

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone David Rubenstein, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Carol Faruolo

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rahn; Ald. Vetro; D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- J. Carissimi – 64 Kirkside Ave. - addressed the board on three matters. He acknowledged the work and dedication of the Citizens Police Academy Volunteer Program noting the number of volunteers who served at various events in the city. He also took the opportunity to thank and recognize Chief Mello and the Department for the very good relationship the public has with the Department. He stated that relationship comes about through Chief Mello. On behalf of the Wildemere Beach Association, Mr. Carissimi thanked the Chief for the police presence in the neighborhoods over the past few weekends. He noted that recently the Association had their annual picnic and extended an invite to officers and some of them actually attended the picnic. Mr. Carissimi also extended thanks for the opportunity for the volunteers to provide coverage at the Pumpkins on the Pier event and also the upcoming Drug Take Back Day.

Chief Mello commented on these volunteers making special note of the assistance they provided to the Department during the difficult days following the passing of Michael Compare. He stated their commitment is very much appreciated.

- Ald. Vetro stated he has received comments from residents in the Viscount Drive/E. Broadway area regarding the “Yield” sign at the intersection of Viscount Drive and East Broadway. He stated residents are asking if the Department could revisit that signage and consider changing the “Yield” to “Stop”.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to add to the agenda item 6 h. Safe Driving Awards for the following Officers: A. Aquino, D. Bedecker, C Bothwell, DeVito, Hoff, Mauro, Det. Haas, Det. Moreno, Det. Noss, Sgt. McNemar. Motion carried unanimously.

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Also, Chief Mello noted Executive Session item 12 a. should read *Final probationary review of one Officer.*

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Numerous cards and messages of condolence to the Department on the passing of Officer Michael Compare.
- Mr. & Mrs. T. Zawislinski – expressed appreciation to Officer Gallaher and Robbins for their professionalism, display of humanity and understanding when responding to an incident.
- Troy Berry, Sheriff, Charles County, MD – recognized the efforts of one of their officers for his contribution and assistance in working with the Milford Police Dept. to resolve an issue. He explained the Maryland Dept. initiated a response to threats against students in Milford from an individual in Charles County.
- Dee McLenihan, Wepawaug Valley Scouts Coordinator – acknowledged and thanked Officer Dempsey for providing safety talk at camp; Officer Covelli & Zeus for the K-9 visit to the camp which the campers enjoyed very much.
- Alexandra Winkelmer – expressed thanks and appreciation for police mobile unite at Walnut Beach.
- Numerous cards from campers at Woodruff Family YMCA.
- State Police, Narcotic Task Force – acknowledged and thanked Sgt. Cruz for his efforts in the Northwest Office of the State Narcotic Task Force
- Stefani Corsi Trovali – praised and thanked Officer Bova for his investigation and locating loss of valuable personal item.
- Michael DeGrego – resident – thanked Sgt. Simpson and Officer Bodnar who responded to an accident at his home; acknowledging their professional and courteous action.

Chief Mello noted since the Department has gone to the combined dispatchers, the Department is no longer delayed in getting a call such as this. He stated this is another example of how the city has benefitted from combined dispatch.

- Rep. Pam Staneski, 119 District – thanked Chief Mello for department's attendance at the forum on identity theft recently held in Milford.
- Jacqueline Rizzardi – acknowledged Officer Moreno who assisted in finding homeless person in our area noting he clearly showed empathy for homeless individuals. He was genuine, polite and respectful and he explained areas where this individual may be found.
- Ray Vitali, on behalf of the United Way of Milford – thanked the Department for their support at the 5th Annual Ride for Hope and providing escort services ensuring a safe ride for all.
- Packet of letters from Harborside Middle School students – project they participated in with a theme of kindness and how it related to our city and the Police Department.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Donation from car seat inspection – Chief Mello recommended the \$10 donation from Lucille Ferrar for car seat inspection be placed in the DARE Donation Account.

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It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to accept the \$10 donation from Lucille Ferrar and place this donation in the DARE Donation Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Car seat donations and other items from Yale Children's Hospital – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to table this matter as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Donation from Rotary Club of Milford for body cameras – Chief Mello stated the Rotary Club of Milford has donated \$1,500 for the purchase of two body cameras but since their initial interest, the state now will reimburse departments for this equipment. Chief Mello stated he will contact Rotary leadership to see if they would like this donation to be applied elsewhere in the Department.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to table action on the donation from the Rotary Club of Milford for body cameras as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding body cameras and the money reimbursed by the state to purchase the cameras. Chief Mello explained because this is grant funding, the city must adhere to policy guidelines. He stated departments will be obligated to maintain program and the video storage. He noted that unless the state continues to provide funds, the municipalities will have to fund the storage and replacement cycle of this equipment. As well, based on an FOI request, the time involved by department staff to comply with the request is also costly as it must be a sworn officer who reviews/redacts the tapes before releasing them.

Comm. Jagoe asked if it is a law that each department has body cameras and Chief Mello explained the statute requires if the departments have the cameras they must adhere to the governing policies. He went on to explain that next year our Department will have another \$100,000 entering the budget for the combined dispatch system and that added to the cost of the cameras will be a concern to him.

d. Donation from Carubba for Awards ceremony – Chief Mello recommended the \$500 donation from Carubba be applied to the recognition ceremony to be held in the future.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve the \$500 donation from Carubba and apply those funds to the recognition ceremony. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Donation of toys for Patrol vehicles from Luralton Hall – Chief Mello explained Luralton Hall donated a number of toys to be placed in patrol cars to be given to children, perhaps a child in crisis.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to accept the donation of toys for patrol vehicles from Luralton Hall. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Informational: Officer Gary McDonnell has resigned effective 9/17/15.

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g. Chief's General comments – Chief Mello stated the next Police Academy will be starting 10/26/15 and he anticipates 8-10 of our own officers in that academy.

Further, he noted David Sulkis, City Planner, has requested a meeting with the Chief to discuss this commission's role in reviewing P & Z requests.

Comm. Jagoe felt an opinion from the City Attorney on this matter would be advisable.

Chrmn. Smith felt having clarity regarding this commission's role is important.

Chief Mello explained matters regarding public safety and site lines are the role of this commission on the review of P & Z requests.

Chief Mello stated he will coordinate a meeting time with Mr. Sulkis and Chrmn. Smith will also attend.

h. Safe Driving Awards for the following Officers: Officers: A. Aquino, D. Bedecker, C Bothwell, DeVito, Hoff, Mauro, Det. Haas, Det. Moreno, Det. Noss, Sgt. McNemar.

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve safe driving awards for Officers: A. Aquino, D. Bedecker, C Bothwell, DeVito, Hoff, Mauro, Det. Haas, Det. Moreno, Det. Noss, Sgt. McNemar and award eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations to the officers noted. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. 1613 New Haven Ave – Seaview Cove LLC – 8 units Affordable Housing – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to accept Traffic Division recommendation regarding 1613 New Haven Ave – Seaview Cove LLC – 8 units Affordable Housing. Motion carried unanimously.

b. 1191 New Haven Ave –Molly Rentals LLC – 2 Lot Subdivision – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept Traffic Division recommendation regarding 1191 New Haven Ave –Molly Rentals LLC – 2 Lot Subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Wanosky and Comm. Rubinstein complimented the new format of reports.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the following reports:

- a. Special Investigations Unit Report
- b. Detective Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Unit Report
- d. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

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Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS - none

11. COMMENDATIONS – Deputy Chief Rahn shared the following:

1. Det. Bassett and Officer Nugent (Shelton Police Dept.) were recommended for commendation for their efforts in the arrest of an individual who had been burglarizing vehicles and storage containers and based on the coordinated efforts of other agencies they were able to identify the suspect in Shelton and actually witnessed him committing burglary in Stratford.

2. Sgt. Cortex, Lt. Anderson, Officers McMahon, Broderick, Lennon and Lacey were recommended for commendation based on a 4/19/15 violent assault at a residence in Milford. Within a short amount of time and through their work and cooperation with other departments, it was learned that the suspect did flee the area but was located in PA. The suspect was found, then homeless, in a park in PA.

3. Pfc. Mahoney, Officer Broderick, Moreno, Cox, Owens, Bodnar and Dubrow were recommended for commendation based on their efforts to bring a bedridden woman who was trapped in a house fire on Melba Street to safety without injury.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. for the following:

- a. Final probationary review for one Officer

Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rahn and the commissioners were included in Executive Session.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to reconvene in public session at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk, September 17, 2015