

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2014
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Carol Faruolo, Richard Smith,

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Mooney, Ald. Vetro, Mr. Mead (P & Z) and D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - Chief Mello introduced Officers Steve Carney and Courtney Bothwell who were present to be sworn in as regular Officers. Vice Chrmn Bergami administered the oath to both officers.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- J. Carissimi – 64 Kirkland – spoke on behalf of the Board of the Wildemere Beach Association and noted recently there was a parking situation in the area and our officers took care of the matter and handled it very nicely.
- Ald. Vetro – expressed his concern regarding calls he has received related to vehicles that have tinted windows. He noted after receiving the calls he began to notice the numerous vehicles with tinted windows. He stated that it must be difficult for police officers to have the ability to see inside the vehicle.

Chief Mello explained there is a law against tinted windows but he added it is necessary for an officer to have a tint meter in order to enforce that law. He explained that back in the early '80's there were 2 men who stole a car, drove to New Haven and kidnapped a woman, sexually assaulted that woman and while driving through Milford an officer stopped them asking they put their lights on when the car took off and led officers on a speedy chase into Bridgeport where they were once again stopped and the woman in the car screamed alerting the officers. The two men were arrested and subsequently the officers expressed their concern about the tinted windows. He noted that former Lt. Graham developed a bill which eventually was passed into law and that law still exists but it still remains difficult to enforce without a light meter.

- E. Mead – P & Z Liaison – expressed his concern regarding the traffic flow and pattern in downtown, specifically when he was turning from Daniel St. left on to River Street and a car exited the driveway on River Street turning the wrong way on the one way street. Chief Mello explained the department has made an informal recommendation that the light on the corner of River and New Haven Avenue be changed to emphasize it is a one way street. He noted the department is aware of the numerous times drivers drive the wrong way in that small stretch of River Street.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- M. Palmer, Chief of Police, Brielle, NJ – commended Det. Sgt Bassett who assisted in an ongoing theft investigation noting that through his hard work the investigation was completed and the department appreciates Det. Sgt. Bassett’s professionalism and dedication.
- George Hunihan – resident – noted that recently his family came under a cyber attack; however thanks to the quick and professional response of Sgt. Dunn, Lt. Weymer and Officer Kranyak the matter was taken care of. He commended the officers for their efforts and professionalism.
- Laurel Beach Association – took the opportunity to commend the Police Department for their efforts and presence during the long and challenging winter months when our residents felt safe and secure. Further, the residents in the community support our Milford Police Dept and look forward to continuing our partnership with the Dept.
- Fran Thompson, Principal, Jonathan Law High School – on behalf of the school’s family, he took the opportunity to thank the Chief and the Milford Police Department for their caring and support in recent weeks. Specifically the support and presence of Sgt. Vitti, Officer Taylor and School Resource Officer Kiely who have touched our hearts during such difficult days. He further noted they have shown the family at JLHS clearly how joy can be found in the darkest of situations.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Removal of Anthony’s High Tech and DJ’s Service Center from Tow list – Chief Mello recommended this item be removed from the agenda and the Commission take no action as they will be reinstated to the Tow List as their recent court case was nollied.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn Bergami to remove from the agenda removal of Anthony’s High Tech and DJ’s Service Center from Tow List as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. K9 Equipment Grant from CT Workdog Association – Chief Mello explained the Department had received a \$500 grant to purchase canine equipment and he recommended acceptance of the grant.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept the \$500 grant for K9 Equipment from CT Workdog Association as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

c. K9 dog toys donation from Cub Scout Pack 196 – Chief Mello explained Cubmaster Peter Ziegler (Live Oaks School Cub Scout Troop 196) donated a bag of dog toys (\$46.76 value) in appreciation of an officer and K-9 presence at a troop meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the K9 dog toys donation from Cub Scout Pack 196. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Donation from Michael Afromowitz – Chief Mello explained this \$25 donation came about from a car seat inspection and Chief recommended the donation be applied to the DARE account.

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It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept the \$25 donation from Michael Afromowitz and apply the donation to the DARE account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief took the opportunity to inform the Commissioners that he is hopeful to have a future Police Commission Meeting at the Simon Lake School in order for the Board to see what has been accomplished there and he will hope to schedule that next month if there is a full Board present.

Also, he explained the Department is retiring two dogs and will be putting two new dogs on; however, they are looking for donations to purchase the dogs. He stated the dogs cost approximately \$7,000-8,000 each.

Both Vice Chrmn Bergami and Comm. Rubinstein offered donations to be applied to the purchase of the dogs.

Chief Mello stated that Officer Covelli and Officer Owens will be the dog handlers for the new dogs, adding that Officer Covelli will be the 1st female officer to serve as dog handler in this Department.

In another matter Chief Mello reported the Board of Aldermen recently passed an ordinance which places the Animal Control Division of the city within the auspices of the Police Dept. Chief Mello added he was extremely pleased with this decision and he stated this was something he insisted on when the ordinance was being developed by our City Attorney. He added he is looking forward to working with that division to provide them assistance and guidance when needed and looks forward to a good working relationship.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. C&G Milford LLC, Proposed Commercial Development – 1595-1645 Boston Post Rd – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding C&G Milford LLC, Proposed Commercial Development – 1595-1645 Boston Post Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Commercial Use of 23 Meadows End Road – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding commercial use of 23 Meadows End Road. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Proposed Doughnut Shop – 1080 Bridgeport Ave – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding proposed Doughnut Shop – 1080 Bridgeport Ave for purposes of discussion.

Chrmn. Jagoe noted Comm. Faruolo could not be present but she did send an email to Chief Mello and Chrmn. Jagoe noting her concern regarding the entrance/exit which is very near the traffic light and she is concerned about traffic problems which will occur. Further Comm. Faruolo questioned if it was possible to have another entrance/exit on Clark Street.

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Comm. Rubinstein noted when this was originally configured there was a curb cut for an exit but when the road was reconfigured and when subsequent bridge work was done by the state it was not included.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chrmn. Jagoe added she was hopeful that P & Z will give this request careful consideration when it comes before them.

d. 701 North St – Stone Preserve Subdivision – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 701 North St – Stone Preserve Subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Dredging in Housatonic River – 734 Naugatuck Ave. – It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Dredging in Housatonic River – 734 Naugatuck Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Wanosky added the officers who are doing these reports should be commended for doing such a complete and good job on the reports.

Chief Mello assured Comm. Wanosky that his comments will be shared with the officers.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve the following reports:

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

Comm. Wanosky asked Chief Mello what the Diversion Program was and Chief explained the Department had received funding through a grant which diverts young people away from juvenile court and their matters are handled directly at the Milford Police Dept. He noted that other resources and services are brought in to try to solve the issues and problems facing the youths. Further, upon completion of the program and attendance at subsequent meetings the charges are dropped and the youngster does not have to go to court.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request 2 new handicapped parking spaces – 625 Bridgeport Ave - It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the request for 2 new handicapped parking spaces – 625 Bridgeport Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS

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a. Letter of Recognition – 2 Officers – Chief Mello requested this matter be removed from the agenda at this time and considered in the near future. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to remove from the agenda Letter of Recognition – 2 Officers. Motion carried unanimously.

Prior to adjourning, Comm. Rubinstein took the opportunity to commend Chief Mello and the Milford Police Department as once again two high impact incidents occurred in Milford and this Department served the city well.

12. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

a. Final probationary rating and swearing in for two Officers – previously acted on.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn at 7:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk, June 10, 2014