

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami; Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo, Carleton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; D. Candido, Secty; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen

Chrmn. Giles took the opportunity to extend New Year wishes to everyone present.

a. Reorganization of the Board

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Bergami to nominate Carleton Giles for another term as Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no further nominations from the floor, it was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Bergami to close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

The secretary was asked to cast one ballot electing Carleton Giles Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to nominate Alberta Jagoe as Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no further nominations from the floor, it was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

The secretary was asked to cast one ballot electing Alberta Jagoe Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Chrmn. Giles thanked the commissioners for their continued support and participation noting his term on this board expires at the end of this year and he is looking forward to working with the members for another year. He also thanked Vice Chrmn. Jagoe for her support.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Lawrence Nugent, Past President and now Maintenance Chairman at Ryder Woods was present along with Mrs. Nugent and Ms. Van Arsdale. Mr. Nugent shared their concerns regarding vehicular traffic traveling through the park, in particular large trucks.

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He stated he has communicated with Sgt. Shirow regarding this issue adding that the roads were not built to handle truck traffic. Mr. Nugent stated they are now looking for guidance and help as to the proper procedure to prohibit the flow of through traffic and suggestions as to how this can be enforced.

Mr. Nugent shared a copy of pictures of signage and also copies of correspondence between the current association president and Sgt. Shirow.

Chief Mello explained Sgt. Shirow, head of the Traffic Division, is the individual who will be addressing this. He further explained the park is private property and the law does not allow the Milford Police Dept. to intercede on this private property. He suggested they meet with the Traffic Division for further discussion and he assured Mr. Nugent someone would get back to him regarding the meeting.

Chief Mello asked who erected the signs in the photographs and he was told that perhaps it was the prior owner of the property.

Chief Mello emphasized the need for residents' cooperation in filing trespassing complaints vs. motor vehicle complaints if there is a continuous pattern in the traffic flow.

Ald. Vetro was present and requested an update on the progress of the Watrous Road, Brewster Road and Dixon Street issues he had previously brought forth.

Chrmn. Giles stated Chief Mello would be addressing the Dixon Street issue later in the meeting.

Chief Mello directed comment to the Watrous Lane concerns and explained the department had sent out a survey to the area residents regarding change in traffic control. He stated there had been some responses to the survey noting they did not want any change but all of the data had not yet been compiled. He was hopeful this information would be available by the February meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2009 and December 14, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Wanosky noted that his name should be included in *Commissioners Present* at the December 14, 2009 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously to accept the minutes noting the correction.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

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Chief Mello stated he does receive a good deal of letters and emails but he does not always bring each piece of correspondence forward. The following was noted by Chief Mello:

Harold Reynolds, Southport, CT resident – referred to an accident which occurred in August 2003 that he was involved in. He explained a Police Dept. vehicle was traveling at a high speed and this individual was run off the road. He further noted the incident was reported to former Chief Flaherty; however, he now regrets his decision to not file a formal complaint and wonders if a more aggressive action might have made a difference. He explained that in his opinion Milford excuses misbehavior by Police Dept. members has had been recently witnessed and he felt this results in total lack of respect of the department.

Anthony Rodono, Indian River Rd. Milford – stated on 12/28/09 he was involved in an accident to which Officer Doyle responded. He went on to explain that Officer Doyle was professional in his demeanor, showed concern for those involved, maintained an attitude of calmness. Mr. Rodono stated he was certain that the officer is a perfect example of what a police officer should be and in his opinion, Officer Doyle is destined for a higher rank and responsibility.

Mr. Barno, West Haven resident – expressed his appreciation for having the assistance of a police officer who secured him a cab and safe ride home on a cold winter night

Attny. Vincent Averaimo – forwarded a certificate of recognition to the Milford Police Department as they were recognized at the “Be A Hero” event sponsored by Milford Promise. The certificate acknowledged the law firm of Kapusta, Otzel and Averaimo for nominating the department. Attny. Averaimo thanked the Milford Police Dept. for all they do to keep our city safe.

Special Olympics Thank You Note – for the department’s participation in the 11/19/09 “Tip A Cop” Fundraiser which raised \$562 for Special Olympics.

Denise Bogiatzopoulos, Hamden resident – commended Officer McCollum for his prompt and courteous response to an automobile accident she was involved in on 12/11/09.

Matrisciano Family – thank you note for the department’s motorcycle escort to funeral of family member.

Elaine Ryan, Milford resident – expressed appreciation for the outstanding service of Officer Mello who was dispatched to the scene on 11/25/09 when her door of her vehicle was damaged by another vehicle. She stated Officer Mello’s calm and matter of fact demeanor resulted in settling the matter amicably without further confrontation.

Dan Bothwell, (email) Denver, CO – explained he had been attempting to contact a Milford resident to discuss the health of a family member living in Colorado but

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unfortunately the phone call would not go through. He stated he contacted the department and spoke with Mrs. Richetelli of the Records Division who suggested a “welfare check” on the resident and referred the matter to Mr. Brooks, Dispatcher. Mr. Brooks sent someone from the department to the home of the family member in Milford and shortly thereafter both gentlemen conversed and important information was exchanged.

Dept. of Police Service, Waterbury – thanked Milford Police Department and motor officers for helping with “Signal 100” ride for Lt. Riddick. The family of Lt. Riddick was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support shown for a fellow law enforcement officer.

Janet Fields, Tapping Circle, Milford – stated that on 11/18/09 she called 911 because there was a trespasser in her yard. Officers Kranyak and Cacchillo came to her home and calmed her frightened grandchildren who were also in the house, reassuring them that they were safe. She thanked the department for their effort.

Logistics Coordinator, “Braking the Cycle” – thanked the officers who assisted with traffic control when approximately 200 cyclers rode through Milford for a fundraising event.

Family of Ashley Kelly – thank you note expressing gratitude to Capt. Butler and members of the department who worked hard during the investigation of the drug crime death of their daughter.

Chief Mello recognized the following personnel who donated their time in late December to raise funds for the “Give 2 The Troops” organization. He stated they collected \$814 in cash and donation in a location outside of Walmart and Petco and this was included with the \$6,000 sent to the soldiers in Iraq.

Lt. Moore	Officer Bloom
Sgt. Bruce	Officer McNemar
Sgt. Burton	Officer Lima and K9 Judge
Sgt. DellaMonica	Officer Weymer
Sgt. Vitti	Dispatcher Guilfoyle
Sgt. Dumas & son	

Loss Prevention Manager, Macy’s @ The Westfield Shopping Center – recognized Officer McDonald and K-9 who worked together on an attempted shoplifting incident at the store on 11/5/09.

Thomas Wydra, Chief of Police, Hamden – expressed appreciation for motorcycle escort during funeral of Hamden Police Officer James Mills.

Chrmn. Giles stated that Chief Mello and his staff enjoy and appreciate the support of this Board, adding that 2009 was a difficult year, however, Chief Mello handled himself and the entire department with a great deal of pride.

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Chief Mello thanked the Board and stated that he will see to it that correspondence and recognition will be posted on the department's bulletin board along with the minutes of the Board meetings.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Authorization to deposit auction proceeds into Police Sick and Relief Fund – Chief Mello reported the proceeds from recent auction were in the amount of \$1,897 and he asked those funds be donated to the Civilian Police Academy rather than the Sick and Relief Fund, adding there was a sufficient balance in the Sick and Relief Fund. Further, he explained that he previously made a commitment that the Civilian Police Academy would be funded through donations only and not be a budgeted item.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to apply the \$1,897 raised from a police auction to the Civilian Police Academy and not the Police Sick and Relief Fund.

Comm. Bergami asked how much is needed to run the Academy and he was told approximately \$2,500 and the donation being discussed would definitely work for the newly formed Academy class.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Consideration of accident free mileage awards – Chief Mello reported that Officers John Kranyak, William Ospina and Det. Kenneth Rahn accumulated 25,000 accident free miles and are being recommended for mileage awards.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to accept the Chief's recommendation to award Officers John Kranyak, William Ospina and Det. Kenneth Rahn mileage awards for accumulating 25,000 accident free miles. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Authorization to accept \$500 donation from Stonebridge Restaurant for Civilian Police Academy – Chief Mello explained the owner of the Stonebridge Restaurant is a past graduate of the Civilian Police Academy and had donated \$500 toward the Academy costs.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the donation of \$500 from the Stonebridge Restaurant to be applied to the costs of the Civilian Police Academy. Motion carried unanimously.

d. \$4.00 donation to Police Sick and Relief Fund – Chief Mello explained this

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donation was brought about by an overpayment to the Records Division and when the resident was notified of this overpayment, she stated she would donate that overpayment to the Police Sick and Relief Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the donation of a \$4.00 overpayment to the Records Division to the Police Sick and Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Off Duty Weapon Authorization – Chief Mello explained that the weapons of both Officers William Localzo and Christopher Lennon had been inspected and both officers qualify to carry those weapons while off duty.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to authorize Officers William Localzo and Christopher Lennon to carry their weapons while off duty.

Comm. Wanosky questioned why any officer should need to carry their weapons while off duty and Chief Mello explained the officers are authorized 24 hours a day as law enforcement officer and he personally guaranteed the commissioners that the officers will act on behalf of the commission anywhere within the city and have earned the right to carry their weapons while off duty.

Chrmn. Giles referred to the new federal law and asked what are the stipulations for retirees of the department with regard to carrying their weapons.

Chief Mello stated the law provides retirees to carry a weapon anywhere in the country but the department would have to first qualify them fit to carrying a firearm.

Motion carried unanimously.

e. Informational: Officer Robert Morin retirement – Chief Mello stated Officer Robert Morin will retire from the Milford Police Department, January 14, 2010.

Chrmn. Giles stated for the record that the Commissioners wished Officer Morin well in his future endeavors.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Youth Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. Detective Bureau Cases Report
- e. General Highway Safety Summary

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Chrmn. Giles noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept reports A through E as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Comm. Wanosky noted it was necessary for the Board to approve the schedule of meeting dates for 2010 as previously forwarded.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to add to the agenda Consideration of Milford Board of Police Commission Meeting Dates for 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to approve the Milford Board of Police Commission Meeting Dates for 2010, noting regular meetings will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month with the exception of October when the meeting will be held on the 2nd Tuesday due to a holiday. Motion carried unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

Prior to discussion on reports provided, Comm. Wanosky interjected the reports included were excellent.

a. Roses Mill and Wildflower Road – Speeding Vehicles – speed limit request – Comm. Faruolo expressed her concern regarding the number of speeding violations and she asked how often the department conducts radar checks.

Chief Mello explained when the Traffic Division is at full staff, radar checks are done daily, adding there is a priority list of street to address. He stated it is up to the individual officers to focus on “hot spots” or areas where accidents are likely to occur. Further, Chief Mello added the department issues approximately 10,000 traffic violations per year.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the Traffic Division recommendation regarding Roses Mill and Wildflower Road. Motion carried unanimously.

b. 734 Naugatuck Avenue – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding vehicles exiting NRG Company on 734 Naugatuck Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Dixon Street, Woodmont – Chief Mello explained the time limit parking request from a resident had been denied, further noting the camper that continuously

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parked on the street in the past is no longer there. Chief Mello stated that if such a time limit had been approved, it would have been unfair to those residents on Dixon Street who park in front of their own homes. It was also felt the owner of the camper would simply move his vehicle to an adjacent street and that would simply move the problem to another location.

Chief Mello stated it is possible to look into passing an ordinance to restrict campers and trailers from parking on city streets and Comm. Faruolo felt such matters should be considered on a case by case situation.

Ald. Vetro stated the owner of the camper has moved it. He added there are residents who do not want the time limit parking on the street.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding a time limit parking request on Dixon Street. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Stop Sign Request – Alexander at Green Meadow – It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to table this matter until the February 2010 meeting since background material had not been available in the packet. Motion carried unanimously.

e. No Through Truck Traffic Request – Bay View Beach – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding No Through Truck Traffic Request – Bay View Beach. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Speeding motor vehicles – West River Street/Dale Drive – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding speeding motor vehicles in the area of West River Street/Dale Drive.

Comm. Faruolo noted the percentage of speeders was very high and she would like to see more radar in that area.

Motion carried unanimously.

g. Crosswalk Request – Cherry Street/Sunnyside Court – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding a crosswalk request at Cherry Street/Sunnyside Court. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Crosswalk Requests – Borough of Woodmont – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding crosswalk request in the Borough of Woodmont. Motion carried unanimously.

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i. Crossing Guard Request – West Main at High Street – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding a crossing guard request at West Main and High Street.

Chief Mello explained this will include signage delineating a crosswalk 200 feet ahead.

Comm. Faruolo referred to the comment of the individual who made this request who states she did not hear back from anyone in the department since she made her request.

Chief Mello explained the individual was contacted initially based on the issue she first brought forward to the school in the area. It was the school administration who passed it on to the Police Department. He added until the Police Commission takes action on such matters and makes a decision, there would not be any contact with the maker of the request.

Further it was noted this recommendation will require additional funding through the end of this fiscal year and for a full year in subsequent budgets. Chief Mello stated if this is approved, and before Mayor Richetelli submits his budget, the Chief will request an increased appropriation (\$4,500). He assured the Board this will not be put into effect until the funding is in place.

Vice Chrmn Jagoe questioned the possibility of utilizing part time crossing guards and she was told the cost would still be the same.

Chief Mello stated that Sgt. Shirow agreed the intersection does need an additional crossing guard.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND HEALTH OR DISMISSAL OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Probationary Reviews - none
- b. Consideration of the performance of 5 officers
- c. Consideration of Grievance #3- 2009
- d. Consideration of Grievance #4 – 2009

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Motion carried unanimously.

[Ald. Vetro left the meeting at 8:02 p.m.]

Chrmn. Giles reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:28 p.m.

- b. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to uphold the recommendation of the Chief Of Police regarding the performance of 5 officers. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to deny Grievance #3- 2009. Motion carried with Chrmn. Giles abstaining from voting on this matter.
- d. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to deny Grievance #4-2009. Motion carried with Chrmn. Giles abstaining from voting on this matter.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary