



**Police Commission Meeting  
July 2, 2020, 6:30 PM  
Video Conference**

**Present:** Commissioner Neil Bettez, Commissioner Alex Baer, Commissioner Dan Torres, Commissioner Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Commissioner David Brownstein, and Chief Robert Lucchesi.

At 6:39 pm a motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to open the Town Board as Police Commission meeting with the pledge. Seconded by Commissioner Torres, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Agenda:**

At 6:40pm a motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to approve the Police Commission agenda with changes (Removing executive session, changing order of 2 and 3 on the agenda). Seconded by Commissioner Torres with an amendment to add a discussion on a resolution just drafted about adding citizens to the police commission. Amendment seconded by Councilman Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

**Announcements:**

1. Town hall will be closed Friday July 3, 2020 in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday.
2. New Paltz will be participating in the County-wide First Responder and Essential Worker motorcade on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> in appreciation of our frontline workers! The motorcade begins at the Village Firehouse on Plattekill Ave and will drive up Main St. to Fire Station #2 on Henry W. Dubois Drive. Stand along the route and cheer our first responders or decorate your car and drive along with the outstanding volunteers of our Fire & Rescue Departments. Line up at Peace Park by 3:00 pm, the motorcade starts at 3:15
3. Chief Lucchesi announced a meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM at Water Street Market to address questions and concerns of the community. Moving forward a meeting of this type will be held at various times and various locations every third Thursday of the month.
4. July 24<sup>th</sup> Virtual Narcan Training

**New Paltz Police Reform and Reinvention Committee:**

Commissioner Torres discussed coming up with a police reform and reinvention committee, complying with the Governor's Executive Order 203.

In alignment with the Governor's Executive Order 203, Each local government entity which has a police agency must perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, for the purposes of addressing the particular needs of the communities served by such police agency and promote community engagement to foster trust,

fairness, and legitimacy, and to address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color.

The Town Supervisor shall convene the head of the local police agency, and stakeholders in the community to develop such plan, which shall consider evidence-based policing strategies, including but not limited to, use of force policies, procedural justice; any studies addressing systemic racial bias or racial justice in policing; implicit bias awareness training; de-escalation training and practices; law enforcement assisted diversion programs; restorative justice practices; community-based outreach and conflict resolution; problem-oriented policing; hot spots policing; focused deterrence; crime prevention through environmental design; violence prevention and reduction interventions; model policies and guidelines promulgated by the New York State Municipal Police Training Council; and standards promulgated by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program.

The Town, in coordination with its police agency, must consult with stakeholders, including but not limited to: membership and leadership of the local police force; members of the community, with emphasis in areas with high numbers of police and community interactions; interested non-profit and faith-based community groups; the local office of the district attorney; the local public defender; and local elected officials, and create a plan to adopt and implement the recommendations resulting from its review and consultation, including any modifications, modernizations, and innovations to its policing deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, tailored to the specific needs of the community and general promotion of improved police agency and community relationships based on trust, fairness, accountability, and transparency, and which seek to reduce any racial disparities in policing.

Such plan shall be offered for public comment to all citizens in the locality, and after consideration of such comments, shall be presented to the Town Board, which shall ratify or adopt such plan by local law or resolution no later than April 1, 2021.

Commissioner Torres recommended a framework to the Town Board addressing policing. He would like to establish a committee of 20-21 people that are residents of the Town of New Paltz from various backgrounds. This committee will be broken down into individual subcommittees addressing mandates within the Executive Order, along with a separate New Paltz specific subcommittee.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brownstein to accept and adopt Commissioner Torres's rough proposal/framework subject to further clarity. Seconded by Commissioner Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Torres to adopt a resolution to form a reinvention committee comprised of citizens of the community. Seconded by Commissioner Seyfert-Lillis, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

The Town Board made an announcement that everyone's comments/questions were heard and will be addressed/answered in the near future via future meetings and/or towns website.

**Monthly Report-May 2020:**

Commendations: (2)

1. Officer Bunce, Detective Judge, Sergeant Koch, and Officer Halstead received thank you letter for assisting with a birthday parade.
2. Mr. Czaplicki's family thanked the police department for their efforts with emergency vehicle parade for funeral service.

Defensive Actions (0):

**Update on Body Camera Policy 134.0:**

Officers are getting used to wearing body cameras and as of August 1st it will become a requirement.

**Intimate Partner Intervention Program Review:**

Private program through grant with City of Kingston. Designed to address the offender focusing on domestic violence. The goal is to stop the behavior from occurring. The hope is to get the program running in the next few months. New Paltz Police Department is working with District Attorney's Office with regards to this program.

**Referral to hire part-time police officer to Town Board:**

Chief Lucchesi would like to recommend the hire of a part time officer Michelle Yeager to the Town Board.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bettez to refer the hire of part time police officer Michelle Yeager to the Town Board. Seconded by Commissioner Brownstein, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

At 7:32pm a motion was made by Commissioner Bettez to adjourn the Police Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Baer, all aye votes cast, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristie Mazzaccari  
Deputy Town Clerk