

**Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners Meeting**  
**Held Monday, January 12, 2015**  
**Staff Conference Room, Police Headquarters**  
**Milford CT**

**1. Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

Also Present: Police Chief Keith Mello, Ald. Vetro, Marcia Krusewski, Secretary, Mr. Meade (P&Z), Mr. & Mrs. Carrissimi.

A quorum was present to conduct the business of the meeting.

**1a. Reorganization of the Board.**

Commissioner Jagoe began the meeting by thanking the Board for their support over the last few years. She said that it is good to have change and that it was now time for her to step aside. Commissioner Jagoe said that Commissioner Richard Smith would be an asset and advocate for the Police Department as Chairman of the Board.

It was moved by Commissioner Jagoe and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to nominate Commissioner Richard Smith as Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no further nominations, it was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith thanked the Board for their vote of confidence.

It was moved by Commissioner Jagoe and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to nominate Commissioner Bergami as Vice Chair of the Milford Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no further nominations, it was moved by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Wanosky to close the nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith then took over as Chairman of the meeting.

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**2. Consideration of Appointments – none**

**3. Citizen Comments**

Alderman Phil Vetro congratulated Commissioner Smith for his appointment as Chairman. He wished all present a Happy New Year. He said that he had been contacted by constituents regarding speeding on Atwater and Elaine Road. There is a bus stop at the corner and the residents are concerned about speeding vehicles. Alderman Vetro said that he did witness some of this himself. Chief Mello said that we would look into the issue.

John Carrissimi also congratulated Commissioner Smith and thanked Commissioner Jagoe for her service. He also wished Alderman Vetro a Happy Birthday.

**4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2014.

**5. Reading of Correspondence**

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- A letter of appreciation was sent by Jan and Joel Baldwin thanking all members of the police department for the work that they do.
- A letter of thanks was sent by Laurelton Hall thanking the entire department and in particular, Officer Jeffrey Nielsen for his participation in their Incident Management Team. Also mentioned were Sgt. Simko, Officer Murray and Officer Gallagher.
- A holiday wish and thanks to Sgt. Jim O'Keefe for helping out at the polls at Foran High School.
- A letter of thanks to Officer Joanna Salati from Christina and Buddy Prete for coming to the school and giving a talk about Bus Safety patrol monitors.
- A letter was sent by Mrs. Lesly Erlacher stating that she is in support of a stop sign on Morningside Drive and Little Pond Road. She indicated that a study was done many years ago and that it is even more necessary now.
- A letter of thanks from the Wadadli family regarding a response to their home when a burglar alarm went off. They praised Officer Pisani, Groves and the

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Dispatcher that assisted them. They also donated \$100.00 by check to the Police Department.

**6. Consideration of Report of Chief on Matters of Administration**

- a. Donation to the DARE program - \$1,000( anonymous donor). It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe. Motion carried unanimously. Chief Mello mentioned that our DARE account is not funded enough to run our DARE classes and that this helps us.
- b. Donation from the Wadali family - \$100.00. It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to place this donation into the DARE account. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Informational: Sgt. John Simko will retire effective 1/30/15 after 33 years of service.
- d. Off Duty weapon authorization – Officer Emily Sopchak. It was moved by Commissioner Jagoe and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to approve the off duty weapon. Motion carried. Chief Mello indicated that the Officer qualified with this weapon as required. Commissioner Wanosky asked if the Officers can use their personal weapon on duty and Chief Mello replied that they could not.
- e. Chief's general comments.

Chief Mello talked about the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year for the Milford Police Department and that we will be having several ceremonies to commemorate this event. We will be having an award ceremony and an anniversary badge will be worn by current officers for this year. Retired officers will also have an opportunity to purchase an anniversary badge. A banner is being made and stickers are being made to go on the patrol cars. One problem is that we have no actual funding for some of these items. A dinner is planned and the PBA will be assisting with those costs. Chief Mello was not sure of the final costs yet, but would have more information by March. Commissioner Bergami indicated that perhaps his company could assist with the banner.

The anniversary badges should be here by February. Chief Mello asked that any future donations that are not specifically earmarked be placed in a donation account for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary expense. He said that the badges would be paid from our private duty funds.

Chief Mello talked about last Friday being Law Enforcement appreciation day. The Chief talked to the Officers on all of the shifts about staying safe and some of the

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issues in Law Enforcement that are going on now. He feels our Officers are handling it well.

Commissioner Jagoe mentioned seeing one of our police motorcycles at the funeral for the Police Officer in New York City. Chief Mello said that 15 of our Officers attended on their own time. He recalled some of the events of a similar nature here in Milford regarding Officer Daniel Wasson.

Chief Mello touched briefly on the subject of the ISIS situation in the news and being vigilant and the fact Milford is a very transient community.

Chief Mello spoke about Officers wearing body cameras which are a hot topic right now. We will be buying more cameras and they will be mandatory for our officers to wear. He realizes we will have more Freedom of Information requests because of it. We are short staffed in our Records Division already and this will increase the load. He said that Milford serves as a model for many new policies that are being developed by POST and other agencies.

Commissioner Smith asked for an update on the SRO program. Chief Mello indicated that the Board of Ed is very happy with the program and seeks to expand it. Chief Mello said that he would have our SRO Officers come to a Police Commission meeting to give some insight into the program. Commissioner Jagoe passed around the Foran High newspaper that had an article on Officer Taylor who is the SRO for that school. They are very happy with him. The students talk to the SROs and it is working well.

Commissioner Smith thanked Commissioner Jagoe for all of her work and the trust that has been placed in him.

Commissioner Wanosky asked if there would be a discussion on filling the position of Deputy Chief. The Chief said that we would discuss it next month and they would go over and possibly reaffirm the qualifications for that position.

**7. Report on Planning and Zoning Requests – none**

**8. Acceptance of Reports**

- a. Special Investigations Unit Report
- b. Detective Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Unit Report
- d. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

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It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to approve the above reports. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Unfinished Business – none**

**10. New Business**

- a. Review of posted parking restrictions/no parking zones – Broadway/Wood Ave.  
It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to approve the Traffic Division recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Commendations – none**

**12. Executive Session**

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.**

Commissioner Jagoe moved to add an item to the Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Bergami. Motion passed.

- a. Discussion regarding the evaluation of one employee.

At 7:35 p.m. it was moved by Commissioner Jagoe and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to go into Executive Session. Alderman Vetro, Meade and all others left the meeting at this time.

All Commissioner present and Chief Mello stayed for Executive Session.

At 8:04 the Board reconvened in Public Session.

Commissioner Bergami moved to uphold the Chief's decision regarding one employee. It was seconded by Commissioner Faruolo. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bergami moved to adjourn at 8:05 pm. Seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein. Motion passed.

Submitted by Marcia Krusewski

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