

MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Commissioner Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Keith Mello, Capt. Gerald Butler, Alderman Phil Vetro, Marcia Krusewski.

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

**2. Consideration of Appointments - none**

**3. Citizen Comments**

Louis D'Amato, local Developer wanted to speak about his project White Oaks Terrace. While this project was not on the agenda for this meeting, a traffic study had been done previously regarding this project. Mr. D'Amato spoke about the law regarding the Affordable Housing laws and the fact that people could no longer afford houses in Connecticut. He spoke about companies leaving Connecticut and laying off people such as Sikorsky, Pfizer, Sergeants, etc., and that one reason was that people had no affordable housing. He said that his project was not like Cascade Blvd or Ryders Park. Mr. D'Amato passed out pictures of what his houses will look like, that they are small houses that senior citizens and first time home buyers would purchase. There would be no need for the sidewalks that were recommended as there would be few children in these houses. They would be 2 bedroom houses. He continued on stating that CT was in trouble and that this state would be last to recover economically. He pointed out that ½ of the costs of houses here was over regulation and permits. His houses are modular houses not HUD houses and that they are well built.

Commissioner Faruolo pointed out that the problem with his project was not that it was affordable housing, but that parking and sidewalks were the issue when the traffic study was done.

Commissioner Jagoe said that the commission reviewed the report and that the issue was the traffic issues.

Mr. D'Amato replied that he was trying to keep his costs down to make these houses affordable and that there will be many more of these type of projects to come.

Commissioner Jagoe thanked Mr. D'Amato for his input.

Alderman Phil Vetro spoke regarding one particular issue. The issue is the ordinance in

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Milford that bans animals from the Green during special events such as the Oyster Festival. The issue he said, was that people from out of town do not always know about our ordinance banning animals and in particular, dogs during these events. He spoke about witnessing a patrolman telling people that they had to leave the Oyster Festival because of the ordinance banning dogs. Alderman Vetro said that people don't see the signs that are posted. He wondered whose job it should be to better inform people about this ordinance.

Chief Mello commented that the police department does receive many complaints about this issue and that the police are in the middle. They need to enforce the ordinance and that signs cannot be put everywhere. The issue does create some ill will among citizens but that most of the time people are given warnings.

Alderman Vetro said that people are always comparing Milford with West Haven who allows dogs on their boardwalk. He did not feel that dogs belong at the Milford Oyster festival and that maybe more communication is in order regarding this issue. The Chief agreed that perhaps that this would help.

John from the Citizens Academy commented that the volunteers at the Oyster Festival tried to warn numerous people that dogs were not allowed at the festival. The Chief replied that with over 30,000 attendees, it was a difficult issue. He thanked John and the other Citizen Academy volunteers for their assistance.

**4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was moved by Commissioner Faruolo to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and seconded by Commissioner Bergami. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Reading of Correspondence – Chief Mello read the following correspondence:**

- A letter was received from Braking the Cycle organization that sponsored a ride through Milford over the weekend of September 16 to 18, 2011 thanking the Police Department for assisting with the traffic control.
- A thank you note from Denise Morris Curt thanking Sgt. Parks and Officer Robbins who worked at the Meet the Artists fair.
- A thank you note from the Woodbridge Police Department thanking Sgt. Robert Weymer for his assistance with the US Marshals Service which resulted in the apprehension of burglary suspects.
- A letter from Laura Lenhard from Shelton commending Karen Guidice, Records Clerk for her assistance and time spent assisting her during a difficult time.
- A letter from the Wildemere Beach Association thanking the Police Department, Public Works and Fire Department for the outstanding job done during Tropical Storm Irene.
- A thank you from Investigator Peter Markle for allowing his son to participate in a Police Internship program. He praised the members of this department who were so kind and showed such professionalism to his son.

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- A thank you from the Piscitelli and Vyce families for a police escort during their mother's funeral.
- A thank you letter was received from Don's Hat Rack for our assistance with their fund raiser.

**6. Consideration of Report of Chief on Matters of Administration**

It was moved by Commissioner Marrone to add 6g to the Agenda. "Eligibility Requirements for the Position of Deputy Chief." It was seconded by Commissioner Wanosky. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Donation from Alice Bevino from a car seat clinic: Chief Mello explained that Mrs. Bevino donated \$10 and he recommended it be placed in the DARE account.

Moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Marrone. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Donation from Henrietta Burlison in the amount of \$20. This donation was sent in the mail and Chief Mello recommends it be placed in the DARE account.

Moved by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Wanosky. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Off Duty Weapon Authorization: Officers Sean Owens and Joseph Sikorsky.

Chief Mello related that these Officers have qualified with these weapons and should be approved for off duty use.

Moved by Commissioner Marrone and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Safe Driving Awards to Officers Lee Robbins and Patrick Taylor. It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to award 8 hours of comp time to these officers for their accumulation of 12,000 accident free miles. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Juvenile Diversion Program Funds from the United Way. The United Way of Milford has awarded the Milford Police Department funds in the amount of \$4860 for the Juvenile Diversion Program. The Chief explained that this program is to divert juveniles under the age of 17 with a diversion program that offers mentoring and counseling sessions. The United Way approached the police department about how they could help us and they responded with this funding. Commissioner Wanosky asked how many juveniles can be helped by this program and the Chief responded as many as fits this program. It depends on their problems and the severity of these problems. Commissioner Faruolo asked if this was in our budget and the Chief responded that it is not. He mentioned that Lisa Diamond Graham was instrumental in this program.

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Moved by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Wanosky to approve this funding. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Donation to Police K9 Fund from the Rahn Family.

Chief Mello explained that the family of the late Mr. Robert Rahn, father of Lt. Ken Rahn, held a fundraiser to raise money for the purchase of a new K9 for our Department. Since Officer Rojee has been promoted and his dog has retired, we had the need to replace this K9. The fundraiser netted a profit of \$6,000 which is being donated to our dog fund. We have already purchased the new K9, but have not paid for him yet. Our new dog and handler will be attending the K9 academy early next Spring.

Moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to accept this donation. Motion carried unanimously.

g. Eligibility Requirements for position of Deputy Chief.

Chief Mello explained that with the retirement of Deputy Chief Fournier, he would like the Commission to approve the following eligibility requirements for the position of Deputy Chief.

They are as follows:

At the time of Appointment:

- Fifteen (15) years Law Enforcement (previously 15 years service on the Milford Police Department)
- Three (3) years Law Enforcement management experience (Lt or above)
- Bachelors Degree
- FBI National Academy Preferred

Chief Mello asked that the Commission approve these eligibility requirements and that he would submit a name to the Commission possibly in December for their approval. Following their approval the promotion would occur in January.

Chief Mello said that he was aware that Commissioner Eisenhandler had been opposed to going outside of the department for this promotion, but that these requirements give the Chief the permission to also look outside. Commissioner Jagoe agreed that the Chief would make the selection. Chief Mello said that right now the only candidates that qualify from within are Capt. Gerald Butler and Capt. Tracy Mooney. No other persons in the department meet this criteria.

Commissioner Bergami asked if the degree should be in anything specific and Chief Mello answered no. He is encouraging people to get management degrees and that it is very important to the police department to operate like a business. Chief Mello said that he is not saying we need to go outside for this promotion, but that we need to look at the brightest and the best for this job. There is no need to advertise for this position. He will look at our 2 candidates and possibly another candidate from outside our department. The person must know Milford and the Police Department. Commissioner Wanosky asked if there would be any legal problems about not posting this job. Chief

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Mello responded that this is not a civil service job but that he would seek legal advice from the City Attorney. Commissioner Bergami mentioned the fact that the educational level of other persons in the department is not present at the moment. Chief Mello thanked Commissioner Bergami for his role in obtaining a 50% reduction in tuition for Officers furthering their education at the University of New Haven. Commissioner Faruolo mentioned that we should weigh heavily on the 2 candidates that we have from within. Commissioner Bergami said that it is good to have the option to look outside and that it says a lot if we still choose from within.

Chief Mello used a "Baseball Analogy" about choosing the best pitcher for a team. Even though a team may already have their own great pitchers, would they say no to bringing in the best pitcher in baseball to make our team stronger? We must look at our organization and weigh how this impacts our agency. What is best for our agency? In making the most difficult decisions, the easiest may be the traditional, and that he would like the option of looking outside.

Commissioner Wanosky asked that the candidates' names be brought back to the Board. Chief Mello said that his intention is not to bring anyone in that the Commission was not comfortable with.

The discussion ended with Chief Mello agreeing to seek legal advice and then to bring the candidates' names to the Board for their approval in Executive Session.

Motion to approve the Selection Criteria for position of Deputy Chief was made by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Marrone. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. Report on Planning and Zoning Requests**

Motion was made by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to add item 7c, 141-159 Merwin Avenue to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Residential Subdivision – 306 High St. It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo to approve the findings of the Traffic Study regarding this subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Residential Subdivision – 489 North St. It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to approve the findings of the Traffic Study regarding this subdivision.

c. 141-150 Merwin Ave. It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to approve the findings of the Traffic Study regarding this submission. It was noted that the Traffic Division denied this project based upon a variety of findings.

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**8. Acceptance of Reports**

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Youth Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. General Highway Safety Summary

Commissioner Jagoe noted that the items a, b, c, and d were included in the Commissioner packets.

It was moved by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to accept the reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Unfinished Business – none**

**10. New Business**

- a. Sightline problems – Market Place (at length)

It was moved by Commissioner Faruolo and seconded by Commissioner Wanosky to approve the recommendation of the Traffic Division. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. Commendations (2)**

Captain Butler explained that the following Officers were nominated for a Unit Citation for their actions in case #2011005955: Det. Sgt. Richard Anderson, Officer Matt Lima and his K9 Judge, Officer John Kranyak, Officer Brian McMahon, Officer Antonio Marino, Officer Keith Ruggiero, Officer Vincent Sentatore, Sgt. Kevin Walsh.

Also recommended for a Certificate of Commendation in the same case was Detective Dennis Broderick.

Also recommended for a Letter of Recognition in the same case were the following Officers: Sgt. Peter Parks, Officer William Ospina, Dispatcher Steven Harris.

The case involved a warrant for an individual at a local motel who was wanted in New Haven for a manslaughter charge. All of the above individuals assisted in this case.

**12. Executive Session**

**Consideration of the report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation and health or dismissal of Department employees.**

Commissioner Jagoe noted that there were no items for executive session this month.

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Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Wanosky and seconded by Commissioner Faruolo. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Marcia Krusewski