

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

Chrmn. Giles entertained a motion to add item “6d” to the agenda, “Consideration of a Donation for Long Rifles.” A motion was so made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Wanosky and carried unanimously.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo; Carlton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; L. Stock, Secty; J. Toohey, Board of Aldermen

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS**

- a. Officer Andrew Dunaj promoted to Sergeant effective 4/21/09.

Chief Mello stated that Officer Dunaj was promoted to Sergeant, but he does not have to be sworn in by the Commission.

Comm. Wanosky asked what an officer has to do to become a Sergeant. Chief Mello explained that a test is given every other year. An officer has to have at least 5 years on the department before he can take the test, which is given by consultants. 40 to 45% of those that pass then take an oral exam which is given by officers of other departments. The two scores are combined for a determined score. The department has to promote in order, i.e., first, second and third highest scores. The Chief has no input at all. However, a top performing officer may be passed over if he is not high on the list and unfortunately an officer who scored high on the list but may have several disciplinary actions against him, may be promoted instead.

Comm. Wanosky hoped that this procedure could be changed during contract negotiations. Chief Mello noted that he is working on a contract proposal; however, they have not as yet entered into negotiations.

Comm. Eisenhandler questioned if a member of the Commission could be present during negotiations, not to participate, but just be a presence. Chief Mello responded that that is a question for the Mayor. Currently, the Chief is the representative. There are also two attorneys, the personnel director and the union representative.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Chrmn. Giles noted that Ald. Vetro was not present as he was attending a wake, however, in his place was Ald. Judith Toohey. Ald. Toohey informed the Commission

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that she would be attending the meetings with Ald. Vetro. She distributed paperwork to the Commission that was also distributed to all departments involved with the parking at Gulf Beach. She stated she was very happy to be at the meeting but unfortunately she had to leave by 8:00 P.M. in order to attend another meeting.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting. The motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

A letter thanking the department for their support was received by the West Haven Police Chief and Deputy Chief. One of their officers, Andy Sanchez, passed away of cancer at an early age and Milford provided escorts and covered some of their patrols.

A woman from Colorado sent a letter thanking the department for performing a welfare check on a relative. Everything turned out fine; the relative's phone had been off the hook.

The Wilton Police thanked Lt. Gary Compare for his services on their oral exam for Sergeant.

Computrace Software commended Det. Frawley on his computer investigation wherein he located a computer that was stolen from Sacred Heart Academy.

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

- a. Consideration of donation by Richard Conine for Citizens Police Academy

It was noted by Chief Mello that Richard Conine donated \$500.00 to be used toward the next year's Citizen's Police Academy.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to gratefully accept this donation. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Faruolo.

- b. Informational: Lt. Kenneth Walewski will retire effective 5/29/09.

Chief Mello stated Lt. Walewski will retire at the end of the month. In response to Chrmn. Giles, he noted that the Lieutenant will go to work for Sikorsky's.

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- c. Accident Free Mileage Award to Officer Mark Thornberg.

Chief Mello stated Off. Thornberg has completed 25,000 accident free miles and will be awarded 8 hours accumulated time.

- d. Consideration of donation by Richard Conine and Thomas Beirne for Long Rifles

It was noted by Chief Mello that Richard Conine donated \$7,000.00 and Thomas Beirne donated \$500.00 for long rifles. It seems that Mr. Beirne saw the Chief on television explaining to the Board of Aldermen that these patrol rifles were needed for the department. With these donated funds, there will now be a long rifle in each patrol vehicle. The Chief further noted that last year the department received a \$6,000 donation from the family of William Garfield, which paid for four rifles.

A motion to gratefully accept these donations was made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Wanosky and unanimously carried.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS**

None

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Youth Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. Detective Bureau Cases Report
- e. General Highway Safety Summary

Chrmn. Giles stated he would accept a blanket motion on items 8a-e.

Comm. Wanosky moved to accept reports “a” through “e.” The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Marrone.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

None

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**11. COMMENDATIONS**

None

At 7:14 P.M., Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following items. The motion was seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND HEALTH OR DISMISSAL OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES**

- a. Probationary Reviews – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter review for Officers Vincent Senatore, Sean Degnan, Gary McDonnell, Matthew Mello, Michael Cruz, Richard Pisani, Garon Delmonte and Emily Sopchak.
- b. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.

The Commission left Executive Session at 7:40 P.M., at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to uphold the disciplinary recommendation of the Chief of Police. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to adjourn at 7:41 P.M. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

Respectfully submitted,

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Linda Stock, Secretary