

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2010  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen; D. Candido, Secty.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to add to the agenda items 6.e Anonymous Donation of \$15 and 6.f. \$25 Donation from Debbie Capozziello. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none**

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Ald. Vetro spoke on behalf of the group of people present and explained those present represented the members of the first graduating class of the Citizens Police Academy and they wanted to thank Chief Mello and staff for the wonderful job they did training the class. To further show their appreciation, the group presented Chief Mello with a \$700 check which included \$100 from American Automobile Association (AAA).

Fran Mayko of AAA thanked the department for their kindness and cooperation in working with them for the child safety passenger seat program. She stated the \$100 donation from AAA was not a large amount but signified their appreciation and hopes to keep the safety program going. She also noted that with the help of the department, AAA will soon reach 10,000 child safety seat installations.

Both Chrmn Giles and Chief Mello thanked Mrs. Mayko and other attendees for their donation.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to add to the agenda item 6.g. \$700 Donation from the first graduating class of the Citizens Police Academy, including \$100 from AAA of Southern CT. Motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

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Debbie Capozziello - thanked Officer Robinson for his assistance in moving a family member from a nursing home. She added his kindness and gentleness with the incident will never be forgotten. Her correspondence also included a \$25 donation.

Joseph Jeffrey, West Haven resident – thanked the two officers who were on patrol on New Haven Avenue when recently he was involved in a road rage incident. He explained that as a cyclist they are often faced with this type of action; however when the matter was brought to the attention of the officers, they were professional and courteous. He stated after later checking with the patrol desk he believed one of the officers who came to his aid was Officer Lugo.

Special Olympics Chili Fest Event Organizers – expressed their appreciation to Lt. Compare, Officers Kranyak, Guifoyle, Nielsen and Sgt. Vitti for their assistance in the chili fest fundraising event.

Letter of appreciation and also commending Sgt. Simko and Officer Weymer for their professional and courteous assistance with a family member who recently passed on.

John Buturla, Chief of Police, Stratford – thanked members of the department for their assistance in handling a difficult and dangerous situation which occurred at carnival in Stratford. Large crowds and multiple physical altercations led to the decision to call for mutual aid of officers from bordering towns. Upon the arrival of this assistance, the situation was quickly under control.

Cathie Garfield – commended Chief Mello and the department for the special awards night reception which meant so much to her. She added she was pleased that Sgt. Vitti was the 1<sup>st</sup> recipient of the Bill Garfield Award because she felt he truly represented what Bill Garfield stood for.

Elizabeth Valentino, resident – commending Officer Ruggiero who assisted in a May 2010 incident noting he was sensitive to the situation and followed through with the investigation.

D. A. Ronan, Capt. USCG, Commander, Sector Long Island Sound – thanked members of the department for taking part in the open house held in at the Coast Guard facility in Milford on May 15, 2010. He added the officer's presence was essential to the success of the program.

Roy Sebas, resident – complimented Officer Mills who recently took the opportunity to talk with him regarding precautions family members can take when they are away from their home.

Robt. Brennan, scoutmaster – thanked Det. Gall, Sgt. Carney and Officer Kranyak for their help when the boy scout troop recently toured headquarters. He added the scouts were working on their fingerprinting badge and the officers help and presence created a fine impression on the scouts.

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Alex Manifold – referred to an incident at SBC in mid-April at which time he was present. He explained he was visiting the U.S. from another country, was at the restaurant late in the evening and admittedly was intoxicated and became offensive. His actions did bring about his arrest and he subsequently was writing to apologize for those actions.

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

a. Walnut Beach Association Donation to Police Canine Fund – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the \$100 donation from the Walnut Beach Association to be applied to the Police Canine Fund.

Chief Mello explained that canines are purchased with donations not with city funds and the cost of one dog is approximately \$2,500.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. \$50 donation from St. Mary's Guild – Chief Mello stated that it had been requested this donation be put into the next Citizens Police Academy Fund which is also funded by donations and not city funds.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the \$50 donation from St. Mary's Guild and apply it to the next Citizens Police Academy Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Consideration of the 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant – Chief Mello explained this grant is determined by the Dept. of Justice and he requested the grant money be applied to the purchase of a License Plate Reading (LPR) System which has the ability to record license plate characters (5,000 in one hour) and compares that data with "hot sheets" for various crimes, subsequently putting alerts out to departments if necessary. Chief Mello added that as President of the So. Central Chiefs Association, he has asked for a regional server to be put in and that request is being considered. This grant funding would allow for the purchase of one system. Chief Mello also stated he will continue to seek out grant money for this type of equipment and not use any city money for such purchases.

Chrmn. Giles asked if a new car is needed for this system and he was told that it will be placed in one of the present department vehicles but all officers will be trained to use this software.

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Comm. Faruolo asked how many systems Milford will get if it is possible to go through a regional system and she was told a data sharing system will be considered.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to apply the 2010 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to the purchase of a License Plate Reading (LPR) System as recommended by the Chief. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Accident Free Mileage awards to Officers Haas, Musante and J. O'Keefe – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to award eight hours comp time for accident free mileage to Officers Haas, Musante and J. O'Keefe. Motion carried unanimously.

e. \$15 Anonymous Donation – Chief Mello explained this donation was made by an individual who participated in the child safety seat program.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to accept the \$15 anonymous donation to be applied to the DARE Program Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

f. \$25 donation from Debbie Capozziello – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the \$25 donation from Debbie Capozziello and apply it to the Dare Program Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

g. \$700 donation from the 1<sup>st</sup> Graduating Class of the Citizens Police Academy including a \$100 donation from AAA of Southern CT. – Ald. Vetro interjected that the donation should be used at the discretion of Chief Mello but the members of the class were impressed with the canine unit in particular.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$700 donation, including \$100 from AAA of Southern CT, and apply it to the Canine Unite. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello reported that Officer Lima and his canine came in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the New England Regional Competition and will be competing in the nationals in Louisiana.

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

a. Comm. Wanosky and Comm. Faruolo made and seconded a motion to approve the Special Permit Application – Gabrielli Truck Sales Redevelopment – 401 Old Gate Lane. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

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- 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 noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept reports A through E as presented

Comm. Wanosky referred to the Youth Bureau Report and noted an increase in the number of drug possessions.

Chief Mello explained it appears that the numbers have increased but this is the first year that age 16 is the cut off age and they are now referred to juvenile courts.

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Sight Survey – Lawrence Avenue and Welches Point Rd. – It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the Sight Survey, Lawrence Avenue and Welches Point Rd.

Comm. Faruolo referred to the report noting the fence at this location is in violation and she asked if that is the case why are we not dealing with the fence issue and not the shrub adding since it is the fence it is the property owners responsibility to take it down. She stated she did not understand why, if they are not obeying the laws, it is not being dealt with.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe expressed her concern with cutting down any further trees.

Comm. Eisenhandler and Comm. Marrone withdrew their original motion.

It was subsequently moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to table this matter until further input is received from Planning & Zoning. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Stop sign request – Hamlet Drive/Castle Lane – Mayor Richetelli – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the Traffic Dept. recommendation regarding Hamlet Drive/Castle Lane. Motion carried unanimously.

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c. Sight Line survey, speeding vehicles – Pond Point Rd/Welches Point Road Mayor Richetelli – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the Sight Line Survey regarding speeding vehicles, Pond Point/Welches Point.

Motion carried unanimously

**11. COMMENDATIONS - none**

**12. 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 seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive session at 7:35 p.m. for the following:

a. Discussion to consider entering in to a re-employment agreement with Keith Mello to serve as Chief.

b. Consideration of the performance of three officers

Motion carried unanimously.

In attendance in executive session were the Commissioners, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier.

[Ald. Vetro left at 7:35 p.m.]

Deputy Chief Fournier left Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

Chrmn. Giles reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:00 p.m.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold the discipline of three officer as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to enter into a re-employment agreement, as written, with Keith Mello to serve as Chief.

Comm. Faruolo stated it is with great pleasure that we are able to enter into this agreement. She added it was a unanimous decision of the commission and she is glad for the city and for the Board.

Chrmn. Giles echoed her comments.

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Vice Chrmn. Jagoe stated she is glad the Chief will remain for several years.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Diane Candido, Secretary