

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Commissioner Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Alberta Jagoe, Sam Bergami, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky, Carol Faruolo.

Commissioners Not Present: Melvin Eisenhandler, Sharon Marrone

Also Present: Police Chief Keith Mello, Deputy Chief Tracy Mooney, Deputy Chief Gerald Butler, Phil Vetro, Marcia Krusewski.

Chairman Jagoe asked to reorder the agenda moving item 12b – Final probationary review for Officer Maria Frey and Officer David Pecoraro - into Executive Session. The remainder of the Executive Session items would be at the end of the meeting as usual.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and 2nd by Commissioner Wanosky to go into Executive Session to discuss Item 12b at 7:05 p.m. All Commissioners present, including Chief Mello, D/C Mooney and D/C Butler remained in Executive Session.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami to reconvene in public session and 2nd by Commissioner Wanosky at 7:15 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Consideration of Appointments

a. Officers Maria Frey and David Pecoraro were present to be sworn in as Regular Officers as they have completed their Probationary period. Commissioner Carol Faruolo swore in the two Officers as Regular Officers. All members of the Commission congratulated the Officers.

3. Citizens Comments

Commissioner Richard Smith had some questions from people in Walnut Beach regarding the cameras in the area. He wanted to know if the Recreation Department or anyone else had jurisdiction over the cameras. Chief Mello said that the cameras are for the police department only and that no other departments or agencies should have access to the cameras. The Chief assured the Board of Alderman when these cameras were first installed that they would be for law enforcement only. He reiterated that he made these guarantees to the public and the City when installing these cameras. Commissioner Smith said that he would bring this information back to the Walnut Beach residents.

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4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(January 2013)

Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 22, 2013. Commissioner Wanosky 2nd the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Reading of Correspondence

a. A letter was received by Ronald Goldwyn who is attending the Citizens Academy. He complimented Detective Jeff Cortes with whom he did a ride-along in a police car. Mr. Goldwyn was quite impressed by the work he witnessed.

b. An assortment of valentine cards were sent to the Officers in this department who assisted in Sandy Hook. The valentines were made by students in Sandy Hook.

c. A letter from Joseph Harry, Senior Assistant States' Attorney thanking Officer Mahoney and Officer Magnan for their assistance with a complaint issue.

d. A letter from Deputy Chief Mark Marina from Greenwich Police Department thanking Sgt. Robert Weymer for his assistance on an oral board panel for the position of Police Officer.

e. A letter from Charles Sherwood, Director of South Central Criminal Justice Administration thanking Lt. Kenneth Rahn for his services with an assessment center for the position of Sergeant.

f. A letter from Scott Gurdak thanking Officer James Kiely for assisting his family with some questions and information about our community. Mr. Gurdak and his family recently moved here from out of state and were very impressed with Officer Kiely's assistance.

g. A letter from Kimberly Lumia who praised Office Gillian Gallagher from her coaching in the hockey clinic at the Milford Ice Pavilion. She said that Officer Gallagher is a wonderful role model to the youth of Milford. She compared Officer Gallagher to Officer Howie Daziel who many years ago was involved with youth programs in Milford.

h. A letter was received from James Sopchak thanking our department for the assistance provided during his mother's funeral.

i. A letter was received by Senior Assistant State's Attorney Kevin Doyle thanking and recognizing Det. Robert Nash for his work on a murder case.

j. A letter from the Laurel Beach Association was received thanking the Milford Police Department for outstanding support through Hurricane Sandy and the recent blizzard.

k. A letter from Norwalk Police Department thanking Capt. John Alexopoulos for being

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a panelist on an assessment center for promotions.

i. A letter from Orange Avenue School thanking the Department for making them feel safe following the Sandy Hook shootings.

j. A letter of thanks from Jackie Ferrailo thanking the Department for an escort following the funeral of a family member.

6. Consideration of the Chief on Matters of Administration

a. **Off Duty Weapon authorizations** for the following Officers: Off. Frith, Sgt. Youd, Lt. Dumas and Off. Pecoraro. It was moved by Commissioner Faruolo and 2nd by Commissioner Wanosky to approve these off duty weapon authorizations. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Smith had a few questions for Chief Mello regarding the purpose of authorizing Officers to use certain weapons for off duty use. Chief Mello indicated that it was a liability issue and that the authorization meant that the Officer was trained and qualified on this particular weapon. It was in the best interest of the City and the Police Department for the Officer to be qualified. Commissioner Wanosky asked if police Officers could bring their own weapons into the PD. Chief Mello's answer was yes.

b. **Donation** to the DARE program in the amount of \$1,000 by an anonymous donor. Moved by Commissioner Wanosky, seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to accept this donation. Motion carried unanimously.

c. **Donation** from Theresa D'Amato in the amount of \$35.00. Moved by Commissioner Bergami, 2nd by Commissioner Smith to accept this donation Motion carried unanimously. Chief Mello indicated that he would like to start a new donation account for School Security Issues. He will be asking the Finance Department to set up this new donation account for Police Security enhancements involving school security. Commissioner Bergami amended the motion to deposit this donation into the new school security fund. 2nd by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Informational: Year end report for Sick and Relief fund. No changes were made to this fund.

e. **Accident free mileage awards** to Sgt. Youd, Off. Gallagher, Off. Mahoney and Off. Nielsen - Moved by Commissioner Smith, 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo to approve these awards. Motion carried unanimously.

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f. Informational: School Security Update

Chief Mello indicated that he wanted to keep the Commission updated on the school security measures that were being worked on and implemented. Currently we have 3 Officers working on the School Security committee. Our Crime Prevention has completed 43 security events in the last month.

The discussion touched on lock down drills at schools, locks, electronic access and key fobs, meetings with Principals and the Board of Education. We will be continuing into the summer months with teacher training, structural training and changes in the schools and inspections with CIRMA.

The Chief then discussed the SRO program. He passed out informational sheets outlining SRO programs and the costs to implement different numbers of SRO's. Chief Mello recommends that 4 SRO Officers can be effective. 2 would be assigned to each high school, 1 would rotate between the Middle Schools, and 1 would rotate between the Elementary Schools. In the summertime the SRO Officers could be utilized downtown and on the COPPS unit.

The costs could be offset by the increase in revenue from redirecting some of the revenue generated by the Police Department (\$135,000). Also approximately \$30,000 from additional 2.5% surcharge fee on private duty construction. Chief Mello discussed the smart bus program (video cameras on buses) that could possibly bring in about \$50,000 in extra revenue. When the camera records the infraction of a car passing a school bus, part of the fine would come back to our Department.

SRO Officers would be seasoned Officers. We are testing now for new Police Officers and should be done by May with this testing. If we are to hire new Officers for an SRO program we will need to get these Officers into the academy by August so that possibly by January 2014 we can have SRO's in the schools. Otherwise we won't have them in place until January 2015.

Commissioner Bergami mentioned the wait on pistol permits. He recently only waited 18 minutes in Florida. Deputy Chief Butler indicated that we do 12-15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and that we turn away 15 or so people each day. There was a general discussion on the costs and waiting. Chief Mello indicated that there is a bill being created in CT regarding mental health evaluations for pistol permit applicants. Currently there are no mental health evaluations. Chief Mello indicated that 51% of all pistol permit denials are overturned by the review board. He said "something is either wrong with us or the Board".

Commissioner Wanosky asked if there was a Plan B on funding for SRO's. When the initial funding dries up, what do we do?

Chief Mello indicated that is why many of the former SRO programs were reduced. Initially they were funded and when that funding dried up, they were cut back. Chief Mello said that police departments play "probabilities" – that we know what happens in schools. SRO's can

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help in the unlikely possibility of a catastrophic event. In addition to probabilities, we focus on fear of crime. Fear of crime is almost as devastating as crime itself. We need to make children and teachers feel safe. The funding for the SRO's should become a "line item" as long as we want it. SRO funding is not just a one time cost, it needs to be a line item.

Chief Mello indicated that the public is assuming the SRO cost was part of the budget amendment which is not true. He indicated that these are tough budget times and these issues are emotional.

The Commissioners thanked the Chief for all of this information and update.

g. Informational: Personal Video System Program

Chief Mello gave a brief demonstration of a Personal Video System being tested by some of our Officers. Basically, it is a camera and recording device worn by the Officer, either on glasses, on the collar or on a headpiece. We have bought 10 of these video recorders. The information on the cameras is then downloaded to "Cloud Storage".

The cameras will aid in assisting with false complaints against Officers which is sometimes a matter of perception. It will also help us with misconduct issues, training issues, internal affairs and evidence for court. This is a pilot program.

Commissioner Smith asked how the Officers like the cameras. Chief Mello said that some are uncomfortable with them. They tend to like the camera on the glasses more. Sometimes it is a benefit in knowing that you are being watched. The primary reason for the cameras would be to protect officers from false complaints and to view their behavior to see how they can conduct themselves in a different manner at times.

h. Hearing: Suspension of Anthony's High Tech Motors and DJ's Service Center from Rotational Tow List.

Chief Mello indicated that he was contacted by the lawyers representing Anthony's and that they requested that this issue be tabled to our next meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Faruolo to table this item. 2nd by Commissioner Bergami. Motion passed.

i. Radio Project Update

Commissioner Faruolo made a motion to add this item to the agenda. 2nd by Commissioner Bergami. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello began by indicating that our Radio Upgrade Project began almost 5 years ago and originally was just to replace our infrastructure. It evolved into a project in which both Fire and Police Dispatch will all be in one combined 911 Center. We are very close to implementing the Police Department part of the project and we expect that by May, the 911 aspect will be completed.

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Chief Mello thanked Deputy Chief Butler who is the Project Manager, Sgt. Todd Richards, Jean Lazcak from MIS, Mayor Richetelli who was Mayor when the project started, Mayor Blake, for his current assistance and Chief Robert Healy for his cooperation in this project.

The Commissioners, along Chief Mello, D/Chief Mooney, D/Chief Butler went into the Communications Center for a tour of the newly renovated 911 Dispatch Center. D/Chief Butler showed the Commissioners the new layout, furniture, monitors and all of the new state of the art equipment. He indicated that the coverage tests that are being done indicate better coverage and clearer reception than before. The cameras in the room cover various locations in the City. We have 2 generators and a UPS system in case of power failure. Also, we have the Command Van for a portable dispatch center if we need it.

Chief Mello discussed the fact that our savings from having Sungard for both fire and police are tremendous. We will all be on the same system. The map in the room will show locations of both fire and police.

The Commission left the Communications Room and went back to the Staff Meeting Room.

7. Report on Planning And Zoning Requests.

- a. Crossfit Milford – 49 Research Drive. Moved by Commissioner Wanosky and 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo to approve the Traffic Division recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. 3 Lot Subdivision – 284-286 Naugatuck Ave. Moved by Commissioner Faruolo and 2nd by Commissioner Smith to approved Traffic Division recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Acceptance of Reports

- a. Uniform Crime Report – Sept./October 2012
- b. Special Investigations Unit Report – Jan/Feb
- c. Detective Bureau Report – Jan/Feb
- d. Crime Prevention Services Report – Jan/Feb
- e. Traffic Division & Licensing Unit Report – Jan/Feb

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

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

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9. Unfinished Business - Golf Cart Ordinance

Chief Mello indicated that he would like this item tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner Bergami made a motion to table this item, 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo. Motion carried unanimously.

10. New Business

a. Crosswalk Request – Bridgeport Ave/Lenox Ave.

It was moved by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to approve the Traffic Study on this item. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Commendations

Chief Mello asked that the Commendations be tabled to the next meeting. Commissioner Bergami made a motion to table these items to the next meeting. 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jagoe indicated that we will be changing our April meeting to April 15, 2013.

12. Executive Session

It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. for the following matters:

- a. Consideration of the performance of 3 employees.
- c. Quarterly probationary review for Officer Michael Compare.
- d. Grievance #1-2013 at step #3.

All Commissioners present, Chief Mello, D/C Mooney and D/C Butler remained in Executive Session.

Ald. Vetro left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo to reconvene in public session at 8:48 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and 2nd by Commissioner Bergami to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation regarding disciplinary action.

Moved by Commissioner Wanosky and 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo to table Grievance #1-2013 at step #3. Motion carried unanimously.

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Motion was made by Commissioner Wanosky to adjourn meeting at 8:50 p.m. 2nd by Commissioner Faruolo. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Marcia Krusewski