

**AMENDED MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016– 7:00 P.M.  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Sam Bergami

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 –**

a. Final probationary review/swearing-in for 6 Officers retroactive to 8/7/16. (Officers Bruno, Banks, Milslagle, Preto, St. Germain and Eddy). Chief Mello explained the probationary reviews will take place during Executive Session.

Comm. Faruolo administered the oath to Officers Bruno, Banks, Milslagle, Preto and Eddy.

Those present extended congratulations to the Officers.

Chief Mello explained Officer St. Germain is still deployed for active military duty.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- John Carissimi - took the opportunity to recap some of the events that the volunteers of the Citizens Police Academy were involved in during the past summer and also to commend the Milford Police Department for their efforts in so many events.
- Ald. Vetro – expressed thanks to Deputy Chief Rahn and the Department's Color Guard for their presence at the recent 9/11 Memorial event.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Mello explained that over the past few months he has received a large number of letters and cards, gifts and donations from community members who expressed their thanks and best wishes to the members of the Department. He stated the reason for the majority of the correspondence received was based on the tragic events of this past summer involving police officers in many areas. He explained in many cases donations and gift cards were received and based on Department policy, many of those gift cards and donations were given elsewhere in the community. He added it was evident by the outpouring that Milford supports their law enforcement officers. Chief Mello shared the following correspondence and also distributed some for the Commissioners to review:

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- Packet of letters from 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at John F. Kennedy School thanking officers for being heroes and keeping our community safe.
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hentel – letter thanking Officer Dila for assistance given to them during Oyster Fest.
- Erinn Tempesta – related incident where the family was walking to their car and the child saw a police officer nearby and waved to him. She stated the interaction which followed between the officer and the child was beautiful and she thanked the Department for caring about the residents and for this officer who took the time to interact in a wonderful way with her child.
- Carol Klingele – Wildemere Beach Assoc. – sent a gift card showing respect and support for the Police Dept.  
Chief Mello explained the gift card was subsequently given to the PBA.
- Annette & Richard Fiore – thanked Officers Dancy and Magnan for their assistance in a neighborhood situation.
- Patricia Ferrick, Special Agent, FBI, New Haven, CT – thanked Chief Mello for allowing Officer Lennon to assist and be involved in several surveillances and arrests in New Haven as part of the New Haven's Safe Streets Task Force. She acknowledged Officer Lennon's upcoming travel to New Mexico to attend training course which will be beneficial to the group's work.
- Attny. Vincent Averaimo – expressed his appreciation for the assistance of the Milford Police Dept. when a car accidentally drove through the window of his office building; adding the sympathy and compassion to staff members who were in the building when the accident occurred was commendable. He further noted Officer Banks who was the officer present at the scene showed compassion and professionalism during a chaotic situation.
- Coaches, Team Members and Team Parents, JLHS Girls Lacrosse Team – appreciation gesture to the members of the Department for all that they do. (gift of food)
- Many cards and letters from residents expressing deepest thanks to the Department for keeping the members of the community safe.
- L. Krolkowski, Chief of Police, New Canaan – thanked Capt. Alexopoulos for assisting in that Department's Captain's Assessment Center.
- Special Olympics Torch Run – expressed thanks for officers who participated in that event.
- Chief Mello shared a message Officer Dempsey found on the Department's Facebook page from a parent who related an incident which occurred involving her son who is facing serious health issues and was noted walking the neighborhood at a late hour. When the parent explained what the son was going through to Officer Eddy, she noted it was evident that the officer understood and was concerned. The following morning Officer Eddy delivered a personal message to the child encouraging him to be brave with his personal issue.
- Mrs. Bowollick – 31 Milford Point Rd. – expressed concern about the new parking restrictions in the Milford Point Road area.  
Chief Mello stated he has received other letters regarding enforcement of the "no parking sign" ban on Milford Point Road.
- Tenant – Milford Beach Apartments – expressed concern regarding the new parking policy on E. Broadway, specifically the 2 hour parking restriction which is unfair to those who live at the apartments and park in that area overnight.  
Chief Mello assured members that the 2 hour parking restriction is not enforced after business hours. He felt that situation has been rectified and it was never the intention to inconvenience the tenants.

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- Milford Resident – expressed concern over the illegal fireworks that residents and groups shoot off during the July 4<sup>th</sup> timeframe and questioned why the Department is not putting a stop to that.

Chief Mello added he does respond to such letters and in this case he added any type of firework that is shot into the air is illegal.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

- a. Donations from Car Seat Inspection (\$55) – Chief Mello stated 4 donations totaling \$55 were received for car seat inspections.
- b. Off-duty weapon authorizations for 10 Officers.- Chief Mello recommended approval of Off Duty Weapon request by Sgt. N. Doerr, Sgt. J. O’Keefe, Sgt. C. Cacchillo, Det. T. Dancy (2 weapons), Officers J. Preto, C. Bothwell, J. Rivera, K. Banks, D. Bailey and J. Binkowski for non-law enforcement reasons.
- c. Donation to K9 fund from Christopher & Susan Peet (\$30.00)
- d. Donation of plaque with Daniel Wasson’s name – Reisa Fedorchuck.
- e. Mileage awards to the following: Off. J. Cox, Off. S. Degnan, PFC W. Lugo, Off. C. Murray, Lt. S. Moore, Sgt. J.O’Keefe, PFC R. Pisani, Off. T. Wardowski and Sgt. D. Youd – Chief Mello stated the above noted officers were awarded eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations.
- f. Request for seized SRT equipment to be added to Police Dept. inventory – Chief Mello reported following a burglary investigation, items were seized and placed in the equipment inventory. He explained these items (cut saws and blades) will be used to cut steel locks when necessary
- g. Annual Police Department Auction proceeds (\$6574.00) – Chief Mello stated the proceeds from the auction adding \$100 was taken from that total to purchase a gift card (plus \$5 activation fee) for Patricia Francis reflecting \$6,469 total proceeds.

Motion was made by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve items 6 a – g as reported by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Chief’s General comments – Chief Mello welcomed Commissioners back noting it has been a busy summer in the Department. and our officers have had difficult incidents and have tried not to use force in some incidents. He stated situations that occurred have put officers in a difficult and dangerous position and the need for this is understood but not always accepted. Chief Mello explained it has become necessary to purchase body cameras for all officers. He reminded members of the request for the city to advance \$135,000 to purchase body cams and he is now asking to increase that amount in order to not only provide the body cams by also an “in-car” type camera which works in conjunction with the body cams. He explained the hardware needed to integrate the equipment will be included in the original grant proposal and is reimbursable. Chief Mello stated it is the strong belief that this equipment will more than pay for itself with the optics it provides.

Chief Mello also directed comments to the ability for officers to have Narcan and he explained with the new dispatch system, both PD and FD are dispatched and there are occasions when an officer arrives on scene before the FD arrives and if the situation warrants, our officer should be able to administer Narcan. He explained he will include this in the budget request and ask that the city fund \$6-10,000 to allow officers to carry Narcan.

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Chief Mello reported Bridgeport recently hired one of Milford's recruits; also for the first time Milford will be charging other departments to pay a set amount to participate in the training program. He recommended the Commission consider imposing a \$500 per recruit fee to other departments who participate in our training. Further 50% of this fee will be applied to the training and 50% for utilities and other training expenses. He explained with the start of the next Academy scheduled for 10/3/16 he was hopeful this matter could be added to the agenda of this meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to amend the agenda to add item 10c consideration of management of recruit tuition.

Motion carried unanimously.

In other Department business, Chief Mello reported the new SRO assignments noting Officer Goldfuss is now SRO at Jonathan Law, Officer Bova at middle schools and Officers Bruno and Eddy are alternates for the middle schools.

Chief Mello reported applicants for MPD are down 50% from years passed. Discussion ensued regarding contractual changes which have impacted applicants' decision to come to this Department and also further discussion regarding possible reasons why applicants do not pass background checks.

Chief Mello stated new parking regulations in the Walnut Beach area have been tracked over the summer months and this matter will be brought back to the Commissioners later in the year.

Further, Officer Kiely and Sgt. Chacon have recently retired.

Chief Mello stated the recent events involving police officers over this past summer have impacted the Department and officers' families and based on that, a family night was recently held at which time the Chief and the Mayor had the opportunity to speak with officers and families regarding the high level of support our officers receive from the community.

Chief Mello reported this summer's PBA Golf Tournament was successful.

Further, the Drug Take Back Day held in early spring was successful and the Chief will be taking another look at having a secured lock box location for drug take backs.

Chief Mello stated two of our officers went to Dallas for the services of their fellow officers adding these trips were at the officers' personal expense.

In further follow up of events, Chief Mello stated a physical fitness event is scheduled during the month of October for members of the Department. Also, one of the Department's K-9 suffered a serious injury this summer and the costs for medical procedures and follow-up was over \$5,000. Chief Mello stated the dog is almost fully recuperated and back on duty.

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Chief Mello has been appointed to a Legislative Task Force to study police training and curriculum and the statute for this requires a report on recommended changes be submitted by the beginning of 2018.

#### **7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS**

- a. 6-Unit Housing Development – 444 New Haven Ave. – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 6-Unit Housing Development – 444 New Haven Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. 9-Unit Housing Development – 132-140 Monroe Street – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 9-Unit Housing Development – 132-140 Monroe Street. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein 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

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none**

#### **10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Traffic Study – Pearl Hill St. – Speeding Issues – it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation to continue monitoring traffic on Pearl Hill Street. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Addendum to Twin Oaks Terrace traffic study (original study approved (10/13/15) – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding addendum to Twin Oaks Terrace traffic study. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Management of recruit tuition – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Chief Mello's recommendation regarding the Department's management of recruit tuition. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **11. COMMENDATIONS**

Deputy Chief Rahn provided the following information:

- a. Commendation from New Haven Police Department for Det. Mitch Warwick based on a case he worked on with the city of New Haven.
- b. Certificate of Commendation for 2 Officers. (case #3440-16) – Officers Cox and St. Germain were dispatched to a local restaurant based on a call for an unresponsive employee. Both officers took alternating turns for approximately two minutes attempting to revive the individual. Fire Dept. arrived on the scene and ultimately the man survived.

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- c. Unit Citation for 6 Officers. (case #3418-16) – on 6/26/16 Officer Degnan & K9 Diesel, Officers Wardowski, Rivera, Owens, Deida and Dispatcher Harris were dispatched to Rivercliff Drive for a report of suspicious activity. Officer Degnan arrived on the scene and began a search for suspects who were seen running from a vehicle. Officer and K-9 partner encountered the individuals, apprehended one. The K-9's behavior led them to believe suspects were in the marsh area and ultimately suspects were found and incarcerated.
- d. Certificate of Commendation for two Officers (3281-16) – Officer Onofrio and Pfc Robinson were dispatched to a house fire on 6/20/16. When they arrived the homeowner was attempting to get back inside the residence; our officers were able to detain him and MFD arrived on scene.
- e. Certificate of Commendation for one Officer (80404-16) – On 8/3/16 Pfc Sikorsky was dispatched to Pepe's Farm Rd, male unresponsive. Pfc Sikorsky immediately started CPR until FD arrived on scene;

**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 Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. for the following matters:

- a. Consideration of the performance of 1 Officer(2 Disciplines)
- b. Final Probationary Review (6 officers)

Motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to reconvene in public session at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve the Chief's recommendation with regard to consideration of the performance of 1 officer (2 Disciplines). Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

Recorded by Diane Candido  
Submitted to City Clerk, September 22, 2016