



# NEWINGTON POLICE COMMISSION MEETING



There was a meeting of the Newington Police Commissioners on **Wednesday April 13, 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 Fiore.

## I CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Blonigen **called the meeting to order at 4:05pm**

## II MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

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

## III POLICE COMMISSION INFORMATION

### A. Other Police Commission Information

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

## IV OLD BUSINESS

### A. Body Cameras

1. Detective O'Reilly and Ofc. Auger researched body cameras for the department. They got quotes from 3 different companies and Axon was the company chosen as it was the best option for the department monetarily and for the leasing option which is a commitment of the town at \$25,000 a year. To outfit all 15 officers, it will be \$100,000 however, NH offers a 50/50 Grant that the Department will apply for. The issue is the grant comes out in January and funds need to be approved before we can go for the grant, but the Town meeting isn't until March so we cannot commit the funds. If the grant is approved, the money needs to be spent by May. Chief Bilodeau has a meeting with the selectmen to discuss body cameras and if they are willing to support it, the Department will put it in the budget for next year and see where it goes. The cruiser cameras are also an option in place of body cameras. Cruiser cameras are more cost effective, and the NH grant also covers these. Our current cruiser cameras have helped us in a few situations already where members of the public who were stopped, claimed the officers were in the wrong and the cruiser footage was able to be reviewed and cleared the officer of any wrongdoing.



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## B. Cannabis Dispensaries & Mixed-Use Community

1. With the proposal of the legalization of marijuana, Chief Bilodeau has been doing some research with towns in Maine and Vermont who have cannabis shops and what issues they have dealt with since these shops opened. Vermont doesn't seem to have any issues as they have medical marijuana dispensaries. The Police Chief in Elliot said the issues they have dealt with are a rise in burglaries and traffic on 236 because people from out of state are coming in to purchase from these dispensaries. Chief Bilodeau and Executive Admin Taylor Fiore reached out to many communities trying to gather information of their mixed-use communities and if they have had an increase in patrol in those areas. No information was given on this topic and most departments just now look at this as a day-to-day operation.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Patrol Activity March 2022

1.

### B. Fiberoptics Grant

1. The Police Dept, Fire Dept, and Town Hall will all be working with Paul Deschenes, the part-time town administrator for interoperability between all the departments mentioned. This will help communications for the Emergency Operations Center. The Cost will be between \$150,000-\$175,000. The base radios in the department will also be updated. The grant is due by April 15<sup>th</sup> and 8 letters of support from other police agencies were written on our behalf to send to Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

### C. DTF Car

1. The Department does not have an unmarked car for drug work. Sgt. Wood reached out to the Sheriff's Dept. and they have a few vehicles on hand from drug forfeitures. There are parameters around the use of this vehicle and Sgt. Wood would be the only member of the dept. to use it based on him being a sworn member of the sheriff's Dept. The car would also not be able to be stored here and would have to be picked up from the sheriff's Dept. each time it needed to be used. Based on previous cases where the department will get funds from takedowns, that money could be used for an unmarked vehicle.

## VI (If Applicable)

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

#### A. Personnel Matter

1. Another full-time officer position will open in May 2022. Discussions were had about incentives for retention and recruiting.

On a **MOTION** by Chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by, Commissioner Wright, **the commissioners voted to enter a non-public session at 4:26pm**

On a **MOTION** by Chairman Blonigen and **seconded** by, Commissioner Hoyt, **the commissioners voted to come out of the non-public session at 5:00pm**

## VII

**NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION**



## NEWINGTON POLICE COMMISSION MEETING



The next meeting is **scheduled for May 17, 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 5:02pm**

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