

# Town of Colchester, Connecticut

127 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, Connecticut 06415

## Police Commission Meeting Minutes

Monday-March 22, 2021

7:30pm-Zoom Meeting

Present: Commissioners James Stavola, Carol Vaillancourt, Beatrice Farlekas, Debi Marvin, Kevin Gustin

Others in Attendance: Sergeant Michael Rondinone, Admin Sergeant Tim Edwards, Andrea Migliacco

Absent: First Selectman Mary Bylone

1. Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Additions to the Agenda: None
4. Citizen Comments: None
5. Officer Comments: None
6. Correspondence: None
7. Motion to approve minutes from February 22, 2021 special meeting made by Carol Vaillancourt second by Bea Farlekas. Motion carries unanimously.
8. Budget Review:
  - a. Proposed budget has been submitted with a 24 percent increase of \$370,000, this number includes all police accountability mandates and absorption of the SRO position.
    - i. Carol asked about the \$625,000 grant that the town recently received. It is a Youth Services grant, there are questions regarding what the grant is being used for and if the police department will be receiving any of the money.
    - ii. Andrea questioned if there were any discussions with the police department about the SRO position being eliminated and that salary being absorbed by the police department. Sgt. Rondinone and Sgt. Edwards both mentioned they did not have any conversations with the BOE regarding the elimination of this position.
    - iii. Carol stated she believes more police are needed and not less, she also asked who eliminated the position and for what reason.
    - iv. Sgt. Rondinone stated he believes it was a poor decision to eliminate the position and it will affect community policing and interaction. He said losing this position is a huge disappointment.
    - v. Sgt. Edwards believes removing the position is detrimental and it will place an added burden on officers working patrol as there will still be complaints and investigations in the schools that will need to be dealt with.
    - vi. Jim Stavola reminded the commission that they can voice their concerns regarding the removal of the SRO as citizens of Colchester, but they cannot get involved in town operations as a commission.
9. Appropriations & Transfers: None
10. Resident Trooper Report:
  - a. March Activity Summary as well as a written report from Sergeant Rondinone are attached.
    - i. Jim asked if the drone is being used yet as there is a town policy in place for the operation. Sgt. Rondinone said that it was in use for emergencies however he has not received approval of the

RECEIVED  
2021 MAR 29 PM 12:32  
JIM STAVOLA  
TOWN CLERK

policy by the State Police. Jim asked that there be more of a push to get the state police to sign off on the drone policy.

11. Corporal Reports: Delivered by Sergeant Tim Edwards

- a. Corporal Labonte: Continues to update NESPIN pawn shop activity. Corporal Labonte is retiring June 30, 2021, OFC. Watrous may be taking over his NESPIN duties.
- b. Corporal Green-Continues to conduct monthly weapon inspections and has completed the annual firearms qualifications for half the department.
- c. Corporal Owens-Continues to file paperwork with the completion of each phase of the DUI grant, the current grant will run through the Labor Day weekend.
- d. Corporal Goss- Continues to update Facebook with pertinent local information to include monthly Police Department Stats consisting of total calls for service, MV crashes and Arrests. Corporal Goss has also been gathering information on multiple catalytic converter thefts throughout southeast CT and updating information on the SLACK Intel sharing app to hopefully assist with some new investigative leads and possible suspect information.
- e. Corporal Scheel- Continues to work with the drone and learn its capabilities. Corporal Scheel is currently working with Fire Chief Sean Shoemaker and mapping larger properties within Colchester to possibly assist with emergency response. They plan to map out gas shut offs, fire hydrants, etc to assist in the event of emergencies.

12. First Selectman Comments: None

13. Local Traffic Authority: None

14. Old Business:

- a. Trailer-this will be in the next budget for purchase.
- b. Firing Range-looking into training space, needs to be at least 100 yards. The question was asked if this would be exclusive to Colchester or if other towns would be able to shoot there. It was determined that would be up to the town to decide.
- c. LEC Process-Sgt. Edwards and Corporal Scheel attended the LEC testing to try to recruit officers to apply in Colchester, anybody who passed the test will be invited to the agility test on Saturday March 27, 2021. 19 people applied in Colchester at last count.
  - i. Andrea asked about the impact of hiring more officers in the current state of the PD, as far as more space, etc. Sgt. Edwards mentioned that while it is tight now the new people would not be going on the same shift so it would not be as much of an impact as you would expect.
- d. Private Duty Rate-this was presented to the Board of Selectman at a recent meeting and is being discussed. Once again it was mentioned how much revenue could be added just by slightly increasing the Special Duty rate.
- e. Police Accountability Act-Body worn cameras were discussed again and details are still being ironed out as there is a lot of leg work involved in the process. Re-certs for officers are due in June and there will be wellness checks, etc.
- f. Bloodborne Pathogen policy is being worked out with the town and Sgt. Edwards.
- g. Bea thanked Jim Stavola, Sgt. Edwards and Sgt. Rondinone for their hard work on the presentation they made to the Board of Finance regarding the budget. Bea mentioned it was a well-researched and well documented presentation and it was a job well done!

15. New Business:

- a. Sergeant Rondinone announced his intent to retire on October 1, 2021 with his last working day as September 30, 2021. The commission thanked Sgt. Rondinone for all he has done and stated they will miss having him as the Resident Trooper Sergeant.

16. Commendations/Awards: None

17. Project Goals and Discussion:

- a. Carol and Kevin are working on gathering information to be placed on the Colchester website under the Police Commission heading.

18. Chairman/Commissioner Comments:

- a. Police Commission Chairman Presentations are as follows:
  - i. April 6<sup>th</sup>-CBA
  - ii. April 14<sup>th</sup>-Lions Club
  - iii. April 23<sup>rd</sup>-Senior Services

19. Motion made by Carol Vaillancourt for adjournment at 9:22 pm second by Kevin Gustin. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Swinburne



Resident Trooper Supervisor  
Sgt. Michael Rondinone # 125

# State of Connecticut



## Connecticut State Police Colchester Resident Troopers' Office



Colchester Police  
Sgt. Edwards KC #89

TO: Colchester Police Commission

RE: Monthly Report for March 2021 (March 22, 2021-meeting @ 1930 hours)

- I. Monthly activity: statistics – previously submitted  
a. Stats for February 2021- (Attached)

II. Equipment:

- a. We have ordered a new Ford 2020 SUV (Police rated) and according to Steve Sharpe (Colchester Fleet Maintenance Supervisor) it will be received by Columbia Ford on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and we should see it in the Colchester Fleet within ten days following.
- b. We have also received a new drone which is an DJI Mavick 2 Enterprise, the drone will be deployable once all administrative guidelines are in place, and presently we have an updated policy which has been submitted to the CT DESPP for review and approval.

Officer Training:

- a. All our Officers have been POSTC recertified and are presently completing firearms annual training.

III. Initiatives:

- a. RX Drug drop box. – Renewed Drug Drop Box. It should be noted that we are regularly receiving Pharmaceutical Prescription Drugs dropped off at our facility.
- b. Officers have NOT been fingerprinting individuals for background checks and pistol permit applicants for town residents-although with the loosening of restrictions we plan on resuming fingerprints to residents (by appointment only) starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and will follow all State and local CDC guidelines regarding COVID precautions.
- c. Officers are conducting visibility/enforcement patrols at numerous locations within the town. The Speed Trailer is currently deployed on West Road for complaints of speeders.
- d. Notable Investigations: None to report.
- e. Adding and outfitting Colchester PD sworn personnel to the DESPP-CT State Police back-end client to be compliant with the legislative act concerning BWCs and On-Board video and audio recording capabilities-no updates as of 12/01/20. We are currently working on getting quotes from outside vendors regarding the 2020 Police Reform Bill and we are leaning towards the vendor Axon, due to the uncertainties of cost to the town by the State.
- f. I am in the process of creating a neighborhood watch program and seminar for Colchester residents desiring to implement a program in their neighborhoods with the help of social media. I will be scheduling a meeting with TFC Cate Cummings- CT State Police -DARE Coordinator and Social Media rep to plan and host a town hall forum for developing Neighborhood watch programs utilizing social media platforms like Face Book.
- g. Will be actively researching prospective locations within the town of Colchester for a pistol/rifle range for the PD.

127 Norwich Avenue  
Colchester, Connecticut 06415  
Phone (860) 537-7270  
FAX (860) 537-7252



- h. COFFE WITH A COP will resume in April 2021- with the availability of outdoor dining at several business establishments in town, it will be great to reach out to the town's citizens, meet and greet them while listening to and addressing their concerns while being safe in an outdoor environment.

IV. OTHER-

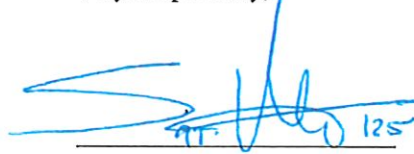
-Corporal Labonte KC 87 has submitted his letter of intent to retire as of July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.  
-Inquiring on purchasing a trailer for deployment of special equipment, i.e. - range equipment, targets (steel and wooden), ammo, first aid equipment, etc.

-All Colchester PD officers have been issued proper PPE for any blood borne pathogen potential exposures and COVID exposures-including a sharps kit. All Colchester PD officers have also received a copy of the Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan as it pertains to DESPP A&O section 4.13.1. CONTD>

-We are progressing with the Colchester PD hiring process and at the present time we have approximately 19 police applicants and we have a scheduled physical agility test this Saturday-03/27/2021 at Bacon Academy.

-Lastly, I have submitted my CT State Police retirement paperwork with a tentative retirement date of 10/01/2021, and I will continuously make every effort to keep improving the Colchester PD and the service we provide to the Town prior to my departure.

Very Respectfully,



Sgt. Michael Rondinone #125  
Colchester Resident State Police Sergeant

[Home](#)



## Activity Summary



Start Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

End Date (MM/DD/YYYY)

2/22/2021 00:00

3/22/2021 23:59

Colchester

- OR -

Badge numbers separated by commas (####,####,####)

Summary Report

Statistic	Total
Total Calls for Service	582
Total Accidents With Report	10
Total Accidents Without Report	0
Total Fatal Accidents	0
Total Fatalities	0
Total Serious Injury Accidents	0
Total Minor Injury Accidents	0
Total Noninjury Accidents	10
Total Accident Dwis	0
Total Onsite Dwis	1
Total Dwis	1
Total Other Reportables	22
Total Nonreportables	518
Total Motorist Assists	21
Total Citations Primary Charge	12
Total Citations All Charges	12
Total Warnings Primary Charge	0
Total Warnings All Charges	16
Total Seatbelt Citations Primary Charge	0
Total Seatbelt Citations All Charges	0
Total Seatbelt Warnings All Charges	0

[Home](#)