

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall auditorium on Wednesday, September 2, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, members of the public were able to attend this meeting remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform.

The meeting was attended in-person by Mayor Elinor Carbone, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous, Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung and Commissioners Douglas Benedetto, Dustin Bingham, Glenn McLeod, Joseph McElroy and Darlene Battle.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 5, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session, pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(A), to discuss the promotion of Police Department personnel at 6:32 p.m. They were joined by Chief Baldwin.

OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 6:39 p.m.

TPD PROMOTION

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to approve the promotion of Officer Brandon Kelly to the position of Sergeant with the Torrington Police Department. Chief Baldwin introduced Sergeant Kelly and described some of his accolades. Mayor Carbone administered the oath of office and his family completed the pinning ceremony.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief's report. Commissioner Benedetto expressed his concerns about overtime costs and asked whether the City considered requiring protesters to pull permits and pay for police coverage. Chief Baldwin reported that a possible ordinance was being considered and Mayor Carbone clarified that the decision would be up to the ordinance subcommittee and City Council. Commissioner McLeod noted that Black Lives Matter was not the only group to hold mass gatherings at Coe Park recently and the Mayor emphasized the importance of knowing in advance when any large public demonstrations are scheduled. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the TPD's hiring of new recruits and Chief Baldwin reported that the Department was moving through the hiring process with multiple candidates but 12-14 positions still needed to be filled. Commissioner Bingham expressed his concerns about the enforcement of Governor Lamont's directive to require out-of-state visitors to complete a travel health form and Chief Baldwin discussed the difficulty of enforcing the mandate.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Traffic Operations Unit report. Commissioner Benedetto asked whether the booting of vehicles was generating any revenue and Chief Baldwin reported that it was.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Chief's report. Commissioner Benedetto expressed concerns regarding the amount of non-medical lockout calls that the TFD responds to and Deputy Chief Tripp explained that the TFD responds to lockout calls when they are informed that medications may be inaccessible to an individual. Commissioner Benedetto suggested redirecting certain callers to the Torrington Housing Authority for assistance.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept Deputy Chief Tripp's report. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the TFD's equipment and Deputy Chief Tripp explained some of the difficulties that the Department had with its vehicles. He reported that the TFD borrowed an apparatus from the Torrington VFD.

TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Bingham, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Shopey's report. Commissioner McLeod requested clarification regarding the amount of certified interior firefighters listed in the report and Deputy Chief Tripp explained that the Torrington VFD has three interior firefighters while Drakeville has six.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management report.

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's report. Commissioner McLeod requested clarification regarding an incident that occurred at Tucker Drive. Deputy Chief Tripp reported that a resident of Koury Terrace was lighting pizza boxes on fire in the hallway and the police were involved.

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS provider activity report.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Volunteer Fire Departments. Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous reported that a tanker was out of service in need of repairs and he announced that Drakeville's pasta dinner fundraiser would be taking place on September 19, 2020. Mayor Carbone reported that the City's fleet manager and purchasing agent were looking into the warranty for the tanker.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Chief Baldwin thanked Ocean State Job Lot for its donation of PPE and hand sanitizer, updated the Board on progress being made with the McCall Center for Behavioral Health to combat opioid use and reported that a suspect was identified with respect to the August 27th fatal car accident on Route 202. He thanked the TFD and Fire Police for their response to the accident, commended his officers who responded to the fire at Koury Terrace and praised the TPD's Detective Bureau for their work on a number of cases. The Chief also provided an update on the ransomware attack which impacted multiple departments, announced that the P.A.L. golf tournament was scheduled to take place on September 28th and reported that the stop sign on Hillandale Blvd. was fixed.

Commissioner Benedetto questioned whether the P.A.L. basketball season was still scheduled to go on and Mayor Carbone informed him that it would be cancelled because the Parks and Recreation Commission decided to hold off on hosting basketball at the Armory due to public health concerns.

Commissioner Bingham inquired about the amount of overdoses in 2020 compared to 2019. Chief Baldwin reported that there were 29 deaths caused by overdose in 2019 and 18 so far in 2020. He also reported that the TPD has responded to a total of 98 overdoses this year.

Deputy Chief Tripp thanked Ocean State Job Lot and Lisa and Mike Butteri for their donations to the TFD, expressed appreciation for Merli Automotive and O & G and provided an update on upcoming training opportunities. He also announced that the annual 9/11 ceremony would be live-streamed on Facebook Live for all interested persons to join remotely and stated that there would be a big awards ceremony when the restrictions on public gatherings are lifted to honor all of the deserving firefighters.

Trinity Health EMS Manager Jeff Ganung introduced himself to the Board and expressed his interest in continuing to be involved in trainings with the TFD.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety.

Commissioner Bingham expressed his frustration over the Governor's extension of Phase Two Reopening and the lack of direction given to businesses.

Commissioner McElroy presented Torrington residents' concerns about the intersection of Mountain Road and Marshall Lake Road and questioned whether it would be possible make the intersection a four-way stop. Chief Baldwin stated that he would have Officer Pisarski look into the matter.

Commissioner Benedetto asked how a member of the public could obtain police body camera footage and Chief Baldwin explained that a person needs only to submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act. He clarified that the footage is public record and once the public obtains footage there is nothing the TPD can do to stop its circulation. Commissioner Benedetto also expressed concerns about unregistered quads and dirt bikes on public roads and the Chief explained some of the issues and liability that could result if the TPD chased after the perpetrators. Lastly, he thanked the public safety departments for their response to Hurricane Isaias.


Commissioners McLeod and Battle congratulated Sgt. Kelly on his promotion.

Mayor Carbone provided an update on the City's ransomware attack and thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their support through the incident. She discussed some of the issues and policies for enforcing the Governor's executive orders regarding masks, informed the Board that National Night Out was delayed to October 6, 2020 and reported that there is a movement across the country to show support for police departments by replacing porch lights with blue light bulbs.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK