

**WORKSHOP MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 15, 2023**  
**7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL**

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The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Clerk/Administrator, Lori Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President Butler, Councilmembers Horowitz, Franks, Delia, Blasucci

Absent: None

Also Present: Municipal Clerk/Administrator Lori Reibrich, Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, Chief Ronen Neuman, Lt. Matthew Sharin, Lt. William Hulse

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**1. PUBLIC SAFETY PRESENTATION:**

Mayor Nohilly welcomed Chief Neuman and the command staff of the Deal Police Department to the meeting. He explained that he felt it was a good time to recap some traffic studies done in 2022 as well as hearing about the proactive approaches to safety that the Police Department will be taking on in 2023.

Chief Neuman introduced the command staff Lt. William Hulse and Lt. Matthew Sharin and asked the Council if they had any specifics they wanted to discuss before the presentation.

Councilman Franks read an email that he sent to BA Reibrich regarding the last Police report that showed that no speeding tickets were given. He explained that he also requested Police reports from 2010-2012 showing that the vehicle stops and summons issued were much higher when the Department first took over. He questioned the enforcement of speeding in the town. He asked that a line of data be added to the monthly report to indicate why a car was pulled over and if it was for speeding but a verbal warning was given. He also questioned the lack of summons writing and job performance.

Chief Neuman explained that the data that is being requested cannot be provided as the officers have discretion and why a person was pulled over is not data that is collected. Those data points are not allowed to be collected.

Chief Neuman continued to say that with the 2021 State Law enacted by Governor Murphy, it prohibits law enforcement officers from being evaluated on the number of arrests or summons given. The new law strictly prohibits using summons and arrest numbers for performance evaluations and this cannot be used as a form of competition between officers.

Chief Neuman and Lt. Matt Sharin discussed that showing the reduction of summons given is actually a testament to enforcement. When the Deal Police Department first started being the Police Department for the Borough of Interlaken they found a lot of motor vehicle infractions because the people traveling through Interlaken were not used to having heavy Police presence. If look at the numbers over the years, seeing a decrease in the summons and motor vehicle stops actually lends to the fact that the enforcement is keeping the overall motor vehicle safety low in town. Using the model of having a need for a large

amount of summons and stops would mean that there was no Police presence or enforcement. With the amount of motor vehicle stops currently, it shows that the traveling public know of the Deal Police Department presence.

Lt. Matt Sharin presented a large amount of data via power point presentation speaking to the speed complaints that are received from a few residents. He explained the “3 E’s” when it comes to speed, Enforcement, Education and Engineering.” He explained that enforcement is the police presence, education is the detectable flashing speed signs, the pedestrian cross walk markers and any type of sign boards the education the public regarding the speed of the road. Engineering would be the size, speed limit, bike lanes, medians etc.

Chief Neuman and Lt. Sharin discussed the most recent speed study that was completed in August of 2022 over a long, busy weekend in the summer. The data showed that the average speed in the 85 percentile was 32 mph. Overall average speed was 29.8 mph. The blind study takes the 85% and it is used to calculate what the speed on a road should be. It takes into account factors such as motor vehicle accidents, size of the road and free flowing traffic without incident.

Chief Neuman discussed that the Sheriff’s Department in the County received calls from a few Interlaken residents concerned about the speed on Grasmere. The Sheriff’s Department joined the Deal Police over 3 weekends in the summer to view the traffic and speed as part of an initial view and traffic study completed by the County. Mayor Nohilly and Chief Neuman discussed the Sheriff Shaun Golden contacted both of them to explain that the initial feeling of the speed issue in Interlaken is that the road is improperly marked for speed and the limit should be raised to at least 30 or 35 mph but could handle free flowing traffic at possibly 40 mph.

Lt. Sharin presents slides that showed the surrounding towns residential streets that were all smaller in width in a residential areas with much higher speed limits without issues. The residential roads in the area were all signed at 35 mph and 40 mph. He discussed the reason for speed limits that safely move people as quickly as possible.

Chief Neuman and Mayor Nohilly both stated that in their separate conversations with the County, that they did not want pursue a formal engineering study because they would like to keep the speed limit at 25 mph and not be forced raise it after the study findings.

The Council had a brief discussion regarding the findings that the road can handle the free-flowing traffic at a higher speed but they did not want to pursue any further engineering studies. The members indicated that after the data was explained and presented it did make sense that the street could handle a higher level of speed and that it remaining at 25 mph is the want of all involved.

Lt. Billy Hulse presented a power point about the community policing approach that the Deal Police Department maintains with the Borough and how they aren’t just about stopping motor vehicles for speeding but they have many programs and other investigations that benefit the town. Lt. Hulse explained that the Deal Police Department is an accredited Department with the State and how difficult it is to obtain and maintain such an accreditation.

Lt. Hulse spoke about his 27 years on the Police force and the joy it has been to serve Interlaken residents. He explained how Police work has changed over the years and how it is not all about the “traffic stops” but stressing the importance of community policing and serving the residents with many programs and keeping every day safety their number one concern.

Lt. Hulse spoke about the many services that the Department provides such as emergency data collection, Nixle alert system, a registry for children or adults with special needs in town so that the Police Department can assist better in life saving situations. He discussed the excellent response times to any call especially the first aid calls that have been life saving to residents. He discussed a man who's life was saved via CPR on the tennis courts last summer.

He discussed the work being done to protect residents from and arrest perpetrators of a large high end car ring that ha been plaguing a lot of New Jersey. Lt. Hulse discussed ALPR readers that can be installed to read license plates as people enter and exit areas and that they installed them in Deal. The Governing Body could consider them for Interlaken.

At the completion of the full presentation, Mayor Nohilly thanked the Chief and Lieutenants for their time and the very comprehensive reporting that was provided. He wishes that more residents were in attendance to see the presentation because it was very informative, and heart felt. He opened the floor for final Council questions and comments.

Councilman DeSarno thanked the Chief and Lieutenants for their excellent presentation. He questioned the push back from residents on speeding that could cause a speed limit change. He hoped that the word would get out after this presentation so that residents can come to realize that the enforcement is there but through the County studies, they consider the speed limit to be too low. Chief Neuman said that he has told the County that he does not want to pursue a speed limit change. Mayor Nohilly concurred. He hopes the County will not move forward with any additional engineering studies to increase the speed limit if residents do continue to call the County offices.

Councilman Blasucci thanked the Police Department for their great work. He expressed that the presentation really articulated that the findings that road can support a higher speed and hopes that changes aren't made to do so. He brought up the concerns of coming over the hill from Ocean Township on Westra as being a problem area. Lt. Sharin discussed the addition of the flashing speed limit sign that has helped in the area.

Councilman Delia stated that the presentation was very impressive. The statistics and data shows that Interlaken has a very dedicated Police Department that cares about the residents. The data shows that the adjusted behaviors from the past to when Deal Police Department became the Police Department has paid off in that people who travel through and reside in Interlaken know that it is protected. The response times are incredible and their passion for the job shows in all that they do. They deserve much respect and thanks from the Governing Body and all who live in Interlaken.

Mayor Nohilly stated that he is sure that everyone is very happy and thankful to have the Deal Police Department as part of Interlaken.

2. **NEW BUSINESS:** No new business at this time.
3. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:** Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Gary Layton, 606 Bendermere Avenue, told the Mayor and Council had called the Police numerous times when he was wife was very ill. He said their response time was almost instantaneous. Mr. Layton thanked the Chief and Lieutenants for all their hard work and and dedication to the town. It really shows to people who had to call them a lot in the past.

With no comments made, Mayor Nohilly closed the floor.

4. **ADJOURNMENT:** Councilman Franks made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman DeSarno and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President Butler	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Delia	Councilman Franks	Councilman DeSarno	Councilman Blasucci
Motion to Approve					X		
Motion to Second						X	
Approved		X	X	X	X	X	X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused							

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Lori Reibrich, RMC  
Borough Administrator/Clerk