

Police Commission
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
In Person Regular Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Minutes
WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE RD. WATERTOWN, CT 06795

1. Convene Regular Meeting

Chairman Richard Antonetti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

ABSENT:

ALTERNATES Brian Mays
PRESENT:

ALTERNATES
ABSENT: Richard Rossi

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Bernegger, Police Chief

Brian Mays was appointed a regular member at the meeting.

3. Public Participation

Lauren Brandson, 20 Hidden Pond Drive appreciated the security, the kindness that she feels in Watertown. Ms. Brandson had concerns about children crossing the road and asked about installing “children at play” sign in the neighborhood.

Bill Zarillo, 229 Caruso Drive had petitioned signed by 20 neighbors and presented it to the commission. Mr. Zerillo asked for traffic control measure and a four-way stop sign on Caruso Drive intersection. Mr. Zarillo stated the boat launch use to have a chain and was locked up every night and asked if it could be replaced and locked up at night. Stating

people hang out at the launch and have campfires on the islands even though there is a sign.

Joshua Bernegger stated he would talk to Park and Recreation to find out more info regarding the chain.

4. Approval of May 13, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes (Requires motion.)

Motion: Carmine Verno seconded by David Jannetty: to accept meeting minutes of May 13, 2026.

Aye: 4 Antonetti, Verno, McCarthy, Mays

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Jannetty

Motion passes

5. Correspondence

- a. Correspondence from Dr. William Zarillo regarding a request for the installation of stop signs for both northbound and southbound traffic on Lake Winnemaug at the intersection of Caruso Drive and Raspberry Lane.

Chairman Antonetti stated if the chain was replaced it may help in reducing the number of issues that are at Lake Winnemaug.

Joshua Bernegger stated regarding the stop sign, I have been consulting with Public Works Director Jerry Lukowski on how we are going to be moving forward when we get requests regarding the installation of stop signs. The latest edition of the manual on uniform traffic control devices requires that a municipality or the local government agency in charge of traffic do an engineered traffic study prior to the installation of any stop sign. To ensure that installation of the stop sign meets several different warrants within that manual.

Chairman Richard Antonetti stated if the Police Chief could look into in-house with our Town Engineer and the ability for him to do it before we go outside.

Joshua Bernegger remarked the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices prohibits the installation of stop signs for the intended purpose of speed control. It has to meet specific warrants. Speed should be addressed through enforcement or other traffic calming measures.

6. New Business:

- a. State Representative Joe Polletta to give a report on state bonding committee's request for funding of community police station.

Joseph Polletta, State Representative stated we are actively looking at pursuing any and all streams of revenue both from the federal government and from the State of Ct.

7. Old Business:

- a. Mr. Greenwood's request for a "Stop" sign installed at the intersection of Belden and Trumbull Streets. Joshua Bernegger stated Director Lukowski along with myself and the DOT did do an actual site walk of that intersection two weeks ago. The Ct Traffic Institute two days ago installed their counters on each leg of that intersection so that they can give the data to Public Works to contribute a study of that intersection. We did have our own stealth radar traffic counter at that location. We installed it on May 6th and took it down yesterday and highlighted on the report handed to the commissioners at the start of the meeting. We are taking that survey of the Connecticut Traffic Institute at that intersection and hand it over to our Public Works Engineer who will be working with the institute to craft an engineered study and make recommendations to the commission as to whether any additional regulatory signage is warranted which might take another couple of months.
- b. Update concerning the Department of Transportation evaluation of a passing zone located in the vicinity of 251 Litchfield Road. – no further updates on that.
- c. Correspondence from Mr. Victor Torres regarding a request for a traffic study of Mt. Fair Drive and Vista Drive in Watertown. Joshua Bernegger stated Director Lukowski and I in working with the Connecticut Traffic Institute agreed once we are done with the study that we will move the traffic count device over to Mount Fair and Vista and start a study at that intersection. We should be looking to move that equipment in a month.
- d. Request from Ms. Jodana Montero regarding a request for a "handicap" parking space at 47 Central Avenue in Oakville.

Joshua Bernegger stated the local traffic authority does have the authority to authorize a handicap parking sign anywhere in the town that you feel is appropriate. I have made a couple of attempts to recontact the requestor. I have not heard back from them, nor have they attended any of the meetings which I did recommend them to do.

It would be my recommendation to remove this from the agenda contingent upon the requestor reapproaching us with that request.

8. Chairman's Report:

- a. Discussion of forming a committee to deal with building a new community police station.

Motion: David Jannetty seconded by Carmine Verno: to work with the Chairman of the Town Council to set up this committee. I believe the committee will carry more weight to be born out of the Town Council. It could include members of the Town Council and the Police Commission or other town officials.

Motion passed unanimously

9. Police Chief's Monthly Report: Department Activity Report for May 2026.

Joshua Bernegger reported:

Noted correspondence from DOT regarding a request that the Police Commission made to the DOT about 2 years ago. The request was for the installing of flashing beacons on Route 6 Woodbury Road near Young's Farm. At this time the DOT is requesting to consider the following. 1. The enforcement of the posted speed limits and utilization of speed feedback radar signs. That the town consider installing dynamic your speed signs for municipalities in situations such as this. We have received 4 of these your speed signs from the state, the town has 6 in our inventory. They are all deployed across the town right now on roads that have been problematic. One: to put a sign on a state road requires an encroachment permit through the DOT, we can look at doing that in the future. The second was to pursue automated speed camera devices to put in the area. That could be a location in the future when we consider the installation of speed cameras.

- 1) The Watertown Police Department has one recruit officer attending the police academy in New Haven, scheduled to graduate on July 30th.
- 2) Conditional offers have been given to two additional applicants, who will be replacing Deputy Chief Dominguez and Officer Marinaro, who announced his resignation. Background investigations are underway. Academy seats have been secured in July and August.
- 3) A hiring has been initiated to find a candidate to replace Master Sergeant Jay DeMarest who retired on June 2nd.
- 4) A 3-member Chiefs of Police panel was held on May 29th to interview candidates for Deputy Chief of Police. All three of Watertown's lieutenants applied for the position. Detective Lieutenant Jared D'Andrea was the successful candidate and has been offered

the position. Lt. D'Andrea is currently negotiating an employment contract with the Town.

- 5) A lieutenant's promotional exam is scheduled to take place on June 23rd at the Watertown Fire Department. Three sergeants are participating in the process.
- 6) A tentative promotional ceremony date for the promotion of the new deputy chief, a new lieutenant and two new sergeants will be July 1st. Location and time TBD.
- 7) A new full-time dispatcher and two per diem dispatchers have been provided conditional offers of employment and are currently in the onboarding phase.
- 8) The Town of Watertown Radio Communications Upgrade Project continues as scheduled. Motorola is now reporting the fire department's portable radios should be delivered by the end of July.

10. Adjournment (Requires vote and motion).

Motion: David Jannetty seconded by Carmine Verno to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:54p.m.

Motion passes unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Antonetti
Chairman

NEIGHBOR SUPPORT SIGNATURE SHEET

Request for Traffic Safety Improvements

Lake Winnemaug Road at Caruso Drive and Raspberry Lane
Town of Watertown, Connecticut

We, the undersigned residents and property owners, support the request submitted to the Town of Watertown Department of Public Works – Engineering Division to evaluate the intersection of Lake Winnemaug Road, Caruso Drive, and Raspberry Lane for additional traffic control measures, **including the installation of stop signs on northbound and southbound traffic to create a four-way stop.**

We believe that improvements at this intersection would enhance safety for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and local residents due to limited visibility, roadway curvature, and increased traffic near the Winnemaug Lake Boat Launch.

Printed name	Signature	Address
Bill Zarillo		229 Caruso Drive
David Figueroa		170 Caruso Drive
Debby Caruso		160 CARUSO DRIVE
Janie Russenberger		46 Raspberry Lane, Watertown E
Benjamin Baroli		66 Caruso Dr. Watertown
Alicia LaFlamme		277 Caruso Drive
Rachael LaFlamme		277 Caruso Drive
Carl Wagner		28 Caruso Drive
Tracy Heuer		240 Caruso Drive
Linda Zarillo		229 Caruso Drive
John Russo		128 Caruso Drive
Deanna Russo		128 Caruso Drive
Collen Freer Wagon		28 Caruso Drive
Richard Collier		121 Caruso Drive
Linda Collier		121 Caruso Drive
RON PICARD		25 CARUSO DR
Kathleen Picard		25 Caruso Dr
Nancy Picard		59 Caruso Dr
Job PICARD		59 CARUSO DR
Peter Galliano		20 Caruso DR