



Town of Thomaston

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DRAFT

THOMASTON POLICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY AUGUST 19, 2025

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. Chief Madden in attendance along with Commissioner Mone, Commissioner Dunn and Commissioner Burr. Deborah Bournival, Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman, was available to take the minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Burr and seconded by Commissioner Dunn to approve the minutes July 15, 2025 regular meeting as presented. Motion carries unanimously.

New Business/Roadway Safety on Rt. 109:

Memo from transportation planner at NVCOG was distributed to the selectmen re: safety recommendations for Rt. 109 (Branch Road). The NVCOG in collaboration with 8th grade student at THS conducted a study on road safety on Rt. 109 between THS and Black Rock School. The objective was to explore ways to improve pedestrian and cyclist access while addressing safety concerns near the two schools. NVCOG and the Thomaston Plan of Conservation and Development with the help of an advanced 8th grade statistics class demonstrated how statistical analysis can be applied to real-life problem solving. This process of collecting data and developing recommendations aims at improving the safety and functionality of this corridor.

CT-109 is classified as a major collector owned and maintained by the State of Connecticut DOT. There is a designated default speed limit for this road of 40 MPH. This portion of the road has a posted school speed limit of 25 MPH during school hours. Flashing lights are activated during school hours to indicate when the reduced speed limit is in effect.

The initial study was conducted back in November, 2024. Several conditions were observed along the corridor during this time. At the end nearest to the high school, it was noted there was a sporadically functioning flashing speed limit and school zone sign and the absence of sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic signals. However, on the other end of the road nearest to Black Rock School, there were sidewalks, visible road striping for crosswalks as well as signage indicating pedestrian crossings. On the same day, NVCOG staff and students installed traffic counters at two locations on the road which recorded traffic data from November 12-19. Also, UCONN crash data was analyzed at the intersection and broader road segment.

During this monitoring period, the average daily traffic on Rt. 109 was recorded at approximately 2,600 vehicles eastbound and 2,800 westbound. Despite the posted school zone speed limit of 25 MPH – reverting to 40 MPH outside of school hours – recorded travel speeds were significantly higher. It was shown that traffic traveled at 53 MPH eastbound and 52 MPH westbound near the high school and 35 MPH eastbound and 41 MPH westbound near Black Rock School. These figures indicate that drivers perceive it acceptable to travel well above the posted school zone speed limits. Therefore, a significantly higher rate of speeding was observed near the high school compared to the elementary school.

Crash data from the past five years was also looked at revealing one fatal traffic incident along this segment of Rt. 109. Given the occurrence of a fatal crash along this stretch and the presence of two schools in close proximity to each other, it is recommended that proactive steps be taken to enhance roadway safety.

Short-Term Recommendations -

- **Maintain a 25 mph Speed Limit During School Hours:**
 - consider the installation of radar speed feedback signs to reinforce compliance;
 - and improve signage about school speed limit.

Medium and Long-Term Recommendations –

- **Implement Physical Traffic Calming Measures to Support the 25 mph School Speed Limit:**
 - introduce *chicanes* (curved roadway alignments) to naturally reduce vehicle speeds;
 - reduce lane widths to discourage speeding and encourage cautious driving;
 - construct sidewalks on both sides of the roadway to enhance pedestrian safety.
- **Enhance Pedestrian Crossing Infrastructure:**
 - Install a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at the crosswalk near Pleasant View Road.
- **Improve Roadway Lighting:**
 - Add additional street lighting in front of both schools to improve visibility and safety during low-light conditions.

Chief Madden indicated that he did put signage there (computer programmed) and it is working properly. The one from the State of Connecticut DOT coming from Morris isn't working properly. He will also move the radar trailer, which is now on N. Main Street, and bring it to Branch Road before school starts. Good idea to get the rapid flashing beacon installed. We would have to contact the State for that.

Commissioner Dunn suggests having at least one or two of the students from the group to come to a joint meeting with COG and us to discuss. We should, at least, thank the students for their time spent on this project and developing the report.

New Business/Nystrom's Park Usage:

Commissioner Burr indicated that the park was overrun by a very large group of men (does not believe they were town residents) playing soccer in the field. He has pictures of how many people were playing on the field. He feels there should be a policy in place (if one doesn't already exist) for use of the pavilion only and not use of the other areas of the park. This policy should be the responsibility of the Recreation Department. He suggests that Commissioner Mone have this discussion with the chairman and the director of the Recreation Department/Commission.

New Business – Supplemental Report:

We continue to investigate open commercial burglaries, two new electronic stalking cases with search warrants already issued. Both involve "air tags" a new commercial fraud case. Also, one new identify theft case.

Total calls for service this period were 2,415. Emergency 911 calls for this period were 181 with a 4.6 second answer time.

We hired two new part-time dispatchers who are currently in training. We had to separate from one already, but the other one is doing very well. We hired two full-time officers and they should be sworn in tomorrow. We also lost two officers, one to another town and the other to become a municipal security guard. Our full-time dispatcher who was out for approximately four months returned to work about five weeks ago, but has since submitted his resignation. He will be leaving at end of September.

We received 11 ACO calls and Watertown wasn't needed for any.

The communication towers had their heat and AC pumps serviced in light of what happened at Chapel Street last month.

The DOT bridge project continues throughout town. North Main has been completed, with Fenn Road and Waterbury Road still being worked on. The Connecticut Water project is still underway from Waterbury Road to South Main Street and Elm.

Old Business – none.

Communication – taken up under “New Business – Nystrom’s Park”.

Public Comment – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dunn and seconded by Commissioner Burr to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m.
Motion carries unanimously.