

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler, Carol Faruolo

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Mooney, Mr. Mead, P & Z Chair, Ald. Vetro and D. Candido, Secty.

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

**2. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to nominate Alberta Jagoe as Chair of the Milford Board of Police Commissioners.

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

The secretary was asked to cast one ballot to elect Comm. Jagoe as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Chrmn. Jagoe thanked the Board for their vote of confidence.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to nominate Comm. Bergami as Vice Chair of the Milford Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no further nominations, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to close the nominations.

The secretary was asked to cast one ballot to elect Comm. Bergami as Vice Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners.

**3. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

Chief Mello introduced Probationary Officer John Ballard noting he had completed his probationary period and was present to be sworn in as an officer.

Comm. Wanosky administered the oath to Officer Ballard and congratulations were extended to him by the Commissioners.

**4. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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- Ald. Vetro congratulated Chrmn. Jagoe and Vice Chrmn. Bergami for once again being elected leaders of this Board. Further, he complimented Officer Nielsen who recently made a presentation to the United Way Executive Committee on a new crime prevention program.

Chief Mello explained the program noting it is an expensive program but Milford Prevention Council and the United Way has provided financial assistance to have it implemented here.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Chief Mello noted there were numerous emails from parents and concerned citizens who were thanking the department for the officers' presence at the schools following the Sandy Hook tragedy. He added the messages were clear that people appreciated the security provided and that they liked to see police presence at the schools .

Chrmn. Jagoe added that topic seems to be a big issue and she asked if there was anything the department should be doing to respond to those concerns.

Chief Mello explained numerous meetings have been held since December 14, 2012 and there continues to be ongoing dialogue and exploration of ways to improve the existing plan. He added the school system will be doing a security analysis study and we are in agreement that resource officers will be beneficial. He also noted that continued exploration of alternatives and a review of protocols and plans will be ongoing.

- Eleanor Suarez – resident – on 1/14 left a voice mail message complimenting Officer Lacey who responded to an emergency call at her home and his calm and compassionate demeanor.
- Kathy & Jay MacTaylor – Harrison Ave. – wrote to express their appreciation for the presence of police officers during the long hours, and aftermath, of Storm Sandy.
- Susan St. Pierre – resident – expressed her thanks to Det. Salati who took extra steps to ensure a family in need had a wonderful Christmas.
- L.T. Morton – Gr. 1 student at John F. Kennedy School – wrote to the officers to thank them for keeping students safe.
- Debbie and Friends at Special Olympics – extended appreciation for the support of our officers and their attendance at the Holiday Sports Classic and distribution of awards. The

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following officers were recognized: Deputy Chief Mooney, Lt. Carney, Sgt. Vitti, Sgt. Beauvais, Officers Mills, Frey, Wardowski, Chila, McDonnell, Lennon, Davidson, Sopchak, Sikorsky .

- Lynette Purcelle – Critical Care Manager, Precision Computer Services, Shelton, CT – wrote to extend thanks to Officer Sopchak for her diligence and kindness even while issuing Mr. Purcelle a ticket for not having his seatbelt on.
- Brenda Reid – 85 Russell Rd, Milford – thanked the department for their help with regard to a situation which occurred involving a Milford attorney who was handling the estate of her recently deceased husband. She complimented Det. Frawley and Det. Nash who were kind and calm and listened carefully to her predicament, providing good advice which expedited closure of the difficult situation.
- Pastor Bodt, Mary Taylor Church – thanked the officers for their presence at the recent Children's Pageant noting their presence was a reassurance to those who attended. Further, it was noted that Sgt. Bethke took special effort to secure police coverage for the event (Officer Mello and Officer Frey) and the person who initially took the request via the phone was kind and respectful.
- Lt. Wm. Cable – extended thanks from him and his family for the police escort at the recent funeral of his grandfather.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

- a. Safe Driving Awards to the following Officers : Det. Bassett, Sgt. Beauvais, Officers Cruz, Dunn, Hemperly, Kiely, Mauro, Mills, Rojee, Senatore and Sikorsky - It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to award eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations to the officers noted. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Donation from Anne Belfiore in the amount of \$40.00 – Chief Mello explained Ms. Belfiore was at the Milford train station on 12/27/12 and requested police officer assistance to properly install a car seat, subsequently making a \$40 donation for the installation. Chief Mello recommended the donation be placed in the DARE Donation account.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$40 donation Ann Belfiore and as recommended by Chief Mello, apply the donation to the DARE Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Donation from Renato Rull in the amount of \$20.00 – Chief Mello explained this donation was made in appreciation of a recent car seat inspection. Chief Mello recommended the donation be placed in the DARE Donation account.

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It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$20 donation from Renato Rull and as recommended by Chief Mello, apply the donation to the DARE Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Donation from Charmaine Celeste in the amount of \$25.00 – Chief Mello recommended the donation be placed in the DARE Donation account.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$25 donation from Charmaine Celeste and as recommended by Chief Mello, apply the donation to the DARE Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief explained that the department is once again facing a deficit in the DARE account in the amount of approximately \$1,000. Vice Chrmn. Bergami offered a donation to offset that deficit and Chief Mello extended a grateful thank you to him.

- e. Off Duty Weapon Authorization – Officer Alfred Mauro – Chief Mello explained Officer Mauro has requested to carry his personal weapon off duty. Chief Mello stated the weapon has qualified and is in good working order.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Off Duty Weapon Authorization to Officer Mauro as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to add item 6 f. to the agenda, Donation of \$25 from Holly Gill. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept a \$25 donation from Holly Gill. Chief Mello recommended the donation be placed in the DARE Donation account.

It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the \$25 donation from Holly Gill and as recommended by Chief Mello, apply the donation to the DARE Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none**

**9. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

Chrmn. Jagoe noted the reports of items a, b, c, d and e were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the following reports for December 2012.

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Special Investigations Unit Report
- c. Detective Bureau Report

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- d. Crime Prevention Services Report
- e. Traffic Division & Licensing Unit Report

Motion carried unanimously.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Restriction of on-street parking – John Street – requested by numerous residents – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding restriction of on-street parking on John Street.

Comm. Wanosky added the Traffic Division report was excellent.

Comm. Smith asked if it is protocol to obtain neighbors reaction to such recommendations and he was told yes it was.

Motion carried unanimously.

**12. COMMENDATIONS - none**

**13. Executive Session**

**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 Comm. Smith and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the following matters:

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

- a. Consideration of the performance of one employee
- b. Final quarterly probationary rating for Officer John Ballard

All Commissioners present, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Mooney remained in Executive Session.

(Ald. Vetro and Mr. Mead left the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)

It was moved by Vice Chrmn Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to reconvene in public session at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to further consideration of Executive Session, Chief Mello asked the commissioners to go back in the agenda to read one additional piece of correspondence that was accidentally overlooked earlier.

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Chief Mello shared a letter from Deputy Chief Lyddy, Fairfield Police Dept. who expressed his sincere appreciation to Officer Localzo who assisted Fairfield Police Dept with the somber responsibility of coordinating the funeral of one of the Sandy Hook students. Chief Lyddy noted Officer Localzo displayed professionalism and exemplary conduct while providing the family with some degree of solace during this difficult time.

With regard to Executive Session matters, it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation regarding disciplinary action. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Candido, Secretary