

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; L. Stock, Secty; K. Patterson, Planning & Zoning Board Liaison

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

None

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

L. Stock excused herself from her duties as Secretary to the Commission in order to present a check to Chief Mello. She stated she was the President of the Republican Women of Milford and introduced Carol Faruolo and Maureen Barca as members. The check was for \$500.00 to be earmarked for their proposed camera system for the Wildemere Beach area.

Chief Mello thanked the organization for their donation and explained that the Department has been soliciting donations for this camera system.

Chrmn. Giles called for a motion to add two items to the agenda:

6c. Donation of \$500 from Republican Women of Milford

6d. Accident Free Mileage Award to the following officers: C. Musante, P. Parks, and L. Robbins

A motion to add these two items to the agenda was made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Wanosky and unanimously carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the minutes as presented of the August 10, 2009 meeting. The motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

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Stratford Police Chief John Burtula, sent a letter thanking the Department for their escort assistance at the funeral for a family member of one of their officers.

Blake Conant, Vice President, Milford Rotary and Lobster Bake Chairman, sent a letter thanking the Department for their assistance at the lobster bake in July.

A letter was received from John Aselton, President of the Brian Aselton Memorial Scholarship Fund thanking the Department for their traffic assistance during their annual motorcycle run. This year they raised \$22,000 for 22 \$1,000 scholarships

Barbara Walker sent a letter commending Det. T. Bassett for his kindness and consideration to her family after the death of a family member. She noted that Det. Bassett was honored as "Detective of the Year" and wished to add the family's sentiments, noting they appreciate his hard work.

Frank Teti, Jr. Assistant Vice President of Safety and Security of Webster Bank, sent a letter regarding a threatening bank robbery that took place at one of their branches on January 28, 2009. Mr. Teti met with Det. Sgt. John Alexopoulos, who reviewed their cameras and showed concern for the safety and health of the employees who were present during the robbery. They provided Det. Sgt. Alexopoulos with information that eventually lead to the capture and arrest of three people involved in the robbery. Webster Bank thanked Det. Sgt. Alexopoulos for his efforts.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Informational: Officer John Gregorio has retired effective 8/28/09

Chief Mello explained that Off. Gregorio was the evidence and permitting officer for the Department who had no intentions of retiring. However, due to layoffs and the loss of one officer, they had to consolidate jobs, this one being turned over to the clerks. Off. Gregorio was told he would have to leave the evidence and permitting section and return to working patrol. He was not comfortable going back to patrol so he made several requests to go back to his previous assignment, which had to be denied. He then decided to retire, which is very unfortunate because he is a very good officer.

- b. Informational: Lt. Victor Daniels will retire effective 9/17/09

Chief Mello noted that Lt. Daniels will retire at the end of the week.

- c. Donation of \$500 from Republican Women of Milford

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to gratefully accept this donation from the Republican Women of Milford. The motion was seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler and carried unanimously.

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Chrmn. Giles noted that the Chief will send a letter of thanks to the organization.

- d. Accident Free Mileage Award to the following officers: C. Musante, P. Parks and L. Robbins

Chief Mello stated that by contract, these officers are due 8 hours accumulated time for accumulating 25,000 accident free miles.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and unanimously carried to approve these awards.

Referring back to the retired officers, Chrmn. Giles questioned if they were moving on to different jobs to which the Chief responded in the negative. Chief Mello continued, noting that they now have to recruit and test people for the position of officer which is very expensive. They will have to be trained, and be paid while in training and be provided with all new equipment. He stated it is very expensive to hire a new police officer. Chief Mello offered this as a point of information.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

None.

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 stated he would accept a motion to cover all reports.

Comm. Eisenhandler moved to accept reports “a” through “e.” The motion was seconded by Comm. Wanosky.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Faruolo asked if the Planning and Zoning matter was tabled, to which Chrmn. Giles stated it was moved to “Unfinished Business.”

There being no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. 282 West Main Street Subdivision

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It was noted by Chrmn. Giles that this was a resubmission from the previous month and he called for a motion regarding Traffic's report.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to accept Traffic's recommendation. Comm. Marrone seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Faruolo stated there were no further sight line concerns as no foliage remains.

The motion carried unanimously with no further discussion.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Broadway at Andrews Avenue – Sight line issues, playground signage

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Wanosky and unanimously carried to accept Traffic's recommendations.

- b. Hawley Avenue – Stop sign request, speeding complaints

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to accept the recommendation of the Traffic Division. The motion was seconded by Comm. Faruolo and unanimously carried.

- c. Beechwood Avenue – Speed limit request

A motion to approve Traffic's recommendations was carried unanimously after being made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone.

- d. Cannon Street/Fairview Street – Stop sign request

Comm. Marrone seconded a motion by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to approve Traffic's recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - 1

Deputy Chief Fournier noted there was one letter of recognition for Off. Lima and Canine Judge. There was a shoplifting incident at the H & M store at the mall. The two suspects fled into the swamp area behind the mall, where Canine Judge was released and although it was rough tracking due to heavy rains, the suspects were caught.

Chief Mello explained that a formal letter would be placed in Off. Lima's file. He will not get an award or medal.

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The Chief further noted that there was another tier of recognition that the Commission may not be aware of, the “challenge coin.” He explained that if anyone does anything exemplary during their shift, they are given a coin as a reward, which many of the officers display. This procedure began approximately two years ago and the officers are very happy to collect these coins. Deputy Chief Fournier distributed several of the coins to those present who had not previously received one. Chief Mello stated the purchase of these coins began with a donation into the “awards” account.

At 7:17 P.M., Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following item. The motion was seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried unanimously by roll call vote. 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 the performance of three (3) employees.

The Commission left Executive Session at 7:33 P.M., at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Marrone.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stock, Secretary