

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo; Carleton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Jerold Winosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; L. Stock, Secty

Comm. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

a. Reorganization of the Board

Chrmn. Giles called for nominations for Chairman. Comm. Eisenhandler nominated Carleton Giles for Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe. There being no further nominations from the floor, nominations were closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for Carleton Giles as Chairman.

Chrmn. Giles called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Comm. Marrone nominated Alberta Jagoe. The nomination was seconded by Comm. Faruolo. There being no further nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed and the Secretary cast one ballot for Alberta Jagoe as Vice Chairman.

Chrmn. Giles then appointed the following Committee members:

Finance Committee - Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and Comm. Eisenhandler

Planning & Zoning Committee - Comm. Faruolo

Chrmn. Giles noted that he will wait for the March meeting to appoint another Commissioner to the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Regarding the Personnel Committee, Chrmn. Giles and Chief Mello discussed the necessity of this committee at length. Due to the fact that this Committee would meet with the Chief for approximately ten minutes, prior to each meeting, it would be redundant because there is an information flow at the meeting regarding disciplinary actions. They felt that this particular Committee would not be necessary. There will be no Personnel Committee.

Chrmn. Giles called for a motion to add two items to the agenda: 7a. 314 Bridgeport Avenue and 7b. Plains Road @ Milford Corporate Center. The motion was made and seconded by Comms. Winosky and Jagoe respectively and carried unanimously.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

None

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3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

None

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe congratulated Chrmn. Giles, noting he has done a fabulous job and it was easy to recommend him as Chairman. In addition, she thanked Thomas Zawislinski and Kenneth Fellenbaum for their many years of service to the Board. Chrmn. Giles noted that although he was unable to directly speak to former Comm. Zawislinski, he did comment favorable to a reporter. He then thanked the Commissioners for their confidence.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe requested that a letter be generated from the Chief's office on behalf of the Commission thanking former Commissioner Zawislinski for his service to the Board. Chief Mello responded that this will be handled from his office.

Alderman Vetro congratulated both Chrmn. Giles and Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and welcomed back the Chief.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2008 meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

A note was received, thanking the Department for their continued membership in "Fight Crime: Invest in Kids."

Ridgefield Police Chief Roche thanked Capt. Butler for his participation in an oral promotional process.

A thank you letter was received from Schick, for the traffic study performed by the Department and their recommendations made to the State Traffic Commission.

Catherine Maturo sent a thank you letter regarding Offs. Catino, Dancy, and McDonnell. While at the Connecticut Post Mall, Ms. Maturo's 92 year old mother went missing. The noted officers were very helpful, maintaining a calm, patient, empathetic disposition. They located her mother shortly thereafter.

The family of J. Mitchell sent a thank you to the Department for their assistance at the funeral of J. Mitchell, past Chief of the Orange Volunteer Fire Department.

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Off. Marino was thanked for his assistance to MaryKay Porter during a neighbor dispute.

Amy Bloxom sent a note thanking Offs. O'Keefe and DelMonte for finding her wallet.

Cheryl Hubbell Viani thanked the Department for the assistance provided at her father's funeral. Edward J. Hubbell, Sr. was a retired Milford Police Officer.

The Yale Children's Hospital sent a thank you for the donation of \$4,000 in cash and \$20,000 worth of toys, games and books collected by the Department. Chief Mello explained that each year the officers conduct a toy drive at the Connecticut Post Mall; this year the toys were collected for "Kisses for Katie."

Attorney General, Richard Blumenthal, sent a letter thanking the Department for inviting him to speak at the recent Police Academy Graduation.

A letter was received from the Krav Maga Force Training School in Boston, Massachusetts, commending the professionalism, dynamic work ethic and commitment of Offs. Donald McCollum and Mitchell Warwick. Chief Mello noted that the Department has recently had to cancel some of their out of state training.

Peter and Denise Goodfellow thanked Off. Kranyak, who responded to their vandalism complaint. They felt the officer was very professional with a re-assuring manner.

Jackie Piccirillo sent a "heartfelt thank you" to an unknown officer for his assistance to her and her daughter, when her daughter's car broke down on a dark, cold, rainy night. The officer put himself at risk by pushing their car to safety. The "unknown officer" was Sgt. DellaMonica. Chief Mello noted that he receives many calls of this nature, as some people do not have time to sit and write a letter.

Wallingford Police Chief Dortenzio sent a letter regarding the excellent instruction two of his officers received while attending Milford's Police Academy. He felt this represents the agency very well. Chief Mello explained that they do use instructors from the outside, which helps them build relationships with other departments whereby they can utilize their facilities as well.

Chip Rubinstein sent a letter thanking the Chief for inviting him to the Academy Graduation. Mr. Rubinstein had been a member of the first Citizen's Police Academy class.

Chief Mello and Capt. Mooney received a letter from two Harborside Middle School Enrichment Students, in which they thanked the Chief and Captain for affording them an interview. Chief Mello noted that from time to time they are asked to be interviewed by students and they comply with those requests.

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A complaint was filed by an FBI agent, in which someone broke into his vehicle and stole his backpack which contained some of his equipment. Sgt. Tierny, Det. Frank Gall, Det. Gregg Kopazna and Off. J. Kranyak responded and located the property within 20 minutes. He thanked the officers for a job well done.

The following officers were thanked by Bobby Vargo for recovering his stolen vehicle: Sgt. Patrick Tierny, Off. James Keily and Off. Kenneth Catino. Mr. Vargo commended these officers on their professionalism and responsiveness.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Police Sick and Relief Fund year-end report for 2008.

In response to Comm. Winosky, Chief Mello explained that this fund is administered by the Commission. The Department receives monetary donations and if they are not specified for any particular area, they are deposited in the Police Sick and Relief Fund. This fund is for any family in need; however, the officer has to prove the need in order to obtain monies from the fund. Comm. Winosky asked if there was a maximum amount that would be given to which the Chief responded it is completely up to the discretion of the Commission as to how much they will give.

Comm. Faruolo questioned why the funds are kept in an account with such low interest rates. Vice Chrmn. Jagoe explained that based on the economy and the value of banks at this time, they felt the funds were safe where they were at the Milford Bank. The funds are split between a CD and 1% is in a Money Market account. After additional brief discussion, it was recommended to leave the money at Milford Bank. A motion was so made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler and carried unanimously.

b. Consideration of \$300.00 donation from Catherine and Edith Maturo

Chief Mello reminded the Commissioners that a letter was received from Catherine Maturo regarding her mother's disappearance at the mall. They wished to donate \$100 per officer to the department. It is up to the Commission to determine where these funds should be utilized. Vice Chrmn. Jagoe asked the Chief if there was one area where these funds would be most beneficial. Chief Mello mentioned the D.A.R.E program and the Citizen's Police Academy. However, at this time, it needs to be determined if the Citizen's Police Academy is an essential or non-essential account. Therefore, perhaps the money should go to the D.A.R.E. program. Currently they have had to ask the City for money to fund this program.

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Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to accept the donation of \$300.00 and earmark the funds for the D.A.R.E. account. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Marrone.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. 314 Bridgeport Avenue – Devonshire Village – 10 one bedroom dwelling units

Chrmn. Giles noted that there were prints available to review.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to approve the recommendations of the Traffic Division. The motion was seconded by Comm. Marrone.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Winosky questioned who would pay for the sidewalks in the project, to which both Chrmn. Giles and Chief Mello responded, the developer.

There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

- b. Plains Road @ Milford Corporate Center – Milford Place Corporate Center Phase II – Conference Center and Hotel

Chief Mello explained there would be a hotel (or possibly 2) and a conference center built on Plains Road.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe asked if the applicant also has to go to the State Traffic Commission. Chrmn. Giles responded in the affirmative, noting that they will also be supplied with a copy of the Traffic Division's recommendations.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Winosky and unanimously carried to approve Traffic's recommendations.

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

Chrmn. Giles noted that two of each report was on the table, December and January.

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It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Chrmn. Winosky to accept all reports **a** through **e**. The motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. COMMENDATIONS - 1

Deputy Chief Fournier noted that a Certificate of Commendation is recommended for Off. Emily Sopchak of Milford and Off. Dana Shannon of Stratford. These officers graduated from the Academy on December 12, 2008. They were both off duty on December 14, 2008 at 2:00 A.M., when they came upon an accident on I-95. The occupant had been thrown from the vehicle. The officers stopped to aid the victim and kept him alive until the emergency medical response personnel arrived. Their attention saved the operator's life.

At 7:35 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Winosky and carried by roll call vote, to enter into Executive Session to discuss items 12a and b. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain.

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

- a. Probationary Reviews: None
- b. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.

The Commission left Executive Session at 8:02 P.M.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to uphold the Chief's recommendations on the discipline of two officers. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm.. Faruolo.

Comm. Winosky moved to adjourn at 8:03 P.M. The motion was seconded by Comm. Marrone and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stock, Secretary