

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Anthony Candido, Melvin Eisenhandler, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Mooney, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

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

1a. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

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

Being no further nominations, it was moved by Comm. Candido 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. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Candido to nominate Comm. Bergami as Vice Chair of the Milford Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no further nominations, it was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Faruolo 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.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ald. Vetro thanked Deputy Chief of Administration for the traffic report concerning the Pond Point stop sign. He noted the report explained the tree in the sight line would be removed and an enhanced stop sign would be put up. Ald. Vetro stated the constituent who had contacted him was pleased with the cooperation of the Police Dept and the decision to not pursue a guardrail.

Chief Mello added the street markings will be painted, sight line will be improved and additional enforcement will occur but if the problems continue, it may be necessary to once again consider the guard rail.

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Ald. Vetro also referred to the intersection of New Haven Avenue and Gulf Street and questioned who has jurisdiction over that and he was told that is a state road. Ald. Vetro expressed concern in the fact there is not a turn lane or arrow when traveling westbound and turning onto Gulf.

Chief Mello stated that matter has been addressed in the past and without widening the road in that area, it is not possible to have a turn lane.

- Ed Mead, Vice Chair, P & Z Board – stated he is now the liaison to the Police Commission from P & Z and will be attending future meetings of this Board.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Bergami to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, December 13, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Chief Mello shared a recognition certificate issued by David Fein, US Attorney, District of CT to Det. Nash for his dedicated service to the citizens of CT as a member of the CT Computer Crimes Task Force.
- Chief Edson, Naugatuck Police Dept. – acknowledged and thanked Det. Huggins and Officer Lima and their canine partners for their participation in the first of its kind narcotic sweep at Naugatuck High School, further noting the sweep was executed in a thorough and efficient manner and will assist the Board of Education in providing a drug-free learning environment.
- Janice Saam, Principal, Naugatuck High School – acknowledged and thanked Det. Huggins, Officer Lima and their canine partners as well as the Milford Police Dept. for their participation in the narcotic sweep at Naugatuck High School.
- Isabel Murphy – expressed appreciation to the officers who returned her found wallet and check book.
- Healey Family – expressed appreciation for the police escort which facilitated the funeral procession of James Healey.
- Tsopanides Family – card of appreciation to the Department for their expression of sympathy.
- Elizabeth Barba, Department Intern – thanked the Chief for providing the opportunity to learn and explore the workings of the Department.
- Rick George, Director, Milford Animal Control – expressed appreciation to Det. Gall for his efforts in capturing a cow that had been on the loose for the past few months, noting Det. Gall not only ensured the safety of those involved but photographed and video-taped the capture of the animal, putting him on the front line of this task.
- C. Sherwood, Director, So. Central Criminal Justice Administration – thanked Det. Sean Moore who served as a panelist at the oral board examination for the position of Det. Sgt.

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for the Seymour Police Dept.; further acknowledging the Department's cooperation assuring that the objective can be achieved.

- Resident, West Haven – acknowledging the work and efforts of several officers who responded to a call on 12/11/11. The letter noted Officer Musante and other officers were dispatched to a Milford apartment and subsequently to a West Haven storage facility and assisted with the removal of guns. With the assistance of Sgt. Burton, Det. Bassett, Officers Moreno and Bethke and Lt. Marschner, the guns were removed and inventoried in a calm and proficient manner easing a tense situation. Further, the treatment received from the officers was a result of proper training and adherence to Department policy.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Donation from Ms. Rosette Liberman – Chief Mello acknowledged the \$20 contribution to the Department and explained it has been necessary to make significant cuts to the DARE account and therefore recommended this donation be applied to that account.

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

Chief Mello stated he will make copies of the budget as revised and proposed to the Mayor available to the Commissioners.

b. Donation from Heidi and John Winfield – Chief Mello acknowledged the \$100 donation from Abbot Association (Heidi and John Winfield) and recommended this donation be applied to the DARE account.

It was moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$100 donation from Abbot Association and as recommended by Chief Mello, apply the donation to the DARE Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Bergami questioned the shortfall amount in the DARE account and Chief Mello explained it was reduced to \$2,000 which would eliminate 3 classes.

c. Safe Driving Awards – It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to award eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations to Officers William Simpson, Chris Cacchillo, M. Devito, Danielle Frith and Det. William Haas. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Year-End Report for Police Sick and Relief Fund – It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation to rollover what is included in the Police Sick and Relief Fund at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none

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8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Special Investigations Unit Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. General Highway Safety Summary

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

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Candido to accept reports a, b, c and d as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Cherry Blossom Ridge Subdivision – Addendum Report of 1/16/12 (P & Z request – 44 Cedarhurst Lane) – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to approve the recommendation (addendum report of 1/16/12) regarding Cherry Blossom Ridge Subdivision. Motion carried 6 yes and 1 abstention (Comm. Bergami).

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Schooner Lane/Helwig Street – blind curve, request for additional signage – Chief Mello explained the property owner did not want any new signage at the property; therefore, the recommendation is that the city put the signs up.

It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the report and recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding Schooner Lane/Helwig Street new signage. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Stop Sign/Guard Rail Study – Yale Ave/Pond Point Ave. – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the report and recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding the signage/guard rail study at Yale and Pond Point Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Eastside Fire Station – 980 New Haven Avenue – Traffic Light Request – It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the report and recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding Eastside Fire Station – 980 New Haven Avenue.

Chrmn. Jagoe explained previously a traffic light had been approved for this location and the State Traffic Commission did not agree with the proposed location as recommended by the Fire Dept.

Chief Mello stated it is intended to file the report (revised 1/26/2012) of our Traffic Division with the State Traffic Commission and if not approved at that level, it may require our Department to meet with the Traffic Commission to reconcile the matter.

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Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello explained he has had conversation with Mayor Blake regarding efforts to expedite the Building Department's attempts to get building plans approved faster. He noted the Building Dept. has implemented a new software system which will make it possible to review plans submitted on line. Chief noted that on occasion plans are submitted right after the Police Commission holds it's monthly meeting and they are then on hold until the following month when this body meets again. He added he is hopeful to have a recommendation to come forward in the near future for this new efficient software which will streamline the process at our level. Chief Mello stated the Mayor has asked that whenever there is a routine P & Z review and Traffic Division has made their recommendation, the Chief can sign off on the request based on the recommendation of Traffic Division and pending formal approval of this body.

Chrmn. Jagoe added with all of the discussions that have taken place regarding the delays in approvals, she did not feel it was something that the Police Department had done to cause the delays.

It was moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to authorize Chief Mello to provide conditional approval on routine P & Z requests, contingent on final approval of the Police Commission in an attempt to streamline the process of approving P & Z requests. Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Wanosky questioned whether it was necessary that the newly appointed Deputy Chiefs be sworn in by this Commission.

Chief Mello stated that was an oversight since the Commission had not met in January following the official ceremony but he assured the members it would be on the agenda for next month adding the Deputy Chiefs had been sworn in by him at the official ceremony.

Regarding the Budget Proposal, Chief Mello explained there were some deep cuts in the Mayor's Proposed Budget adding he had emphasized to the Mayor the importance of training and maintaining staff and there were no changes in that area. He added areas impacted are Uniforms and Gasoline and unfunded mandates are being forced upon the Department and those costs will come back to the citizens. He stated he will be happy to explain the budget proposal in more detail at next month's meeting.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

12. 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 Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. for the following matters:

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1. 1st quarter review for Officer Noel Luth
2. Consideration of the performance of one employee

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

[Note: Ald. Vetro and members of the public left at 7:32 p.m.)

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to reconvene in public session at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to uphold the Chief's recommendation regarding the performance of one employee. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary