

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Richard Smith

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Officer Broderick Ald. Vetro and D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- W. Field – 28 Way St. – directed comments to P & Z Request (335 Meadowside Road) and shared information regarding tree plantings at that address and the line of sight issues. Distributed information showing trees on property being relocated so there is no obstruction to the line of sight.
- K. McGuire - Morningside Dr. directed comments to previous correspondence sent to Chief Mello regarding stop sign erroneously installed at the intersection of Little Pond & Morningside Road. She related the history of the installation of the stop sign and stop bar on 1/15/15 and the fact that the same sign and bar was removed on 1/16 by DPW staff and coincidentally there were also 3 police officers present. She relayed her conversation with DPW staff who explained the sign was put up in error. Following removal of the sign she called Chief Mello's office and left message thanking the Chief and also personally thanked his secretary for the quick action on removing the sign. She referred to a traffic study completed 2013 which stated the erection of a stop sign at that intersection was not recommended and would not solve the visibility issue at that intersection. Further, following that study, shrubbery was planted on the property which was also in violation of the recommendation. She stated residents have been trying to have the property owners address the visibility issue at that intersection for some time.

Chief Mello explained when a traffic study is done, it does not necessarily mean it came based on a recommendation from the Chief of Police. He stated he recalled reading the letter and instructing the officers to take it down. He felt there was no reason to address that stop sign issue again. He recalled the fact that DPW could have ordered the shrubs to be cut back if it was necessary but at the time when Officer Demirjian went to the intersection, the shrubs were not in violation and as he recalled those shrubs have been cut back twice.

- C. Jermain – 2 Little Pond Rd – directed comments to the previous statement and letter addressed to the Board and stated the stop sign request for that intersection had been something requested for many years. She was told the stop sign was installed in response to the complaints received in 12/14. She added the shrubs have been cut back 5 different times

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and in 12/14 there were severely cut back. She emphasized the fact that family issues had taken precedence in recent years but she is now hopeful the shrubs will be continue to be cut back and not be overgrown in the future. She added she supports the request for a stop sign at that intersection and after reviewing the minutes from the Police Commission meeting, the matter was tabled due to a neighbor's objection; however, this commission never voted to put it back on the table for consideration. She also complimented the officers who have been to the location for their professionalism and politeness.

Chief Mello stated he recalled this commission voting to not take action on the stop sign.

Chrmn. Smith thanked both speakers for their comments and stated the commissioners will take their comments under advisement.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

Michael Kehoe, Chief of Police, Newtown, CT – thanked Officer Broderick and his K-9 Cedar for their assistance with the school sniff on 2/27/15.

Toni Dolan, Exec. Director of Beth El Shelter – thanked Capt. Rahn and officers who recently helped mitigate a problem situation with a client at the Shelter. She added the staff at the Shelter has always had respect for the manner the police have reacted to any situation at the Shelter adding it is just another instance of how well trained and cooperative the Milford Police Dept. has been.

Wm. Evans, Police Commissioner, Boston Police Dept, Boston, MA – expressed his appreciation to Capt. Alexopoulos for his participation as an assessor in the Boston Police Dept. promotion exam assessment for the rank of Lieutenant.

Marcia Kochiss – resident – thanked the Dept's honor guard for their presence at the funeral service for her dad.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Year-end report for Police Sick and Relief fund – it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone that the Police Sick & Relief Fund is maintained in their current capacity. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Review of 2015/16 Police Department budget – Chief Mello addressed the budget presented to the Mayor and the Board of Finance explaining the budget included a \$293,000 wage increase which reflects the department is operating with considerably less money than last year. He added

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departments of this size in other communities spent double the amount Milford is spending. He noted the Dedicated Training line item does not provide enough funding for 6 months of training; provides for 6 squad cars which is a considerable difference compared to what the department had previously received.

Chief stated it is fact there will be a surplus in the wage account which will allow for transfers to be made and maintain the level of staffing and safety that is needed. He added the Board of Finance recognizes the fact that this is a bare bone budget.

c. Disposition of unclaimed money from Evidence – Chief Mello explained the Evidence Room will be attempting to dispose of confiscated items including \$1,244.39 in cash. He added in the past such funds were placed in the Sick & Injured Fund but since that fund is adequately funded, he requested the \$1,244.39 cash be placed in an account to be created and specifically used for a commendation/awards ceremony in April 2015.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to place \$1,244.39 from unclaimed money (Evidence Room) in an account to be created for a commendation/awards ceremony to be held in April 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Chief's General Comments – Chief Mello stated the 100th anniversary of the Milford Police Department is April 13, 2015 and he was hopeful to have a ceremony marking the anniversary at some point this year.

He stated he has spoken to Mayor Blake regarding significant deficiencies in the building and the Mayor has explained the city will be entering into the next phase of adding additional space for the department; albeit adding to the existing facility or a new site, therefore it remains in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Also, Chief Mello stated he met with the Downtown Merchants Association regarding the shooting incident which occurred this month in the parking garage and he stated the department will continue their efforts to keep the downtown safe.

Discussion ensued regarding the renewal of liquor licenses for bars/restaurants and he explained the process followed to ensure the liquor establishments are following the law.

Comm. Jagoe expressed her concern about the activities in the downtown area on weekends and Chief Mello stated it is a challenge to manage on the weekends but his department remains diligent to that area.

Comm. Rubinstein added the matter regarding the shooting was resolved quickly and he felt the department did a great job.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. Residential Development – 335 Meadowside Road – Chief Mello read the recommendation for this project including the demolition of the existing house, recommendation of sidewalk replacements, planting of trees, adequate parking spaces based on the number of units to be erected.

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It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 335 Meadowside Road.

Chief Mello explained to be considered a high traffic area, over 100 cars per hour must travel the route and Meadowside Road traffic did not meet that criteria. He added if the engineering study indicates traffic will be increased by the addition of these units, consideration of a traffic light in the area could be considered. He added this department's only responsibility is to look at parking and sight lines.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. 14 Gulf Street – Affordable Housing Project – it was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 14 Gulf Street.

Comm. Jagoe asked how many of these units will be affordable housing and Chief Mello stated the department does not have that information.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the following reports:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS - none

11. COMMENDATIONS

Chief Mello stated on 9/15/14, officers received a call from an individual at a condo apartment where a man had threatened to commit suicide and he did have a pistol. The individual went back into the building and eventually came back outside and it turned out that the weapon was not loaded but there was no way the officers could have known that. He added the officers put themselves in risk of physical danger in an attempt to restrain the individual and they did a great job reasoning with the man, using the appropriate level of force. Chief Mello stated it is recommended that Officer Lima and Sgt. Beauvais receive a Certificate of Commendation and the other officers who assisted in this situation be thanked for their actions and professionalism.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:56 p.m. for consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.

- a. 3rd quarter probationary rating for 7 Officers.
- b. 1st quarter probationary rating for 1 Officer.
- c. 2nd quarter probationary rating for 2 Officers.
- d. Consideration of the performance of one employee.
- e. Discussion of Deputy Chief position.
- f. Grievance #1-2015 at step #3.

Present were commissioners, Chief Mello, Officer Dennis Broderick (Milford Police Union). Officer Broderick was present only for item f. Grievance #-2015 at step #3. He left executive session at 8:11 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to reconvene in public session at 9:25 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to support the Chief's recommendation regarding discipline of one employee (item d) and to table Grievance #1-2015 at Step 3. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk, March 13, 2015