

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2017  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Commissioner Richard Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Richard Smith, Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein.

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Jerald Wanosky, Alberta Jagoe

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Keith Mello, M. Krusewski, Secty, D/Chief Kenneth Rahn, Capt. Brandon Marschner

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – NONE**

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Sue Jarew from Citizen Police Academy alumni spoke about a recent DARE graduation that Sgt. Delmonte was in charge of. She spoke about what a great program this is and what a wonderful graduation that was presented. The CPA assisted with details of the graduation
- Barbara Carissimi spoke and also complimented our DARE program and the CPA Volunteers who helped out. She felt that Sgt. Delmonte was a wonderful asset to our department.
- John Carissimi spoke and commented about how dedicated the CPA graduates are. He talked about the various events we have planned for April.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commission Rubenstein to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Chief Mello shared a letter from Webster Bank thanking Officers Kenton Brooks, Karen Banks, Stephen Napolitano, Cory Onofrio and Sgt. Gary Todice who assisted Stratford PD with a bank robbery suspect that was quickly apprehended.

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- A letter from Kim Thompson was read. She is currently enrolled in the Civilian Police Academy and had great praise for our program. She praised Capt. Vaughan Dumas, PFC Luke Holder and Officer Kyle Magnan with whom she did a ride along. She also praised Officer Bothwell for her handling of an accident that she recently was involved in.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.**

- a. \$30.00 donation from Debra Gambardella. This money was donated at a car seat Inspection clinic.  
It was moved by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to approve depositing this donation into our DARE donation account. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. \$200 donation from Milford Lions Club for DARE program.  
It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to accept this donation for the DARE account. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Donation from Milford Prevention Council – Drug Take Back program  
It was moved by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to accept the donation. Chief Mello explained that we purchased the drug take back box and that the Milford Prevention Council is reimbursing us \$1045.00 for this.
- d. Safe Driving Awards for Officer Kathleen Bruno and Det. William Haas. This was informational only.

**e. Chief General Comments**

Chief Mello briefly discussed the Safe Driving award program. He explained that it was intended to stop officers from unsafe driving practices.

Chief Mello discussed the Mayors budget reduction plan. He presented the Mayor with the scenario for a 2%, 3% and 5% budget reduction plan. Commission Bergami said that these cuts sounded rather drastic. Chief Mello agreed. A brief discussion was held about the state budget and the City budget which will be set before the State sets their budget.

Chief Mello mentioned that because of the hiring freeze, we were unable to hire a very good lateral transfer police officer from another department. That officer is now possibly being hired by West Haven. A lateral transfer is a cost savings to us as a new recruit takes over 10 months before they are actually on the road. He was hoping that we could fill our vacancy after July 1<sup>st</sup>. He commented that he understands the position the City is in.

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Chief Mello discussed the new building update. RFQs were issued today for the architectural services. Then we will have an RFQ for the construction manager. We are moving forward on the purchase of the land.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none**

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commission Rubenstein 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.

Commissioner Faruolo asked a question on the Traffic Division report. The Chief explained how we receive parking revenue and fines. Commissioner Faruolo was concerned about parking issues downtown.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

**10. NEW BUSINESS- none**

**11. COMMENDATIONS**

- a. **Certificate of Commendation** (Civilian) John O'Rourke. Mr. O'Rourke risked his life to save two individuals who fell through the ice at Mondo Pond on 2/5/17. When Officers arrived, he was in waist deep water trying to save a male who was surrounded by ice and could not get out of the water.
- b. **Meritorious Service Medal** for Officer Peter Hoff and Detective Stephen Noss. During the above ice rescue, Officers Hoff and Noss arrived at the scene, throwing a flotation device to the individuals in the water. Officer Hoff walked out onto the ice to deploy the device finally getting the device around the individual.
- c. **Unit Citation** for Officers Erek Robinson, David Bodnar and Sgt. Zeaneth McNemar who assisted in the above ice rescue, forming a human chain to get the individuals out of the water.

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**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.**

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to Adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 for the following matters:

1. Grievance #2-2017 at Step #2
2. Grievance #3-2017 at Step #2
3. Internal Investigation

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to reconvene in public session at 8:20. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to uphold the Chief's denial of the two above grievances. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Marcia Krusewski  
April 13, 2017