. She cannot work on her own until she receives her State Telecommunicator Certification. Chief Cappiello would like to hire a Certified Dispatcher, but we are required to post it internally, by contract, to Town employees.

***The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to post the Dispatch position internally.***

- **Request to Carry Unused Vacation:** In April, Deputy Chief Stuart put in a request to carry over 16.5 vacation days that he was unable to use before his anniversary date on March 13. Chief Cappiello discussed this with the Finance Director, because of meetings being cancelled due to the pandemic, and he had no problem with it. Chief Cappiello requested the Board's formal approval.

***The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to accept Deputy Chief Stuart's request to carry 16.5 unused vacation days.***

- **Staffing Levels and Use of SROs:** When the schools were closed due to the pandemic, both of the SROs returned and were put back into the patrol cycle. Beecher Road School also cancelled the summer Woodbridge Rec programs and the school's summer programs, as well. For that reason, Officer Lynch will be with us for the summer and so will Officer Sapione from the high school. In association with that, Chief Cappiello received an invitation from Supt. Gilbert at Beecher Road School, and Chairman Berke may receive one too, asking us to be part of an Ad Hoc SRO Security Committee that Beecher is putting together and to start having meetings to see how they want to proceed going forward. Chief Cappiello participated in the same type of a Committee 2 or 3 years ago, and after many hours, many meetings and a survey that was given to parents, everything stayed in place and the SRO remained until now. They are going to implement that forum again to see where we are going with that. Right now, we have the SROs through the summer, at least, and we just have to discuss moving forward.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

***The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners at 7:25 p.m. and move directly into the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority.***

Respectfully submitted:

*Janice Innocenzi*

Janice Innocenzi  
Administrative Assistant

# WOODBIDGE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

## REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES

**June 9, 2020**

Via ZOOM Platform (Governor Ned Lamont's Executive Order 7B)

Live Streamed – WGATV, Channel 79

YouTube link: [https://youtu.be/ez3p6wh\\_Jes](https://youtu.be/ez3p6wh_Jes)

The Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority took place Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 6:15 p.m., via ZOOM platform.

- *Chairman Berke called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.*

*Chairman Berke conducted Roll Call:*

*Commissioners and Liaisons Present-*

*Deborah Fried - Here*

*Deborah Desir - Here*

*Stephen Falcigno - Here*

*Andrew Esposito, Jr. - Here*

*Robert Berke - Here*

*Police Administration Present-*

*Chief Frank Cappiello - Here*

*Deputy Chief Raymond Stuart - Here*

*Administrative Assistant Janice Innocenzi - Here*

*Liaisons Present-*

*Joseph Crisco, Board of Selectmen*

*Paul Kuriakose, Board of Finance*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Administrative Assistant Janice Innocenzi read the following letter e-mailed to Chief Cappiello:

*“My name is Micaela Cardozo. I am a twenty-one year old Woodbridge resident.*

*I am writing to ask for assistance in organizing a peaceful protest in Woodbridge, for the Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge communities to participate in on Saturday, June 13th. I feel that it is our responsibility as a community to show up for every person of color, especially black citizens, in our communities. I want to organize a peaceful protest of which involves a few speakers, a march in our town, and a moment of silence for those who have been killed unjustly by police brutality. The injustice and systemic racism is not just a city problem. It is an American problem. It is not black citizens against policemen. It is everyone against racism in our country. The focus right now, however, is on police brutality and working toward reform. It is incredibly important that we come together as a community at a time like this.*

*My intention is to have two or three individuals from the community speak or sing to honor and support the Black Lives Matter movement. Following these speeches, we would take a kneeling moment of silence for eight minutes and forty-six seconds to pay respect to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmad Arbery, and the countless others that have been senselessly killed.*

*At the end of this moment of silence, I thought it would be effective to allow the community to peacefully protest through marching in solidarity.*

*I had imagined walking from the Woodbridge Green, taking Newton Road to Burnt Swamp. Then turning on Amity Road, taking the slight right down North Pease Road, and completing the loop down Center Road. This would be approximately an hour and twenty minutes walking. People can stop whenever they feel, water could be given to those who march. I don't mind figuring out those logistics, but I do understand some permits are involved when walking on these town or state roads. As you just informed me, Center Road and Amity Road are State roads, while Newton, Burnt Swamp, and North Pease are town roads.*

*I want to inform you of the route we hope to take and ask you to grant the appropriate permits or approval to bring this to fruition.*

*-Micaela Cardozo”*

## **TRAFFIC MATTERS:**

**Request to Add Item to Agenda:** Chief Cappiello requested an item be added to the agenda under Traffic Matters regarding a Peaceful Protest.

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Falcigno/Desir/Esposito*

*Recused: Berke*

*Motion approved.*

***The Board voted (Fried/Desir) to add the Peaceful Protest topic to the agenda.***

- **Peaceful Protest Request:**

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Falcigno/Desir/Esposito*

*Recused: Berke*

*Motion approved.*

***The Board voted (Fried/Desir) to approve the Peaceful Protest on June 13, 2020 on Town roads.***

- **Request for Bicycle Lane – Beecher Road:** Betsy Yagla reached out to the Chief regarding the concept of the Town creating a temporary bicycle lane on Beecher Road for people to use for recreation purposes. The proposed plan, as she explained, is to mark off a portion of one traffic lane on Beecher Road, from the area of the Community Gardens down to the intersection of Route 313, for bicyclists to use. That portion of one lane would be marked off with orange traffic cones and some signage would be put up to tell people of the intended use. The maintenance regarding putting the cones out, making sure they were there, and the signage – that would fall to the Public Works Department to take care of. We have been in discussion about it. One of the challenges is that bicyclists are required to ride with the traffic flow, so by putting one lane out there, they have a designated lane to go one way, but not a designated lane to come back unless they are going somewhere else. Chief Cappiello discussed this concept with the Public Works Director and he said that years ago, it was extensively studied to make a permanent bicycle lane. It was found that the roadway is not wide enough to accommodate bicycle lanes and to safely accommodate traffic lanes. For that reason, it was never done. He felt the layout and maintenance of the cones would be a problem for his staff to handle. Chief Cappiello said to put a temporary set-up there, you are giving people a false perception that it is safe to ride in a coned-off area, when it really is not. He is also concerned about any liability risk to the Town.

***A motion was made by Commissioner Fried to consider the request to have a temporary coned bicycle lane on Beecher Road.***

***Motion was not seconded.***

***Motion failed, does not go forward.***

- **Traffic Calming – Rice Road:** In March, a request was received from two residents of Rice Road regarding speeding concerns in the area and an increase in commercial vehicles using Rice Road as a cut-through. One of the residents inquired about the possibility of having speed bumps installed on Rice Road. In the meantime, in response to that, we posted the Speed Trailer there for an extended period to raise awareness.

The Deputy Chief will bring it up with the Traffic Committee at their next meeting as first step in trying to address that with the residents and we will go forward from there. Those meetings have also been on hold since there have been no meetings held.

- State of CT, Dept. of Transportation – Crosswalk Project: In April, the Town was notified that the Connecticut DOT is doing a statewide project to upgrade uncontrolled state road mid-block crosswalks in the area. Of those, we only have one, that is the crosswalk behind the Police Department, in front of the Fire Department, that connects the Fire Department with the Center parking area. The State is planning to install rectangular flashing beacons at the crosswalk to improve visibility and to heighten motorists' awareness of pedestrians as they attempt to cross the road.
- Traffic Control Signal Revisions – Rte. 63 @ Rte. 114: Another DOT project that will be done statewide will be revising overhead traffic control signals in different areas. The only one they will be addressing with this project in our town is the one at the intersection of Amity Road and Center Road by the Blue Check Deli. Their recent research shows there is a significant reduction in nighttime crashes when they stop the routine nighttime flashing of traffic lights. They will discontinue that and replace that controlling equipment there with video detection equipment at select locations.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*The Board voted unanimously (Desir/Esposito) to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority at 7:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted:

*Janice Innocenzi*

Janice Innocenzi  
Administrative Assistant

# WOODBIDGE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

## REGULAR MEETING

### MOTIONS

June 9, 2020

#### APPROVAL of MINUTES:

- B.O.P.C. Regular Meeting – January 14, 2020:

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Falcigno/Berke*

*Abstained: Desir/Esposito*

*Motion approved.*

*The Board voted (Fried/Falcigno) to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority held on January 14, 2020.*

- B.O.P.C. Regular Meeting – March 10, 2020:

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Desir/Esposito/Berke*

*Abstained: Falcigno*

*Motion approved.*

*The Board voted (Desir/Fried) to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority held on March 10, 2020.*

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

- No public comments or correspondence.

#### REVIEW of REPORTS

- Financial Report:

*The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Fried) to accept the Financial Report.*

- Activity Report:

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to accept the Activity Report.*

#### REPORT of the CHIEF of POLICE

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Falcigno) to approve the Report of the Chief of Police.*

#### PERSONNEL MATTERS

Request to Add Item to Agenda:

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to add the Dispatch retirement topic to the agenda.*

- Dispatcher Retirement:

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to post the Dispatch position internally.*

- Request to Carry Unused Vacation:

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to accept Deputy Chief Stuart's request to carry 16.5 unused vacation days.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Esposito) to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners at 7:25 p.m. and move directly into the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority.*

Respectfully submitted:

*Janice Innocenzi*

Janice Innocenzi  
Administrative Assistant

# WOODBIDGE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

## REGULAR MEETING

### MOTIONS

June 9, 2020

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

- There were no motions made, no votes taken.

#### TRAFFIC MATTERS:

Request to Add Item to Agenda: Chief Cappiello requested an item be added to the agenda under Traffic Matters regarding a Peaceful Protest.

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Falcigno/Desir/Esposito*

*Recused: Berke*

*Motion approved.*

*The Board voted (Fried/Desir) to add the Peaceful Protest topic to the agenda.*

- Peaceful Protest Request:

*Votes in Favor: Fried/Falcigno/Desir/Esposito*

*Recused: Berke*

*Motion approved.*

*The Board voted (Fried/Desir) to approve the Peaceful Protest on June 13, 2020 on Town roads.*

- Request for Bicycle Lane – Beecher Road:

*A motion was made by Commissioner Fried to consider the request to have a temporary coned bicycle lane on Beecher Road.*

*Motion was not seconded.*

*Motion failed, does not go forward.*

#### ADJOURNMENT:

*The Board voted unanimously (Desir/Esposito) to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority at 7:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted:

*Janice Innocenzi*

Janice Innocenzi

Administrative Assistant