

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Anthony Candido, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Melvin Eisenhandler, Sharon Marrone

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Mooney; Ald. Vetro; E. Mead, P & Z Liaison, D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – Swearing in of Deputy Chief Mooney, effective retroactive to 1/5/12. Chairman Jagoe administered the oath to Deputy Chief Mooney and extended congratulations to her adding she is an asset to the Department.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ald. Vetro shared comments regarding concerns being shared with him relative to noise issues (barking dogs and motorcycles). He added Milford has no noise ordinance however West Haven and Stratford have effective noise ordinances and upon looking into the matter further in West Haven, he learned they do not have problems enforcing the ordinance. He asked if there was any suggestion the Department might have putting something like this into effect here in Milford.

Chief Mello stated the Department has addressed this problem every year and he will speak with the Chief in West Haven relative to their ordinance. He added the ordinance does not stop the problem but does provide guidelines for citation. He also explained having such a noise ordinance would require training of an officer and purchase of equipment and that would raise the question if Milford would want the additional cost of an officer to patrol an area or place an officer at a location where has been reports of loud motorcycle traffic. He added the Department can give an infraction at this time if a repeated situation occurs whether it be animal, muffler, motorcycle or loud music. He also added it is always good to look at what other departments are having success with.

- T. Kaufman – 555 Pond Point Ave. – referred to dogs in his neighborhood barking continuously during the night.
- M. Hanson – 551 Pond Point Ave. – have made contact with Animal Control who suggesting filing an official complaint.
- T. Calogine – 541 Pond Point Ave. – stated an officer did go to the house and speak with the owner of the dog who continuously barks and the owner claimed he was playing with his dog and that was why the dog was barking. He added it is a non-stop issue with the

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barking and it poses a health issue due to odor and unsanitary conditions in the dog owner's yard.

Chief Mello suggested setting up a meeting with the neighbor, Officer Nielsen and the Animal Control Officer in an attempt to settle this problem.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Candido to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, February 14, 2012 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon recommendation of Chief Mello the following items were added to the agenda:

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to add item 6e. Acceptance of Anonymous Donation. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to remove items 12 a. Appeal of rejection of conditional job offer by Joseph Berthiaume and 12 b. Appeal of rejection of conditional job offer by Bryan Meraviglia from Executive Session and consider both items under New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- T. Healey, Terrorist Screening Center, Washington, D.C. – expressed appreciation for the efforts of Officer Mazzara and Simpson with regard to a 12/20/11 when in the course of law enforcement duties and upon learning of possible match to Terrorist Watchlist, followed appropriate protocol by contacting Terrorist Screening Center. Further, the letter noted TSC appreciates the Department's leadership and assistance in protecting our nation.
- Steve Johnson – Member of Milford Citizens Academy – Thanked Officer Kranyak for the ride-along opportunity and his willingness to be informative and share some real life police situations. As well Officer Weymer, Cruz and Lima were also helpful and added to an interesting experience.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. 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 Antonio Aquino and Stephen Noss. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Informational: Stenographer Sarah Nierenberg retired effective 2/17/12

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- c. Informational: Sgt. James Staurovsky retired effective 2/17/12
- d. Informational: Det. Frank Gall will retire effective 4/6/12
- e. Anonymous \$50 Donation - Chief Mello acknowledged the \$50 anonymous donation and recommended this donation be applied to the DARE account.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the anonymous \$50 donation and as recommended by Chief Mello, apply the donation to the DARE Donation account. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. Cascade Blvd – Affordable Housing Subdivision – It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division and reject the application. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. 238 Zion Hill Road – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding 238 Zion Hill Road. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. 142 W. Town St – 2 lot subdivision – It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division regarding 142 W. Town St- 2 lot subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Special Investigations Unit Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. Traffic Division & Licensing Unit Report

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

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

Comm. Wanosky referred to the amount of money collected for tickets and he asked if all of that money goes to the General Fund.

Chief Mello explained \$10 of every ticket the Traffic Division writes comes back to the municipality. He explained he has tried to get this to come back to the Department to offset the cost of traffic enforcement.

Comm. Wanosky asked if there is someone in the Department who follows up on unpaid tickets and Chief Mello explained previously the city had an outside group manage that

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but the Department has now absorbed that responsibility. He added at this time staffing in that area is down and he was not sure how long it can be handled in-house.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Speeding issues Colonial Ave (at length) – requested by Tom Buchino – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Candido to approve the recommendations of the Traffic Division regarding Colonial Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

b. Appeal of rejection of conditional job offer by Bryan Meraviglia – Chief Mello distributed report of background investigation regarding Bryan Meraviglia who was present for this portion of the meeting. Chief Mello explained Mr. Meraviglia had applied to the Department and was one of the applicants given a conditional job offer; however, information was discovered during the background investigation process that caused the rejection of the original job offer.

Chief Mello explained the process of the background investigation and stated 80% of the individuals who apply do not make it through the background investigation.

Mr. Meraviglia explained that he was present at this meeting to attempt to explain and justify the results of the investigation.

He stated he is a life long resident of Milford and becoming an officer has been his interest for a long while. He stated is a 2010 graduate of CCSU and he began applying to departments in 2009. He explained he realized he was not completely ready and still young and immature noting many of the incidents referred to took place while he was a college student. He stated W. Hartford Department advised him what to do in order to meet the requirements of a police officer and to take extra precautions to be a safe person.

Mr. Meraviglia added he has learned from mistakes made and knowing he must be honest with regard to his background, knowing where the rejection comes from and wanting to change the outcome of the process. He stated recently he started EMT classes and has also improved his physical well being.

Mr. Meraviglia stated he realizes the effect the past has had and felt that where he is at this time would make him a significant addition to any police force adding he has done whatever he could to improve his character.

Chief Mello stated he empathizes with Mr. Meraviglia and feels he has the potential to be a good officer but at this time it is necessary to err with the side of caution and he felt at this time there needs to be more distance from his past. He stated in the 2011 polygraph in W. Hartford it was felt Mr. Meraviglia was not truthful in his responses regarding past issues.

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Mr. Meraviglia explained he was not sure what triggered the falsification but referred to past incidents involving smoking illegal substance in 2006 and felt by not explaining that was what was reflected as a falsification. He stated since that time he has had polygraphs and they have not come up with any issue of deception on any level.

Comm. Wanosky asked if a polygraph was given here in Milford and Chief Mello explained because of the expense involved our Department shares polygraph reports.

Chief Mello referred to the individual's admission to being intoxicated and driving a motor vehicle while being intoxicated within a previous 12 month time frame. He stated police officers are subject to high scrutiny as well as a Chief being subject to that same level of scrutiny regarding who he hires.

Mr. Meraviglia stated he realized there is nothing he can do regarding the deception issue with the polygraph.

Chief Mello explained all applicants must adhere to the same standards and advised Mr. Meraviglia to rectify the deception issue, put distance between the drinking episodes and the application process and stay on the right track. He added the fact that he came to this meeting and was willing to have this discussion shows a lot and although he could not offer any guarantee, he felt he would be happy to reconsider his application in a year.

Mr. Meraviglia stated he appreciates the consideration and guidance given to him and although he was disappointed in the outcome he feels at some point he will be a very efficient, responsible and truthful police officer and will do everything he can to prove that.

It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to uphold the Chief's recommendation of rejecting the conditional job offer to Bryan Meraviglia.

Comm. Faruolo added she would like to see him come back in the future.

Comm. Candido noted to Mr. Meraviglia that Chief Mello had done him a great favor adding the Chief is a man of his word and had given him good advice.

Motion carried unanimously.

a. Appeal of rejection of conditional job offer by Joseph Berthiaume - Chief Mello noted this individual had not responded as to whether or not he would be attending this meeting and he distributed report reflecting polygraph issues and stated that was the basis for rejection of conditional job offer.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Candido to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation to reject conditional job offer for Joseph Berthiaume. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

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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 Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:02 p.m. for the following matter:

c. Final quarterly probationary review – Officer Stephen Noss

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

[Note: Ald. Vetro, Mr. Mead and members of the public left at 8:02 p.m.)

Officer Noss left Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to reconvene in public session at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Candido to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary