

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, September 10, 2012
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONER NOT PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Mooney; D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- John Carissimi, Citizens Police Academy Alumni/Wildemere Beach Association – Thanked the Oyster Fest Committee for providing canopy tents for those members of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni who volunteered for the event. With regard to the Wildemere Beach Association, he reported there is a new neighborhood watch program which recently began and he stated he will provide a further report at next month's meeting.

Both Chief Mello and Chrmn. Jagoe thanked Mr. Carissimi for efforts in coordinating and bringing forth the work of so many.

- Ed Mead, P & Z Vice Chair – Reported P & Z is working on a plan of Conservation & Development and part of that work is done by Milford Progress and their efforts to conduct a study on the traffic flow in the area of our Green. Further, with respect to that traffic flow, Mr. Mead stated one concern brought forward was the vehicles cutting through Fowler Field, and Wilcox Park in an attempt to avoid traffic lights while accessing Gulf Street. He asked if there had been any other complaints regarding this area and Chief Mello explained the Department can monitor speeding violations and has done so but he did not recall any violations or problems.

Mr. Mead stated one of the plans to be considered is to move the tennis courts and restructure the road for vehicular traffic. He added another future idea is to install bicycle lanes especially near the schools.

Chief Mello requested that the committee strongly consider including the Police Dept. in any future traffic studies or plans.

Mr. Mead added that the last 3 or 4 applications being considered by P & Z have had to do with insufficient parking spaces.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August13, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Pietrina Sappern - Melba St. – recalled the incident of a safe washing up on shore following a hurricane and her efforts to find the owner but avoiding publicity while doing so. She noted that Officers Nielsen and Moreno worked on investigating the matter and were successful with the efforts of opening the empty safe and following through on the owner while maintaining her privacy. Again more recently with regard to a car seat installation, she met Officer Nielsen and in both instances the officers were professional and caring and she stated she continues to be proud of Milford's Police Dept. and entire police force.
- Cathy Klingele – Wildemere Beach Association – informed the Chief that the association fully supports the substation proposed to be located at the former Simon Lake School.

Chief Mello explained that approximately 2 years ago the department proposed a plan for a substation on the west side of the city. He explained the fact that since the current headquarters was first built, it was soon learned that space was not acceptable. He noted in 1998 a proposal was made to have an addition to the headquarters facility; however, that has not come to fruition. The addition has been part of the Capital Improvement Plan since 1998. More recently Chief Mello stated he lobbied to have the proposal revisited and 2 years ago money was allocated to make necessary changes to the plan. He stated the focus then was to replace the radio system and bonding funds were received for that project but at this time it is necessary to move forward on acquiring additional space; specifically space for training purposes. He explained how the Department now utilizes various city facilities for training purposes but when Simon Lake School closed, he expressed interest to former Mayor Richetelli to use part of that building. Chief explained that though formal use of that building has not been granted, the Department has been using the gym and some of the classrooms for training purposes. Chief Mello emphasized the importance of creating a police presence in that area of town. He stated he intends to make such a proposal as part of the next Capital Improvement Plan and plans to discuss the matter further with Mayor Blake.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to add item 6d. Informational – Port Security Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Off Duty Weapon Authorization – Sgt. J. Burton – Chief Mello explained Sgt. Burton has requested to carry his personal weapon off duty. Chief Mello stated the weapon has qualified and is in good working order.

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It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Off Duty Weapon Authorization to Sgt. J. Burton as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Donation from David & Lucille Whitham – Chief Mello explained David & Lucille Whitham have made a \$10 donation and specified it be applied to the Milford Police Relief and Benefit Account. Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the \$10 donation from David & Lucille Whitham and apply to the Milford Police Relief and Benefit Account as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Donation from Kelly Davis – Chief Mello explained Kelly Davis recently had a car seat installed in her vehicle and he recommended her \$20 donation be applied to the DARE account.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Marrone to accept the \$20 donation from Kelly Davis and apply to the DARE account as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Informational – Port Security Grant – Chief Mello explained the vessel used by the Department has been deemed unusable in recent years. He noted that each year funding is added for this acquisition in the Department's funding request but each year the matter is put on hold. Chief stated the Department has aggressively sought grand funding for this vessel and he was pleased to report that this year the Department was awarded \$375,000 to purchase a new vessel. He explained the funding award was a large amount for a city our size to purchase a patrol and response vessel.

Chief Mello stated this was a competitive grant written by Lt. Marschner and Officer Nielsen and their efforts also were successful in getting the 25% matching funding waived. Although Chief Mello did not think this money would cover the full cost of a boat, he planned to meet with Mayor Blake to discuss funding not included in the grant. Chief Mello reminded the Commissioners that many items have been acquired through grant funding such as motorcycles, software upgrades, training furniture and AVL equipment, shooting range, new pistols and he is proud of the fact that through the efforts of Lt. Marschner and Officer Nielsen, we were awarded the grant.

Chrmn. Jagoe thanked the Chief for the good news and noted the staff members should be commended for assisting with securing this grant.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- Olive Tree Hookah Lounge – 2007 Bridgeport Avenue – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve the application concerning the Olive Tree Hookah Lounge as recommended by the Traffic Division.

Comm. Faruolo emphasized the fact that the Commission is only acting on the parking and traffic issue associated with this request.

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Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Chrmn. Jagoe noted the reports of items a, b, c and d were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the following reports for August 2012.

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

Motion carried unanimously

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consideration of the use of Golf Carts on city streets – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to consider the use of golf carts on city streets for purpose of discussion only.

Chief Mello shared the information regarding the proposed city ordinance addressing this matter and explained this matter had come before the Commission approximately a year ago, further noting a request was made in the past and it was believed it required an ordinance. He stated the city attorney determined it is the Police Commission who acts on this type of matter based on Milford's needs.

Chief Mello stated the request is before us again and he added he was opposed to this in the past because the language was not clear; however the ordinance proposed at this time is very restrictive. He specifically referred to item 3, Section 14.5 regarding insurance and waiver of liability.

Comm. Wanosky asked if the ordinance requires the person who is driving the cart must be the principal owner and Chief Mello explained this addresses obtaining registration for the cart and providing all of the required documents to do so. He referred to the registration process and added the Police Dept. would determine the fee structure which he felt should be \$25. Chief Mello added the cars can only operate on a road with a speed limit less than 25 mph and only in daylight hours. Discussion ensued regarding language that would state a speed limit not greater than 25 mph, providing the chief the discretion whether registration certification should be issued as well as what roadways these vehicles can operate on. He felt roadway usage must be looked at closely.

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Chief Mello reminded the Commissioners they have the authority to pass this as recommended or make language adjustments with relation to the statute.

Comm. Faruolo asked who requested use of these carts and Chief Mello explained the Mayor's office had received requests for the usage.

Comm. Smith asked what would be required in terms of signage for this usage.

Chief Mello did not feel signage would be required but users would be provided with a list of approve streets the carts could be driven on.

Chrmn. Jagoe questioned whether or not this was governed by law and she was told the only matter this body is addressing is the mater with regard to registration.

Comm. Smith asked if it was felt that enforcement would be a challenge for the department and he was told yes.

Comm. Wanosky asked if this must go back to the aldermen and he was told it does not require a local ordinance so it would not go back to the aldermen.

Comm. Wanosky felt further discussion is needed wit the Mayor in terms of managing this.

Comm. Smith also noted the carts could be subject to safety inspections by this Department and asked if the Department has the capability and staff to do that.

Chief Mello stated that would depend on the amount of usage but the initial start up would be at this level and would require additional training.

Chrmn. Jagoe asked if the aldermen had any requests on the matter and Chief Mello explained he was not sure but previous discussions were with an aldermen who no longer serves.

Chief Mello added he preferred to stay neutral on this matter. He did add that currently usage of these carts on city streets is illegal.

Comm. Bergami felt he would not be in favor of this unless there were a large number of people requesting use of the carts.

Both Comm. Wanosky and Vice Chrmn. Bergami withdrew their original motion.

A motion was made by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to table this matter at this time. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

12. Executive Session

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

No executive session matters.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to adjourn at 7:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary