

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

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

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

- a. Appointment as Probationary Officers for the following: Officer Richard Mahoney and Officer Christopher Lennon. All probationary appointments retroactive to July 10, 2009.

Chief Mello noted that these officers had completed their training at the Waterbury Police Academy retroactive to July 10, 2009. He asked that the officers introduce themselves, after which they were sworn in as probationary officers by Comm. Bergami. The officers were congratulated by the remainder of Commission members.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

S. Rutherford, N. Kirschner and J. Porter, Project Managers from VHB of Middletown were present to address the Chase Bank project (item 7 b).

Mr. Kirschner explained that the bank is planned at the former site of the Dakota Restaurant on the Boston Post Road and includes a double drive through and a full bypass with an exterior circular driveway. He referred to Sgt. Shirow's comments specifically regarding the traffic entering east to west and he stated he would address specific issues regarding that recommendation when the matter came up on the agenda. He also noted that their biggest conflict is the planned width of the driveway entrance noting that Sgt. Shirow's recommendation for a 24 foot driveway conflicts with the recommendation of the Fire Marshalls.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe noted that the report in the Commissioner's packet referred to traffic entering west to east which was not in agreement with Mr. Kirschner's earlier explanation.

Mr. Kirschner corrected his statement and agreed it would be west to east as noted in the written recommendation.

Chief Mello asked if the project manager staff members had any follow-up conversation with Sgt. Shirow regarding their concerns and he was told that Sgt. Shirow is aware of their opinion on the matter.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Ms. Rutherford continued to explain that they would prefer to maintain the 28 foot driveway width as planned and recommended by the Fire Dept. specifically to accommodate emergency apparatus. She also referred to the recommended one-way traffic pattern which she felt would be inviting the public to ignore angled parking and would provide for further conflicts.

Chief Mello stated that unfortunately his staff did not know the project managers had planned to be at this meeting and therefore there was no one available to further discuss the recommendations. Based on that, he suggested tabling this matter until next month at which time further input from Sgt. Shirow or someone in the Traffic Division could be provided.

Ms. Rutherford noted they were scheduled to meet with Planning & Zoning on 8/4/09 which is prior to the next regular meeting of this Commission.

Chief Mello explained to the Commissioners that in the past he has been authorized to make a decision on such matters in order for the matter to move forward in a timely fashion.

Alderman Phil Vetro, 4th District, stated he had been contacted by Pam Maselli of 939 Naugatuck Avenue regarding her request for a stop sign to be considered in the area of her residence. He explained that he suggested her concerns be brought forward to the Traffic Division but in the interim he would speak to this Commission on her behalf.

Chief Mello felt this area of concern might have been looked at in the past but he assured Ald. Vetro that someone from the department would contact Ms. Maselli.

Ald. Vetro also brought forward the concerns of a constituent who resided on Dixon Street in the Woodmont area. He explained the concerns of this woman regarding a camper that is hooked up to a pick up truck noting the truck/trailer has been parked on the street for approximately 4 years. He stated the woman questioned if this is an enforceable issue and who would have the responsibility to hear her comments as well as her request for placement of "No Parking" signs in the area.

Ald. Vetro added both the trailer and the truck are registered vehicles and are in good working order.

Chief Mello noted there had been a number of similar complaints about this trailer/truck but since it is legally parked, it can remain on the roadway. He stated in the past the owner of the vehicles periodically moved the vehicle small distances just to satisfy the requests made of him.

Chief Mello stated the department does not place restrictions in front of someone's home based on one individual request.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Further, he stated the Commission need not be reminded that the size of the department has been reduced by three people which has resulted in staffing cuts in the Traffic Division. Based on that, some issues and requests (i.e. traffic studies) could be delayed.

Comm. Faruolo asked if the vehicle is blocking any driveway or obstructing vision and could that be a criteria for further pursuing this. Chief Mello stated it was not blocking or obstructing vision.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe noted this vehicle is parked in the area of the city's Recreation Dept. and Library and she felt a "No Parking" zone is warranted.

Chief Mello stated he will have the matter looked into again and he added there are other issues that might take precedence based on staffing needs.

Ald. Vetro stated even a limited parking zone would be a great help since it would require the owner of the vehicle to move it on a regular basis.

Chief Mello stated his department understands the homeowner's frustrations with regard to the parked vehicle but the full cooperation of the owner of the vehicle is also necessary.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion to reorder the agenda was made by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe in order to bring item 7. b Chase Bank – 1651 Boston Post Rd. – new construction to this point in the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

In light of the previous discussion and comments, it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to table this matter allowing Chief Mello to use his judgment in making a decision after follow-up with Sgt. Shirow in order for this matter to be brought to the Planning and Zoning Board at their August meeting.

Comm. Wanosky expressed his concern with that recommendation and felt this board should formally take action on the matter.

Chief Mello explained that in the past a matter has been revisited by staff and the P & Z Committee of this board followed by a telephone vote based on the Chief's updated recommendation. He added that if the matter was not approved with that vote, the developer would be asked to come back with a remedy to the situation.

Chrmn. Giles asked what the hardship would be if we asked VHB staff to come back to this Commission in September.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chief Mello explained he did not know what the rationale is with regard to the Fire Marshall's recommendation; however he felt the matters raised earlier need to be discussed and verified.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and Comm. Faruolo amended their motion to include the statement this item be tabled until the Commission's August meeting allowing Chief Mello to obtain further clarification. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello suggested that one of the Project Managers contact him prior to this Commission's August 10th meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

A letter was received from Robert Malaby of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division, commending Det. Huggins and his canine, Kilmer. Mr. Malaby noted that Det. Huggins and his canine have provided valuable assistance to the Boston Narcotics Division and he noted the Det. Huggins proficient handling of his canine reaches further than the Inspection Services expectations. Mr. Malaby noted his department looks forward to continuing this valuable working relationship.

Lynne Connors, resident, thanked and commended the department for their continuing efforts to keep our citizens safe and their quick and professional response.

A number of e-mails were received from residents in the Wildemere Beach area asking for more concentrated resources in the Broadway area.

Chief Mello stated he has attended the Walnut Beach Association meeting and will be attending the Wildemere Beach Association meeting later this week.

A thank you note was received from the officers of the Walnut Beach Association for the department's and Chief Mello's participation in their June meeting.

A complimentary letter was received from Linda Stock regarding her recent participation in the Citizens Police Academy. She stated the Academy was a valuable experience which enlightened her awareness for a new facility for the department and a renewed respect for the officers and staff of the department. She noted she particularly enjoyed the "ride along" opportunity with Officer Kranyak.

Chief Mello extended an invitation to the Commissioners to also do a "ride along" with a police officer and if they were interested they should contact his office to make arrangements.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Several letters of appreciation were received from Debbie Horne, Director of Development, Special Olympics of CT thanking a number of officers who participated in the Annual Special Olympics Torch Run.

Jerilyn Fry, resident, commended Officer Salati professionalism with regard to a call to her home for a domestic matter.

Dianne Marcinov, of Quest Diagnostics, commended Officer Degnan for his kind and professional demeanor when he pulled her over for using her cell phone while driving. She stated she is proud that he is serving Milford.

As an aside, Chief Mello directed comments to four e-mails received regarding speeding on Hawley Avenue and the wonderful job our officers do in dealing and enforcing that problem. He added this matter will be brought forward at the Commission's August meeting.

Maggie Goodwin and Barbara Zink of the Junior Women's Club of Milford send a letter of appreciation to the Police Department for their assistance with the Touch A Truck Fundraising Program and for supplying a truck for the children to climb upon. They also noted that with the department's assistance, they were able to reach their fundraising goal.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Consideration of suspension of West Shore Motors from Rotational Tow List – Chief Mello explained that the department has had a number of issues with West Shore Motors and when questioned about past deficiencies they could not provide an acceptable excuse. He recommended a one week suspension from the Rotational Tow List.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to uphold the recommendation of Chief Mello regarding a one week suspension of West Shore Motors from the Rotational Tow List. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Consideration of deposit of \$36.60 in unclaimed money to Police Sick and Relief Fund – It was the recommendation of Chief Mello to deposit this unclaimed money to the Police Sick and Relief Fund.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to uphold the recommendation of Chief Mello regarding deposit of \$36.60 in unclaimed money to Police Sick and Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Approval of two JAG (Justice Assistance Grants) for Milford Police Department – Chief Mello explained that by securing the funding from these two grants would assist in the Wildemere/Walnut Beach area security issues. He

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

explained that the issues in that area seem to intensify during the summer months and the department's strategy would be to place camera systems in the public areas for further security. He noted that several years ago the department was awarded grant money for cameras which observed public areas such as behind the library, City Hall or the area outside the courthouse. The deadline for one grant is 9/1/09 and that is in the amount of \$18,609 and the second grant deadline is 8/26/09 and that is in the amount of \$30,000. Chief Mello felt the city should be notified of the grant award in approximately 6 months.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to use the funds from these grants, if approved, as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello added that acceptance of this funding must come from the Board of Aldermen.

d. Informational – Milford Police Department Annual Report 2008/2009. Comm. Wanosky and Vice Chrmn. Jagoe commended the Chief and his staff for this comprehensive report. Chief Mello explained the report was prepared by Deputy Chief Fournier and three of his staff members.

Chrmn. Giles asked Chief Mello when might he receive feedback regarding the Building Assessment Report.

Chief Mello explained former Chief Flaherty previously authorized funding for a study on this facility and the outcome of that was for a new building. He stated that at this time the Needs Assessment Study is being completed with the professional assistance of a group that is doing a very thorough job.

Comm. Faruolo asked if the department receives state reimbursement for building projects and Chief Mello stated in some areas there is stimulus funding and if that is available they will pursue it.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. Rolling Meadows of Milford – Affordable Housing – 183 Quarry Rd (90 Heenan Drive) – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the Traffic Division's recommendation regarding Rolling Meadows of Milford.

Comm. Bergami stated he reviewed the plans and expressed concern regarding the two roads and the elevation grades.

Chief Mello referred to the modification addressing that issue.

Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

- b. Chase Bank – 1651 Boston Post Rd. – new construction – tabled until August meeting.

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 noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept reports “a” through “e” as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chief Mello explained the bicycle patrol officer for Milford center has been removed and the area will be covered by a patrol car and the Traffic Division will do traffic enforcement. He stated he was hopeful that the adjustments made would be short term.

Chrmn. Giles asked if the bicycle patrol would be used for special events and he was told it would.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. COMMENDATIONS

None

At 8:02 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried by roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss the consideration of sick time hardship for one employee and consideration of the performance of two employees. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain.

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

- a. Consideration of sick time hardship for one employee.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY JULY 13, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

- b. Consideration of the performance of two employees.

The Commission left Executive Session at 8:05 P.M., at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to uphold the recommendation of the Chief of Police regarding the sick time hardship for one employee which is to be monitored by the Chief; and the performance of two employees. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to add to the agenda consideration of Grievance 1-2009. Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:06 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried by roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss the consideration of Grievance 1-2009. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain.

The Commission left Executive Session at 8:28 P.M., at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to deny Grievance 1-2009 at Step 3. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

Comm. Wanosky moved to adjourn at 8:28 P.M. The motion was seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary