

**POLICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
SUBJECT TO APPROVAL
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Police Commission was called to order by Chairman Cosgrove at 12:00 pm in the Police Department Training Room of the Simsbury Town Offices. Present were Commissioner Michael Long, Commissioner James Fleming, Commissioner Terry Fogarty, Commissioner Jenna Caulfield, Chief Nicholas Boulter, Lt. Fred Sifodaskalakis, Lt. Thomas Sheehan, Town Manager, Maria Capriola and First Selectman Eric Wellman

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. Consideration of a Vote of Confidence for the Chief; Possible Action on Discussion

Commissioner Long made a motion that the Simsbury Police Commission vote on a firm vote of confidence in our Chief, Nick Boulter. Commissioner Fleming seconded the vote.

Commissioner Fleming made the following statement to members:

From my own point of view personally, I have every confidence in the Chief and I think I speak for the Commissioners as well, on that point, as well as I have confidence in every single member of the Simsbury Police Department along with the Chief. I know that they always do and will work together to insure the public safety mission that they are responsible for carrying out. It's not easy to be a police officer and that goes for all levels of the chain of command. Whether you are a police officer or the Chief, you often times will have to tell people things they don't want to hear. They have to deal with situations that most of us don't want to deal with and they don't always make everyone happy, but that's the nature of being a police officer. I respect the professionalism and integrity of our Chief. He has always shown, in his years in the Department, that he has the best interest of the Department, first and foremost. Being Chief is not and should not be a popularity contest. If it becomes that, then I think things can go astray. The Chief came up through the ranks as an officer serving in various capacities until now he became our Chief. I think they have no one better suited for the position than Nick Boulter. As I said, I have the greatest respect of the members of the Simsbury Police team, the sworn officers and the staff. I've lived in this town for 55 years. That's most of my life. I recall when the police station was down on Station Street just a little, tiny brick building. There have been many, many changes over the years. There have been changes in laws, changes in technology, different social and demographic changes and change often is difficult, but it is necessary certainly with the Department if it is to continue to grow and be the strength as we move forward into a new decade. I personally know many of the past and present officers. In my 30 years in the Fire Department, we use to stand out on the road and help direct traffic, sometimes not as well as police officers did but, nevertheless, I got to know

many of them and I know what they are like. I have gotten to know them as a volunteer on the Commission and I know that our job is to make sure we have the best people, the best training and the best possible resources. I know this is what the Chief has done since he was appointed. Officers from top to bottom carry out their duties every day, 24/7, 365 days a year. I will be thinking about what the public safety professionals, the fire, the police and the ambulance will be doing this Thursday on Thanksgiving, while everyone else is enjoying the holiday, they will be expected to continue to do their job. I know that's exactly what will be happening in the Simsbury Police Department from top to bottom.

Commissioner Long made the following statement to members:

I personally am glad that you scheduled this meeting, Mr. Chairman, because I am a little sick and tired of listening to comments by folks who live in this community who think they know everything that is going on in this community and like to make comments about things. I am sick of hearing that the attorney, for former police officer Trombly, making gratuitous comments about things that he feels happened here. I am sick of reading stories about people who sources with direct knowledge of things that have happened here. This Commission, along with the Town Manager, are the ones who make the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen concerning who should be Police Chief in this Town. We went through a long detailed process less than two years ago to come up with our choice. We interviewed several people and we reviewed applications from many, many more. One name rose to the top and that's Chief Boulter. I think I appreciate the Town Manager's comment yesterday, or so, that she had confidence in the Chief. I think that it's important that we, as a Board, also recommend that he should be Chief and make that same vote of confidence now in the Chief for all the reasons that Commissioner Jim Fleming stated and in many more that are applicable here because it's so important to this Town. That is why I made the motion and I support it whole heartedly.

Commissioner Fogarty made the following statement to members:

I have known Chief Boulter for well over 20 years, through my volunteer work on the Simsbury Ambulance, and I have appreciated all the work, of all the officers, have done during my 20 years there. I will just say that I have complete confidence in Chief's ability to lead.

Commissioner Caulfield made the following statement to members:

I am the newest member of the Board, having been appointed for less than a month. So while I acknowledge that this is a matter of great importance, I am going to abstain from commenting at this time.

Chairman Cosgrove made the following statement to members:

To mention longevity, I have been on this Police Commission probably longer than anyone has been on the police force. I have been through past chiefs and past administrations and past problems. I fully support the Chief. I think he is doing a great job. I think it is tough because when you take over, you have different things you want to do that maybe your predecessor didn't do and change is difficult. I fully support him and I hope the rest of the Commission will vote in that direction.

The motion was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Fleming; Chairman Cosgrove, Commissioner Long, Commissioner Fleming and Commissioner Fogarty voted yes and Commissioner Caulfield Abstained. The final vote was four (4) Yes and zero (0) Nay and one (1) Abstained

VOTED: The Simsbury Police Commission voted on a firm vote of confidence in our Chief Nick Boulter.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Long made motion to adjourn at 12:08 pm, seconded by Commissioner Fogarty. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Cosgrove, Chairman



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