



**WATERTOWN POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
61 ECHO LAKE ROAD
WATERTOWN, CT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026 - 7:00 P.M.**

1. Convene Regular Meeting
Chairman Richard Antonetti called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT: Richard Antonetti, Chairman
 David Jannetty, V. Chairman
 Carmine Verno, Secretary
 Robert McCarthy
 Richard Rossi

ABSENT:

ALTERNATES

PRESENT:

ALTERNATES Brian Mays
ABSENT: John Gavallas

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief
 Renee Dominguez, Deputy Chief

3. Public Participation - none.
4. Minutes Approval
 - a. Regular Meeting – January 14, 2026

Motion: David Jannetty seconded by Robert McCarthy to accept meeting minutes of January 14, 2026.

Discussion: none.

Motion passes unanimously

5. Correspondence
 - a. State Representative Joseph Polletta and Mr. Lupoi.

Motion: David Jannetty seconded by Carmine Verno: to table the correspondence.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

6. New Business
 - a. Annual Election of Officers

a. Election of Officers:

I. Chairman

David Jannetty, I would like to nominate Richard Antonetti for Chairman.
Seconded by: Richard Rossi

All those in favor of nominating Richard Antonetti as Chairman.

Motion passed unanimously

Richard Antonetti is declared Chairman.

II. Vice Chairman

Chairman Richard Antonetti I would like to nominate David Jannetty as Vice Chairman.
Seconded by: Carmine Verno

Are there any other nominations?

Hearing none.

Chairman Richard Antonetti All those in favor of nominating David Jannetty as Vice Chairman.

Motions passed unanimously

David Jannetty is declared Vice Chairman.

III. Secretary

Vice Chairman David Jannetty I would like to nominate Carmine Verno as Secretary.
Seconded by: Richard Antonetti

Chairman Richard Antonetti All those in favor of nominating Carmine Verno as Secretary.

Any other nominations?

Hearing none.

Motions passed unanimously

Carmine Verno is declared Secretary

b. Discussion of DOT installation of a traffic light on Route 63 at the entrance of 10 Acre Shopping Mall. – vehicles are coming down at a higher speed from Route 63 and are not slowing down when it comes to that particular point, it is a high traffic area. We could ask the state to do a traffic study for a traffic light.

Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief stated I can request a study to be done, on previous correspondence with the DOT, they have had extremely high requests from municipalities and are experiencing longer review times.

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by David Jannetty: I would like to make a request to do a study at that location as well as making contact with the business owner for any possible solutions on his end.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Old Business

a. Update regarding the request for Connecticut DOT to evaluate the passing zone located in the vicinity of 250 Litchfield Road. – read an email from the DOT, due to high volume in requests received they are experiencing longer review times

8. Chairman's Report:

Building of a community police station. – I would contact the Town Manager and Congress woman Jahana Hayes to seek funds for a new station.

Motion: David Jannetty seconded by Carmine Verno: To offer a letter campaign for the building of a new community Police Station to Jahanna Hayes to seek out those funds to build that community station.

Motion passed unanimously

9. Chief's Report

a. February, 2026– Monthly Department Activity Report

Joshua Bernegger reported:

- 1) The Watertown Police Department has one recruit officer attending the police academy in New Haven, scheduled to graduate on July 30th.
- 2) Interviews for a second new hire will take place on March 31st and April 1st. This hire will replace Master Sgt. Jay DeMarest, who is scheduled to retire in September.
- 3) A new Communications Supervisor has been hired and started work on March 9th.
- 4) A new assistant animal control officer has been given a conditional offer of employment. A background check is underway.
- 5) The Town of Watertown Radio Communications Upgrade Project continues as scheduled. NORCOM is working on installing new equipment at each of our tower sites.
- 6) The Watertown Police Department participated in a Coffee With A Cop event hosted by Gayle's Farmeshoppe on 3/5/26.
- 7) The police department is onboarding new electronic scheduling and payroll software, which will integrate electronically with the Town's payroll system. The software should be online in a couple of months.
- 8) The Department will be receiving three new patrol vehicles within a week.
- 9) WPD will be promoting a Special Olympics fundraiser hosted by Jersey Mikes on 3/25/2026. Proceeds from sales at all Connecticut Jersey Mike's locations on that date will go to Special Olympics.
- 10) The annual Crimestoppers pasta dinner will be held on 4/22/26 at the Grand Oak Villa. Lt. Chris Paquin has been selected as Crimestopper of the Year.

It was noted that House Bill #5046 for tuition and housing mortgage assistance for Police Officers and Fire fighters might attract applicants for the positions.

10. Adjournment

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by David Jannetty: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Antonetti
Chairman