

**MINUTES OF MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 26, 2023**

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A meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held on Monday, June 26, 2023. This was a hybrid meeting held both in person and electronically via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order at 7:13 PM by Vice- Chair, Abdul Osmanu.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adrian Webber, Chair; Abdul Osmanu, Vice-Chair; Laurie Sweet; Justin Farmer; Cory O'Brien

MEMBERS ABSENT: Betty Wetmore; Bob Anthony

Public Input: There was 1 speaker

The following items were addressed:

1. Order to accept and expend grant funds from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation 2023 Highway Safety Project Speed and Aggressive Driving Enforcement

--Moved by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Ms. Sweet. DISCUSSION: Acting Police Chief Wydra explained we have been granted funds from the State of Connecticut in the amount of \$48,000. This will be used for areas where there is aggressive driving, speeding, accidents and hopefully reduce the amount of accidents in Hamden. Mr. Farmer asked do you feel we will have enough person power to effectuate this grant and will we use the whole grant? Chief Wydra said he thinks we have enough officers to use a good chunk of it and we will certainly try to use all of it, but he isn't sure. It is very important to him to have officers out there especially during August before school starts. Mr. Farmer asked for more in depth data that breaks down the areas of concern. He thanked the Chief for data he sent over. Mr. Osmanu said a map of these areas would be helpful.

A vote was taken. The item passed unanimously.

2. Order to accept and expend grant funds from the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection – CT FY2023 ARPA Auto Theft and Violence Program

--Moved by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. DISCUSSION: Acting Police Chief Wydra explained this is a grant for \$35,000 to reduce auto theft and violent crimes. It will allow us to increase our Police patrols. Mr. Farmer asked, other than the funding for the officers to be out and about, what do seek to come from this \$35,000. Chief Wydra said an

overall reduction in crime. Mr. Farmer asked if there are any plans for strategy, outreach, mitigation. Chief Wydra said it is geared for proactive patrols in areas where crimes are occurring, based on data.

A vote was taken. The item passed with 2 opposed (Farmer) (Osmanu)

3. Resolution authorizing the Town of Hamden to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the use of State Homeland Security Grant Funding and Custodial Ownership of Regional Assets in DEMHS Region 2

--Moved by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Mr. Osmanu. DISCUSSION: Chief of Staff Sean Grace explained this allows us to be in the pool of towns allowed to store assets. Mr. Farmer said in theory, this could be a drone or other assets that could be shared between Fire Departments, would it be other departments as well? Mr. Grace said it is for the Fire Department. Mr. Farmer said he is concerned about the broad reach of what technologies could be allowed. Mr. Grace briefly discussed policy related to use of assets. Ms. Sweet asked for examples of things being stored. Fire Chief Naples explained this is a program we have been a part of since 2013 and current assets housed in Hamden are two enclosed trailers, one for mass casualty emergency and one inflatable shelter which is trained on with the CERT team. Participation in this program is a great opportunity for the Town to have access to these shared assets. Mr. O'Brien will support this to get it out of committee, but he has concern regarding the blanket use of assets. He would like to see a notification process put in place with details of the assets. Chief Naples said he will give notification to the Mayor to pass on to Council in the future. He also discussed briefly that this program involves a lengthy process.

A vote was taken. The item passed with 1 opposed (Farmer) and 1 abstention (Osmanu)

4. Order authorizing intradepartmental transfer 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget -Police Department-\$176,998.56 (Vehicle Replacement)

--Moved by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Farmer DISCUSSION: Mr. Farmer asked how many vehicle accidents have we had in the last year in the PD? (Chief Wydra was having audio issues and couldn't answer). Mr. Farmer said he looks forward to getting that answer and went on to say his point is we need to take care of the vehicles as they are costly to fix. After Chief Wydra's audio came on he explained this transfer would allow us to purchase three new Police cruisers, unmarked, saying it's been several years since we have replaced any of our unmarked fleet and repair is very costly. He said these vehicles are very tired, they have high mileage, and are consistently being brought for repair. Mr. Farmer again requested the number of vehicle accidents in the last year. Mr. O'Brien said he appreciates that we are not borrowing money for vehicles and are being more fiscally responsible.

A vote was taken. The item passed with 2 abstentions (Farmer) (Osmanu)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Renta, Clerk
Rose Lion, Assistant
for Abdul Osmanu, Vice-Chair