

**WOODBRIIDGE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
WOODBRIIDGE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING – POLICE COMMISSION**

MINUTES

January 20, 2022

Via ZOOM Platform (In accordance with SB 1202, this meeting was held by electronic transmission.)

Live Streamed – WGATV, Channel 79

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/NjAbs0DIEXg>

The Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority took place Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:15 p.m., via ZOOM platform.

- *Chairman Berke called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m.*

Attendance taken by roll call:

Commissioners Present-

Chairman Robert Berke

Commissioner Andrew Esposito, Jr.

Commissioner Michael Shanbrom

Commissioner Deborah Desir

Commissioner Deborah Fried

Police Administration Present-

Chief Frank P. Cappiello

Deputy Chief Ronald E. Smith, Jr.

Administrative Assistant Janice Innocenzi

Liaisons Present-

Joseph Crisco, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Absent-

Ellen Scalettar, Board of Finance Liaison

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

- B.O.P.C. Regular Meeting – December 20, 2021:

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Shanbrom), by roll call, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority held December 20, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There were no Public Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION / ACTION AS APPROPRIATE

- Discuss Personnel Matters:
 - Internal Investigation Review
 - Certified Officer Candidate Update and Hiring
 - Safety and Security

The Board voted unanimously (Shanbrom/Esposito), by roll call, to move into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. (Commissioners, Chief, Deputy Chief and the Officer Candidate were invited to stay; all others were excused.)

- Mr. Crisco left the meeting.
- Due to technical difficulties, Commissioner Desir and Commissioner Fried joined the meeting at the beginning of the Executive Session.
- The Board moved out of Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.
- Chairman Berke said they did not vote on any matters during Executive Session; we discussed one matter involving Officer Lima, he was invited to attend by Chief Cappiello, he declined that invitation.

ACTION TAKEN ON MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Certified Officer Candidate Update and Hiring:

The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Desir), by roll call, to extend an Offer of Employment to Stefano Mauriello for the position of Certified Police Officer, contingent upon his successful completion of the pre-employment physical exam and drug testing results.

REVIEW of REPORTS:

- FINANCIAL REPORT:

Chief Cappiello reported we are just over 6.5 months into the current fiscal year and overall, we are right on target at 56.7%. We are waiting for pending grant reimbursements of approximately \$26,000 to offset overtime costs.

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Fried), by roll call, to approve the Financial Report.

- ACTIVITY REPORT: Chief Cappiello reported the following -
Criminal Activity Report-

- Carjacking: January 2 - There was an armed carjacking in a parking lot on Lucy Street. The victim was approached by two suspects, one brandishing a handgun. Officers responded immediately and shortly thereafter the suspects were located on Rte. 69 entering New Haven trying to flee. They noticed one of the suspects discard a handgun and that person was taken into custody. A juvenile from New Haven was arrested and they are still trying to identify the second party involved in that incident.
- Burglaries: Dec. 29 - Officers responded to an activated residential burglar alarm; forced entry had been made to the rear of the house. The scene was processed by ISU; we are waiting on forensic analysis of evidence seized.
- Fraud: Several fraud complaints involving financial records, checks, on-line e-mail attempts to open accounts and telephone scams.
- Larcenies: 5 stolen packages; 1 shoplifting complaint from a business on Rte. 69; a suspect was apprehended.
- Larcenies from Motor Vehicles: 4 from unlocked motor vehicles. 1 catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle on Warren Road.
- Incident at School: On December 17, School Administration received alerts about a photograph that was being circulated depicting signs of violence associated with the Stay Home movement that was going on nationwide. Our Detectives found it did not originate here, it was information being recirculated.
- Sexual Assault Investigation: In March of 2021, our Detectives conducted a sexual assault investigation. A suspect was arrested and in December the suspect plead guilty to four counts of sexual assault and will be sentenced in February of 2022.
- Motor Vehicle Accident: In April 2021, we investigated a motor vehicle accident on Rimmon Road. During the investigation, officers located a loaded firearm in the car, which had been reported stolen from an Arkansas State Trooper. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to five years in prison.
- Motor Vehicle Stop: On December 13, 2021, officers conducted a motor vehicle stop and arrested a suspect for numerous motor vehicle violations. That suspect was also wanted on an outstanding felony warrant.
- ISU:
 - 6 new cases
 - 1 burglary
 - Package and mail theft investigations
 - Bad check investigations
 - Background check performed for a job applicant
 - Narcotics Investigation
 - Search Warrants were signed and one was served and executed at the beginning of January.
 - 16 Fingerprint Processing Requests
 - 3 Pistol Permit Background Investigations

Motor Vehicle Activity Report-

- Patrol Division: Deputy Chief Ronald Smith reported the following for December -
 - Participated in the Click-it-or-Ticket Campaign; issued 16 infractions.
 - 167 motor vehicle stops made in December
 - 23 motor vehicle accidents (2 with injuries)
 - Officers conducted speed enforcement 383 different times in various locations.
 - Conducted 380 traffic safety patrols looking for other traffic violations.
 - The Speed Trailer was deployed on Baldwin Road on two different occasions in December.
 - We have been taking motor vehicle activity very seriously and our officers have really been stepping it up the last 4-5 months.

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Fried), by roll call, to approve the Activity Report.

REPORT of the CHIEF of POLICE

- COVID-19 (Updates): We continue to work through the challenges associated with the ongoing pandemic and those were compounded further by the uptick and surge of positive cases of the Omicron variant, which has affected everyone including on the personnel side of the Police Department. On January 3, the Police Department, along with Betsy Yagla from Town Hall and staff from Woodbridge Human Services worked together to conduct a drive-thru distribution of N95 masks and Covid-19 At-Home Rapid Test Kits to the residents. On January 4, the First Selectman issued a town-wide Emergency Order requiring mask wearing, which went into effect January 10, 2022. The Order requires masks to be worn, regardless of vaccination status, at all indoor public spaces and meeting places where the public has access (except while eating or drinking), and at all private indoor businesses and places of employment. On January 8, the Police Department teamed up with the Fire Department and jointly distributed N95 masks and test kits to our residents. The First Selectman also participated in that event. Since then, we have also been coordinating the distribution of N95 masks with our schools, both public and private, the daycare facilities and members of the most vulnerable population and group homes located throughout town. As the State allocates more PPE and test kits to the municipalities, we will continue to facilitate distribution.
- IT System Network Infrastructure Upgrade: Over the past few months, TBNG has been moving forward and has made significant progress with the upgrade of our Department's IT infrastructure. Det. Iannucci, who has taken on the IT responsibilities after Sgt. Thomas' retirement, has been doing a great job transitioning and establishing a good working relationship with TBNG and other vendors. Currently, they are working closely with Nexgen, who is the CAD/RMS vendor associated with our Dispatch and Records management systems, for their final migration to the newest version of their applications, that also includes NetMotion which governs our connectivity with the Mobile Data Terminals in our cars. Once that is done, TBNG will officially "down" all the old servers and remove those physical devices and their associated wiring from the building. They also recently upgraded our wireless internet throughout the building from two old access points to six new access points, which was a significant improvement to our Wi-Fi accessibility throughout the building. Moving forward, they will be trying to remedy a lot of quick-fixes and unmanaged network switches by replacing them with multi-port outlets to optimize speed and connectivity to our machines throughout the building and even more importantly, to minimize our risk of exposure against outside threats such as cybersecurity breach or attack.

The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Shanbrom), by roll call, to accept the Report of the Chief of Police.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

- Letter and Certificate of Commendation: Chief Cappiello acknowledged Officer Matthew Lima with a Letter of Commendation and Officer John Calabrese with a Letter of Recognition for a carjacking incident on Lucy Street. Two suspects brandished a handgun, demanded an elderly resident's vehicle, he did not comply, they fled, Officer Lima located a suspect fleeing into New Haven, he saw them discard a handgun and took one of the suspects into custody, at the same time there was an antagonistic crowd gathering. Shortly after, Officer Calabrese arrived and they were able to take the person into custody and successfully remove them from the immediate area without any further problem. Based on Officer Lima's keen observation and sound police

tactics and Officer Calabrese's outstanding performance and dedication to duty by both of them, Chief Cappiello acknowledged their actions during that incident and praised them for a job well done.

- Promotional Exam (Update): Our promotional exam for the position of Sergeant to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Sgt. Thomas, has officially been scheduled to be conducted by the South Central Criminal Justice Administration during the first week of March. We have five officers who are interested and signed up for the process. They were provided with the applicable list of reference materials to review, study and prepare with. The written portion of that exam has been scheduled for March 8, 2022. The Oral Board examination will follow shortly after that. We look forward to presenting the Board with those results at the March or April meeting.
- Extended Absences (Update): A Dispatcher who was out for several weeks on a surgical/medical leave has returned to duty. Another Dispatcher was out for an extended period associated with Covid, but has since returned. Most recently, another Dispatcher has been out since last week on sick leave associated with Covid, and is tentatively due back this weekend. We had an Officer who was out on a Workers' Comp injury and was cleared, recently returned to full duty with no restrictions. Four Officers who were out on Covid related absences have all returned. Right now, we have one Dispatcher out, and fingers crossed, we will get beyond this surge. Chief Cappiello and Deputy Chief Smith will continue to do the best they can to manage personnel if we have any more absences and try to keep overtime as minimal as possible.

BUDGET:

- Operating Budget - Approval: Chief Cappiello and Deputy Chief Smith met with Budget Subcommittee members (Commissioner Esposito and Commissioner Shanbrom) at the end of December to review the proposed budget. Chief Cappiello requested the Board's final approval of the proposed budget.

Commissioner Esposito: Michael (Commissioner Shanbrom) and I met with the Chief and Deputy Chief, we went through line item by line item, we thought the budget was on, and basically focusing on what our needs were and not any wants. Basically, what our needs are, and so based on that review of the budget, I concurred that we would support that budget, and go for it and vote on it.

Commissioner Shanbrom: I agree with everything you said and the only thing I will add is everything that is being asked for is both necessary and reasonable, anything less would pose a threat to public safety.

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Desir), by roll call, to approve the proposed Operating Budget.

- Chief Cappiello notified the Board that our budget presentation is Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board voted unanimously (Desir/Fried), by roll call, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners and move directly into the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Innocenzi, Administrative Assistant

WOODBIDGE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WOODBIDGE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING – TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

MINUTES

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Commissioner Michael Shanbrom

Commissioner Deborah Desir

Commissioner Deborah Fried

Police Administration Present-

Chief Frank P. Cappiello

Deputy Chief Ronald E. Smith, Jr.

Administrative Assistant Janice Innocenzi

Absent-

Joseph Crisco, Board of Selectmen Liaison

Ellen Scalettar, Board of Finance Liaison

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Administrative Assistant Janice Innocenzi read the following Public Comments (5) received via e-mail:

E-mail #1 -

Dear Woodbridge Traffic Authority:

In recent years many families with young children have moved into the stretch of Johnson Road that connects Ansonia Road and Rimmon Roads. Currently, there are a total of 12 children (all under the age of 12) that live on this 1/4-mile stretch of road.

As our children frequently enjoy playing outdoors, all of the residents of this area have noticed consistent speeding and dangerous driving on this short road, and vehicles traveling at speeds in excess of 50 mph are a regular occurrence. Checking our mail and walking our children to Beecher Road school have become dangerous tasks. Residents have reported this to the police during the past several years, and temporary solutions such as increased police presence and radar speed detectors have helped, but the problem persists. This past month a speeding vehicle lost control and crashed into a tree at 1189 Johnson Road (image below).



Given the short distance between the traffic controls (stop signs) at the ends of this road, there is no reason vehicles should be traveling at such high speeds. We the residents of Johnson Road request a permanent fix be installed, such as a speed bump, to reduce the speeds on this short road that is home to so many young children.

With kindest regards,
Javier and Kelly Aviles
45 Ansonia Road
Woodbridge, CT

E-mail #2 -

Dear Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority,

We write echoing other neighborhood concerns regarding unsafe traffic on the block of Johnson Rd between Ansonia Rd and Rimmon Rd. This short block connecting two major highways is increasingly used as a high-speed cut-through by drivers, with very dangerous results. Earlier this month a car crashed into a tree in our front yard, and was totaled. Woodbridge police and fire personnel were swift to respond and consummate professionals, but can often only respond to unsafe speeding drivers after the fact. To my knowledge no speed limit or warning signs exist on the block. The large number of small children on this particular block, including those who walk on the street to Beecher Rd School daily, necessitates a careful consideration of traffic slowing or calming measures by your Authority.

Thanks for your consideration and service to the Woodbridge Community,
Ryan and Kathleen Mills
1189 Johnson Rd

E-Mail #3 -

Dear Woodbridge Traffic Authority,

I live at 1188 Johnson Rd. with my two boys, ages 7 and 4. Our stretch of Johnson Rd., between Rimmon and Ansonia, has become a dangerous passthrough section on which drivers of cars and trucks routinely gun their engines to dangerous speeds. I am writing to request that you expeditiously take measures to curb such speeding before a tragedy occurs.

My boys are among a dozen children who live on our stretch of Johnson Rd. Many of us walk to and from Beecher Road School daily. On evenings and weekends, the kids often bounce from house to house, playing together. Sometimes we walk or bike to the golf course. My mailbox is across the street from my house, and my kids often accompany me to check it. All of these otherwise lovely, normal neighborhood activities are tainted by the anxiety that comes with feeling profoundly unsafe and unprotected on our own street as cars whiz by our bodies, too close and too fast.

I do not believe that increased signage is the answer. The most effective, long-term solution would be to install 2 to 3 speed bumps on Johnson Rd. between Ansonia and Rimmon, and to reduce the speed limit to 25mph.

I understand that my neighbors have sent similar written pleas for your help. I trust that you will take swift action toward measures that will protect our children before someone gets injured or killed.

Thank you for your attention and assistance. Feel free to reach out to me with any further questions.
Sincerely,
Abby Santamaria

E-Mail #4 -

Dear Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority,

We join our neighbors in, not only concern, but alarm, about the higher frequency of speeding cars down our segment of Johnson Road, between Ansonia Road and Rimmon Road. . We have lived in Woodbridge for 32 years and have never witnessed this amount of reckless driving. This culminated, as you know, in a high-speed crash into a tree last week.

We are thrilled to have so many elementary aged children on our block. However, we are quite concerned about these kids having to walk down Johnson Road, or cross the street or wait by the side of the road for buses, exactly during the rush hours when people are speeding by.

Many of us in the neighborhood also enjoy walking to the country club down Johnson Road, and sometimes we feel we have to jump onto the grass to avoid cars barreling down the road who seem to have little regard for pedestrians.

The remedy may be to install more speed limit signs, Slow signs, Children live here signs, and even a speed bump to make people slow down. Another suggestion would be to increase police presence at the corner of Manville and Johnson during

these rush hours. There is no reason for people to travel so fast on this segment of road between two stop signs, and it is very dangerous.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.
Marguerite and Walden Dillaway
1196 Johnson Road
Woodbridge CT 06525

E-Mail #5 -

Dear Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority,

I write to you on a matter of some concern to the residents of Johnson Road, specifically that section between Rimmon and Ansonia. On numerous occasions, I have seen cars roll through the intersection of Johnson and Ansonia-at 15 mph or more because sightlines are good- and reach speeds exceeding 45 mph in the 100 yards or so before they pass our driveway at 1180. They continue accelerating before braking hard at the Rimmon intersection (site of many bad accidents).

The speed limit on Pease Road is 30 mph- a relatively straight road with good sightlines- but when you turn the corner onto Johnson it jumps to 35 (an older speed limit sign incidentally) with a dangerous curve just ahead and the dangerous aforementioned intersection at Rimmon. As you know, 35 for many drivers means 40 or 45 is acceptable, but certainly not safe on the short stretch between Rimmon and Ansonia.

Please consider lowering the speed limit on Johnson to 30 mph, with the added possibility of speed bumps or stop signs both ways at Manville Rd. if the lower speed limit fails to improve safety. A stop at Manville might improve safety at Rimmon and Johnson as well.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey T. Gee
1180 Johnson Rd.

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- **Public Comments received via e-mail:** Chief Cappiello said, I responded back to all five residents to acknowledge receipt of their e-mails and let them know that I have assigned it for review and that upon completion, will follow up with them and share our findings and review any proposed changes or recommendations we have to address their concerns. I have also shared them with the Chair of the Traffic Committee and will coordinate a meeting with them. In the short-term, the Deputy Chief has been on top of it and has assigned an increase in police presence and traffic and radar details in the area.

TRAFFIC MATTERS:

- **CT Dept. of Transportation – Traffic Signal Light (Updates):** Chief Cappiello reported that he and the First Selectman received notification of an upcoming Connecticut DOT project. It does not require any action, but the DOT asked that the Legal Traffic Authorities be made aware. They will proactively be replacing various signal lights on highways across the State with new LED lights in an effort to keep them functioning and in good repair. These new lights are expected to last twice as long as those currently installed, increasing useful life from 8 years to 15 years.

Lights in our town that will be changed include:

- Rte. 63 at Rte. 114
- Rte. 63 at Bond Rd. & JCC Driveway
- Rte. 67 at Bear Hill Rd./Acorn Hill Rd. Intersection
- Rte. 243 at Baldwin Rd./Northrop Rd. Intersection
- Rte. 63 at Highland Rd.
- Rte. 63 at Rte. 67

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board voted unanimously (Shanbrom/Fried), by roll call, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Janice Innocenzi, Administrative Assistant

WOODBRIIDGE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MOTIONS

January 20, 2022

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

- B.O.P.C. Regular Meeting – December 20, 2021:

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Shanbrom), by roll call, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners/Woodbridge Traffic Authority held December 20, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There were no Public Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION / ACTION AS APPROPRIATE

- Discuss Personnel Matters:
 - Internal Investigation Review
 - Certified Officer Candidate Update and Hiring
 - Safety and Security

The Board voted unanimously (Shanbrom/Esposito), by roll call, to move into Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. (Commissioners, Chief, Deputy Chief and the Officer Candidate were invited to stay; all others were excused.)

- The Board moved out of Executive Session at 7:29 p.m.

ACTION TAKEN ON MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Certified Officer Candidate Update and Hiring:

The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Desir), by roll call, to extend an Offer of Employment to Stefano Mauriello for the position of Certified Police Officer, contingent upon his successful completion of the pre-employment physical exam and drug testing results.

REVIEW of REPORTS:

- Financial Report:

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Fried), by roll call, to approve the Financial Report.

- Activity Report:

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Fried), by roll call, to approve the Activity Report.

REPORT of the CHIEF of POLICE

The Board voted unanimously (Fried/Shanbrom), by roll call, to accept the Report of the Chief of Police.

PERSONNEL MATTERS:

- There were no motions made, no votes taken, during Personnel Matters.

BUDGET:

- Operating Budget - Approval:

The Board voted unanimously (Esposito/Desir), by roll call, to approve the proposed Operating Budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board voted unanimously (Desir/Fried), by roll call, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Police Commissioners and move directly into the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Innocenzi, Administrative Assistant

WOODBIDGE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

MOTIONS

January 20, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- There were no motions made, no votes taken, during Public Comments.

TRAFFIC MATTERS:

- There were no motions made, no votes taken, during Traffic Matters.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Board voted unanimously (Shanbrom/Fried), by roll call, to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Traffic Authority at 8:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Janice Innocenzi, Administrative Assistant