* 1. Chief's Comments

Chief Scheckel informed the Board that prior to COVID and the protests, the department was looking into the possibility of purchasing body cameras. Due to the tax caps and budget deficits the town is expecting,the department had tabled the idea for now. Though because of the climate of today's policing,the department is seeking the Board's approval to move forward with the purchase. Chief Scheckel stated that the cameras themselves are not the issue, it is the monthly storage fees that are high, though he believes the department needs to make it a priority. Mr. Westland expressed his concerns that we are doing without a tool which could be very effective in getting cases dismissed. There were a couple of cases in the last few years which would have been dismissed if body camera footage were available. Mr. Westland added that it is a matter of comparing the cost of the cameras versus the cost of attorney fees. He is shocked that more towns do not have body cameras and considers them a necessary expense as in the long run they will save us money.

Chief Scheckel is asking the Board to make a recommendation to the Council, understanding that it will be a financial issue, though feels it is a priority. Mr. Clark asked if the body cameras record audio as well as video and what is the cost? Chief Scheckel said yes, both are recorded, and it is approximately $100,000.00 annually. We are currently in the process of securing quotes from a few companies. Mr. Baffa asked if needed, will the companies assist in court? Any additional cost? Chief Scheckel said yes, the companies will provide expert witnesses to testify if needed at no additional cost. Dr. Brown asked if the tasers had cameras? Chief Scheckel some do, those ours do not. Lt. Johnston added that some body cameras will turn on when an officer's taser is activated. Dr. Brown said the department should get all of it for what we need it to do. He added that the Administration should send the recommendation to the Council that the Board is behind the department pursuing body cameras, including the initial and annual costs in detail, as well as what is included by the company.

Mr. Baffa motioned to recommend to the Town Council the Police Department's need to purchase a body camera system. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. All members present voted aye, motion approved 5-0 Chief Scheckel informed the Board that the Administration has received notification that Sergeant Michael Janiga will be retiring as of October 5th. Based on the Promotion Eligibility List, Officer Jack Deleeuw will be promoted to Sergeant. Chief Scheckel explained the retirement leaves a vacancy within the ranks. In August of 2019, the Board certified an Emergency Hiring Eligibility list, which we hired two (2) officers from. He is asking the Board to if they would allow us to utilize that list to fill the current opening as it still contains viable candidates? Mr. Clark asked if this list is for hiring into the department, and that the department was not going up in numbers? Chief Scheckel said no, we are not increasing our numbers, just filling the vacancy left by the retirement.

Mr. Baffa motioned to allow the Police Department to utilize the Emergency Hiring Eligibility list certified in August 2019. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. All members present voted aye, motion approved 5-0.

Chief Pelc acknowledged the passing of South Holland Fire Fighter Dylan Cunningham. He also informed the Board that a vehicle had rolled into a department vehicle at a scene, which is resulting in the department vehicle being out of commission for two to three (2-3) months for repair. Five (5) new members graduated from the academy on September 11th and will be sound members for the department.