

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
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, Carleton Giles, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen (7:20 p.m.); D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to add to the agenda item 7. c. P & Z Request regarding Schick Wilkinson Sword Company. Motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

L. Utzler – 58 Milford Point Road – was present to discuss an incident occurring in late August regarding a rabid raccoon on her property. Mrs. Utzler explained she first contacted Animal Control who directed her to call Wild Life Rescue Center but told her they did not have that phone number readily available. She followed up with a call to the Mayor's Office who referred her to the Police Dept. An officer responded but she explained the animal was under her house and they suggested she call again when the animal came out. She and a neighbor watched the animal for a period of time and eventually the neighbor killed the animal. Mrs. Utzler expressed her concern regarding the fact that no one was taking ownership of the problem but she felt it was a matter being left up to her. She also stated that once the dead raccoon was tested, he was found to be rabid and she was told of the seriousness of the matter if a child or adult was bitten. Following the incident she contacted another community (East Haven) and learned that the animal control officers in that town carry a gun but they do fall under the jurisdiction of that police dept. She stated she did contact Wild Life Rescue Center and they questioned why it was recommended she contact them since they would not have been the respondent to such an issue. She stated she was disappointed in the lack of a response and suggested the consideration of bringing the animal control officers under the auspices of the Police Dept. or suggest that animal control be more willing to make helpful suggestions to resolve such issues.

Chrmn. Giles thanked her for bringing her concerns to this body, noting Chief Mello would look in to the report filed by the responding officer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 8, 2010 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

Veronica E. Soloman, President 50+ Club, St. Ann's Church – thanked Officer Nielsen for his presentation on safety noting the members appreciate the work the Dept. does for the community.

Denise Morris-Curt – Green St. – thanked the officers for their assistance in her most recent art fair on the Milford Green. She stated this was her final fair to be held in Milford and the continued support of the Dept. was appreciated.

Jeffrey Hudson, Deputy Chief, Guilford Police Dept. – thanked Det. Frawley for his valuable assistance provided to his officers during recent investigations, specifically six sensitive and serious cases. He added had it not been for Det. Frawley's swift and professional assistance many of these cases may have been delayed or unsolved. He stated the ability of Det. Frawley reflects well upon him as an officer and upon the Milford Police Dept.

Robt. Healey – Windward Road – a long-time resident of Milford, formerly involved in law and politics and this was the first time he wrote a letter to anyone commending them about a staff member. He commended Officer Robbins as an exemplar of a person who wears his uniform proudly, executes his duties exceptionally well and is courteous to everyone unlike some other officers who have overstretched their boundaries and authorities with little tack and courtesy. He congratulated Chief Mello for having such a polite, courteous and respectful officer on his staff.

Charles Sherwood, Director, South Central Criminal Justice Administration – thanked Det. Cortes for serving as panelist at the recently completed oral board examination for position of Recruit Police Officer.

Orange Police Dept. – thanked Office Lima and Canine Judge for participating in the Police K-9 demonstration at the recent annual Country Fair. The letter noted that the presence of both was instrumental in making the event a success and Officer Lima is a credit to the Milford Police Dept.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. \$500 donation from Milford Oyster Festival Committee – Chief Mello stated the Oyster Festival Committee requested the donation be applied to the Canine Unit and he recommended it be placed in the Canine Maintenance Account.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the \$500 donation from the Milford Oyster Festival Committee and place that donation in the Canine Maintenance Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Off Duty weapon authorization for Officer Antonio Aquino – Chief Mello stated the weapon of Officer Aquino had been inspected and the officer qualifies to carry such weapon while off duty.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to authorize Officer Antonio Aquino to carry his weapon while off duty. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Off Duty weapon authorization for Officer Daniel Bedeker - Chief Mello stated the weapon of Officer Bedeker had been inspected and the officer qualifies to carry such weapon while off duty.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to authorize Officer Daniel Bedeker to carry his weapon while off duty. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Donation from Dorothy Sylvester – Chief Mello explained a senior citizen safety and health program was conducted and Mrs. Sylvester donated \$5 in appreciation. Chief Mello recommended the donation be applied to the DARE account.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$5 donation from Dorothy Sylvester and apply it to the DARE account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Informational – Officer Javier Salas has resigned effective 9/10/10 – Chief Mello reported Officer Salas had been a 5 year officer with the Dept. having come to CT from Texas and he has now relocated back to Texas. Chief Mello wished him well and add he will be missed by the Dept.
- f. Appeal of conditional job offer rejection – David Tokarski – Mr. Tokarski was present and explained that he had applied to be a police officer, was tested and given a conditional job offer which was rejected based on an incident in his background. He explained that he is a native of CT, presently resides in Seymour and becoming a police officer has been a life long goal. He stated most recently he has served as an EMT and also was a member of the Danbury Police Explorers serving as their chief. He felt he would have been a great asset to the Milford Police Dept. but he was concerned about a misunderstanding resulting from polygraph testing. Mr. Tokarski admitted truthfully that he may have viewed some explicit videos from his home of females of inappropriate ages.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles interrupted Mr. Tokarski to ensure the fact that Mr. Tokarski had been advised this meeting would be in public session with possible members of the press and public present. Mr. Tokarski stated he was so advised and continued his explanation.

Mr. Tokarski wanted to make sure that the board understood this was a mistake and he felt he should not have been disqualified or rejected because of this youthful blunder.

Chrmn. Giles thanked him for coming and providing this information to the commissioners.

Chief Mello explained Mr. Tokarski was rejected for other issues but the pertinent reason was that he had reported that between the ages of 12 and 15 he viewed pornography on line. Chief Mello went on to note that Mr. Tokarski admitted that in his early teens and up until age 22, similar incidents occurred on his home computer. Chief Mello stated Mr. Tokarski reported that images had been removed from some of the sites he viewed and experience had been when an image was removed from a site, the legal age of the subject was questionable.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe asked if Mr. Tokarski had passed the other portions of the test and Chief Mello stated he passed all other areas and it was during the polygraph testing that the incidents were revealed. He added that his background otherwise was satisfactory.

Chrmn. Giles asked Mr. Tokarski his age and he was told 25.

Chief Mello explained the conditional job offer has been rejected; however, the commissioners may reinstate that conditional job offer.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe stated she did not feel this board should overturn the Chief's recommendation or decision.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold the recommendation of Chief Mello regarding the rejection of the conditional job offer to David Tokarski. Motion carried unanimously.

Chrmn. Giles wished Mr. Tokarski well in his future endeavors.

- g. Accident free mileage award for Officer A. Moreno and Sgt. W. Cable – It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to award eight hours of comp time for accumulation of 12,000 accident-free miles with no safety violations to Officers Moreno and Sgt. Cable. Motion carried unanimously

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
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a. Bruneau's Service Center – 60 Rowe Avenue – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to accept the Traffic Division's recommendation re: Bruneau's Service Center, 60 Rowe Avenue, change in location. Motion carried unanimously.

b. 255-257 Naugatuck Avenue – 3 lot subdivision – It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to accept Traffic Division recommendation regarding the 3 lot subdivision on 255-257 Naugatuck Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Schick-Wilkinson Sword Co. – Chief Mello explained P & Z submitted this request for Schick to build an additional building to be used for research. He added this new building would have no traffic impact. He shared the drawings for the planned facility with the commissioners.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe asked if the Traffic Division would have to look into this and she was told since there is no impact on traffic they would not.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to favorably recommend the addition of another building at the Schick facility. Motion carried unanimously.

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 noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept reports a – e as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Although there was no unfinished business to report, Chief Mello explained he received a letter from Attny. Tramuta, representing Mr. Christofakis (owner of Greg's Auto Body) asking the matter regarding the Rotational Tow List request remain on the table until December at which time they are hopeful to have pending matters resolved.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request to change Yield Sign to Stop Sign – Bic Drive/Oronoque Road – Ald.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Smith - It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold the decision of the Traffic Division regarding the request to change the Yield Sign to a Stop Sign at Bic Drive/Oronoque Road. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS

Deputy Chief Fournier recommended Certificate of Commendations be presented to Officers Robinson, M. Moreno, Weymer and Cacchillo. He explained on 7/19/10 the officers responded to a call at an apartment on 494 Naugatuck Avenue. The call involved a domestic dispute and a suicidal male making threats to his girlfriend. Upon the officers' arrival at the apartment, the man appeared in the doorway with a handgun. Initially he ignored the order to drop the gun but eventually dropped the gun and became physically combative. The male had to be tasered in order to control him.

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

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive session at 7:30 p.m. for the following:

a. Consideration of the performance of 4 employees

Motion carried unanimously.

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

{Ald. Vetro left the meeting at 7:30 p.m.}}

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to reconvene in public session at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Bergami to uphold the Chief's recommendation regarding the performance of 4 employees. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary