

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: C. Giles

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

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

A motion was made by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to add to the agenda item 10 a. Request from Mayor's Office for crosswalk at Evergreen and Gulf Street. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Linda Stock, on behalf of the Republican Women of Milford – attended the meeting with other members of the group to present Vader a get well basket of treats and toys in hopes that he is doing well after the recent incident in which he and three officers were treated for injuries suffered in result of a police matter.

Vader, who was also present, happily greeted the guests and accepted his basket.

Chief Mello stated the gift donation would be accepted later in the meeting.

A motion was made by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to add to the agenda the donation from the Republican Women of Milford, a gift basket for canine, Vader. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Rubinstein, 38 Bayshore Drive (Owner of Chip's Auto Sales) – explained in 1996 he donated money for the department's canine unit never expecting to remain involved in that aspect of the department. However, over time he still remains interested and based on his personal interest and involvement he has made a \$1,000 donation to the canine fund.

Chief Mello noted that Mr. Rubinstein, Duchess Restaurant and Arnold Peck Property World have donated to the K9 vest program as well. He took the opportunity to thank Mr. Rubinstein for these donations. Chief Mello added that the department's canine are purchased only through donation and not through city funds.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
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Mr. Rubinstein stated he strongly believes in what the canine does for the department and he noted that Milford's department is known statewide for their officer/canine work.

6. Consideration of report of Chief on Matters of Administration

a. Donation of \$1,000 for canine fund - In light of the fact that both Mrs. Stock and Mr. Rubinstein were still present at the meeting, a motion was made by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to accept the donation of \$1,000 for the canine fund by Chip Rubinstein – Chips Auto Sales. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Donation for K9 Vest program - A motion was made by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the donations from Chips Auto Sales, Duchess Restaurant and Arnold Pecks Property World for the K9 Vest program. Motion carried unanimously.

c. \$30 donation from Car Seat Inspection Clinic – Chief Mello explained that Officer Salati conducted a car seat clinic at which time she received \$30 in donations for the department's program

A motion was made by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the donation of \$30 received from the Car Seat Inspection clinic. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Donation from Target for Citizens Academy – A motion was made by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the \$1,000 grant donation from Target for future Citizens Academy. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Donation of Gift Basket for Vader – A motion was made by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept the gift basket from the Republican Women of Milford for Vader. Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 9, 2010 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

Email from Ian Boyd commending Officer Frith for the investigating of an incident at his residence. He stated he appreciated the way Officer Frith handled the situation.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
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Amanda Borkowski, Lowes – noted that last year the department conducted a “Safety Saturday” which was successful and much appreciated. This year’s program is scheduled for 9/25/10 and she is anticipating another successful day.

Carolyn Mahnken, graduate of Milford Citizens Academy – while visiting in N. Carolina she was informed of the incident involving our officers and Vader and was happy to send get well cards from her grandchildren to Vader.

Chief Mello shared the cards with the members.

Robert DeMatteo – appreciative of Officer Moreno’s efforts in resolving a problem with his vehicle, adding that Officer Moreno was highly professional and effective.

David D’Angelo, Loss Prevention Dept., Old Navy – was appreciative for the department’s assistance in the safety program conducted in June and for getting the word out to the community regarding the importance of child safety.

Parent – thanked Chief Mello for allowing Officer Matt Lima and Canine Judge for providing a lesson and educational experience regarding canine safety and the tasks that police dogs perform. Stated it was a great event and was happy that they came to Bright Horizons School.

Edward Nash – thanked the department for their help during the recent passing of his father, Edward Nash.

Robert Scinto, Harbormaster, Bridgeport – thanked Chief Mello for sending marine assets and staff to assist with the Swim Across The Sound event.

Chief John Burturla, Stratford Police Department – noted that on 8/26/10 a submerged vehicle was reported in the Housatonic River. After the car was pulled from the water, the body of a local man who had been reported missing was found inside the car. Chief Burturla stated he appreciated the assistance of Sgt. Marschner, Officers DeStefano, McMahon and Parks in order to bring some closure to the victim’s family in this very tragic incident.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Previously considered.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. Cornerstone Christian Center – 349 Wheelers Farms Road (Shriners Building) – It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the Planning & Zoning Request re: Cornerstone Christian Center – 349 Wheelers Farms Rd (Shriners Building). Motion carried unanimously

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
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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

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to accept reports a – e as presented.

Comm. Faruolo questioned the parking tag operation asking if that ran through the downtown area and she was told it did. She further asked if it includes the railroad station parking and Chief Mello explained that is a target location. He stated there have been incidents of car break-ins, vandalism and theft of downtown property and that has been solved. Further, solving the issues of other incidents of vandalism in the downtown area is felt to be attributed to the extra resources put out in the spring and he felt that would continue.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe thanked Chief Mello and his staff for their good work on behalf of the city.

Discussion ensued regarding the dollar amount for fines and Chief Mello explained the fine depends on the nature of the violation and he added there has been no major change in fines recently.

Deputy Chief Fournier added that recently the department sent warning letters to individuals stating if they did not pay their overdue fines they could be subject to further increase in fines/suspension of license.

Motion carried unanimously

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Greg's Auto Body – request to be on Rotational Tow List (tabled 8/9/10)
It was noted that neither Attny. Tramuta or Mr. Christofakis (owner of Greg's Auto Body) was not present at this meeting. Chief Mello stated he had been informed of another possible violation per the State Police and he was hopeful to have further information regarding this matter by the October meeting.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
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Vice Chrmn. Jagoe stated that perhaps Mr. Christofakis was not aware of the change in the date of the September meeting and that was the reason he was not present.

Chief Mello asked Deputy Chief Fournier to contact Mr. Christofakis and regarding the date change and tell him the matter will remain on the table until next month's meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Request from Mayor's Office for crosswalk at Evergreen and Gulf Street – Chief Mello stated the Traffic Division is conducting a study and he was hopeful to have a report by the October meeting.

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 Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn to Executive session at 7:30 p.m. for the following:

1. 2nd Quarter Probationary review for Officer Michael DeVito.
2. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to reconvene in public session at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously

It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold the Chief's recommendation regarding the performance of 2 employees. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
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Diane Candido, Secretary