



# NEWINGTON POLICE COMMISSION MEETING



There was a meeting of the Newington Police Commissioners on **Tuesday March 1, 2022** at the Newington Police Department.

PRESENT: Chairman Brenda Blonigen, Commissioner William Wright, Commissioner F. Jackson Hoyt, Chief Michael Bilodeau, Captain Brandon Smart, Executive Admin Taylor Cooney.

## I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Blonigen **called the meeting to order at 4:00pm**

## II MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

On a **MOTION** by Commissioner Hoyt and **seconded** by, Chairman Blonigen the **Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting as written.**

On a **MOTION** by chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by, Commissioner Hoyt the **Commissioners voted to accept the non-public minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting** and on a **MOTION** by Chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by, Commissioner Hoyt, **the Commissioners voted to seal the non-public minutes from the February 1, 2022 meeting.**

## III POLICE COMMISSION INFORMATION

### A. Other Police Commission Information

- a. The Commissioners reviewed expenditures to date- no issues
- b. The Commissioners reviews and signed the purchase order file.

## IV OLD BUSINESS

### A. Hiring Process

a. The job opening for a full-time police officer has been posted. The department is working with a company called Police App, which advertises nationwide and hosts a testing event for non-certified officers. The department has posted the position on their website, Facebook, the Air National Guard Base and the Shipyard. The Police Academy Benchmark has the posting on their site, and it has been shared with 50 New England colleges. The last seacoast area test had 44 candidates. The next test with Police App is March 19<sup>th</sup>. Great Bay testing is in early April. It is currently tough to find quality people to apply for these positions, and there are a lot of vacancies in surrounding towns which is prompting the NPD and Police Commissioners to investigate new initiatives to attract and retain staff..

### B. Police Chief Position Annual Review

a. In support if ab on-going initiative to create an annual review requirement for the Newington Police Chief position, Chief Bilodeau will continue to research how other towns perform their annual rating of the Chief of Police Position.



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## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Monthly Stats for February 2022.

- a. The Department had 200 motor Vehicle Stops, 7 accidents, 27 incidents, 16 arrests, and 3 warrants.

### B. Legalization of Marijuana and Potential Drug Shops in Town

a. The State of New Hampshire House of Representatives passed the bill to legalize recreational marijuana. The Senate and Governor must pass the bill to implement it into law. Chairman Blonigen raised the issue and asked the Chief to collect information on the impacts Cannabis Dispensaries would have on Newington. The Chief has already done a bit of research but will reach out to towns in Maine to see what the issues are that they deal with, if any, and if it has increased their call volume.

### C. Mixed Use Property at the Mall

a. There have been talks of Mixed-Use Property going in at the Fox Run Mall. Chairman Blonigen asked Chief Bilodeau to start assessing the potential impacts on the NPD if approved. The Chief will gather some data from towns with mixed-use property (Portsmouth, Merrimack) to see if it has increased their patrol activity, what issues they have had, what are peak times for service, what is the cost of adding patrol officers, the differences between Commercial use (normally focused on daytime support) versus Residential use (activity which requires 24/7 support) The Department will collect data on the impact of adding 1,000-2,000 more residents. The Chief noted that Newington's proximity to UNH could bring in college students as well, which could have impacts on calls for service.

## VI (If Applicable)

### Non-Public Session RSA 91-A:3 II(c) Personnel Matter

#### A. Drug Task Force

a. Newington's involvement with the Rockingham County Drug Task Force was discussed. There have been significant public safety benefits to the area including confiscation of weapons and drugs.

On a **MOTION** by Chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by, Commissioner Hoyt, **the commissioners voted to enter a non-public session at 4:17**

On a **MOTION** by Chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by, Commissioner Hoyt, **the commissioners voted to come out of the non-public session at 4:33**

## VII

### NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION

The next meeting is **scheduled for April 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Newington Police Department.

## VIII

### ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by Commissioner Hoyt, **the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:40**



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For William Wright, Secretary  
by Taylor Cooney, Executive Administrative Assistant