

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Richard Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Capt. Marschner, Sgt. Kranyak, Officer Hemperly, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

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

Chairman Smith took the opportunity to welcome Comm. Mager.

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2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- J. Carissimi, 64 Kirkside Ave. – pleased to report that 27 Citizens Academy volunteers participated in the recent “Pumpkins on the Pier” event. Pleased to have had Officers Dempsey, Paige Bodnar, Moreno and Mills present for the event on Friday night and Saturday.
- Ald. Vetro – congratulated Comm. Mager on his appointment to the Board of Police Commissioners.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried with Comm. Faruolo abstaining as she was not present for that meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE – Chief Mello shared the following:

- S. Fournier– expressed appreciation to the Department for representation at his dad’s recent funeral.
- Dr. Ji Liu, Ophthalmology Specialist, YNHH – expressed gratitude for the efforts and help received from our Department in services used to find his mobile phone. He commended the strong and efficient team efforts providing excellent services to the public.
- Becky LeGette- stated while riding a Metro North train from NYC two of Milford’s officers were also aboard the train, off duty, when they observed passengers involved in an altercation with other passengers. Within minutes the 2 Milford officers learned of a life threatening incident that was also occurring on the train. She stated the 2 Milford officers quietly deflected the attention of the other passengers despite not knowing the details of the entire situation. She added she was grateful these two professional and observant officers were on that train.

Chief Mello took the opportunity to recognize Lt. Rojee and Officer Norowski stating he had just recently learned of this incident and commended them for the extraordinary effort displayed while off duty. He added they demonstrate the work that police officers do and they are supported as if they were on duty in a situation such as this.

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- Chief L. Krolkowski, New Canaan Police Dept. – recognized and thanked Lt. Delmonte for serving on a panel conducting interviews for position in that Department.
- Alan Nickerson – resident of North Carolina – expressed appreciation to the Department for keeping the public safe and would hope to have the opportunity to meet some of the officers and personally thank them for what they do.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Donation from Car Seat Installation - \$25 – Chief Mello recommended the \$25 donation from Joan & Edward Henning, be placed in the Officer Wellness Donation Account.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$25 donation from Joan & Edward Henning in appreciation of Car Seat Installation and place said donation in Officer Wellness Donation Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Donation to K9 fund - \$100 – Chief Mello recommended the \$100 donation from Thomas Craig be place in the K9 Fund as requested.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to accept the \$100 donation from Thomas Craig and place said donation in the K9 Fund as recommended by Chief Mello and requested by the donor. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Off Duty Weapon authorization for Off. E. Robinson (informational only) – no action necessary.

- d. Safe Driving Award for Off. A. Norowski – no action necessary.

e. Chief's General comments – Chief Mello explained the Department is observing Breast Cancer Awareness month and as in the past, one of the cars is wrapped in pink. He added Milford was amongst the first departments in the state to do this. He stated it is not a car on patrol. He added that in November, in observance and recognition of Veterans Day, a car is wrapped in military camouflage.

Chief Mello stated on 10/17, a meeting is scheduled with the Safety Committee and other attendees will be the Public Works Director and perhaps the Mayor. He stated that concerns will be shared regarding the current police station facility.

Chief Mello took the opportunity to thank the Citizens Police Academy volunteers for their continuous volunteer help.

He also referred to two recent robberies in Milford Center, occurring just 3 days apart. He stated significant effort is being placed on solving those crimes and that is why there has been more police presence in the Milford Center area recently.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS

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a. 18 Unit Housing Project -690 New Haven Ave.- motion was made by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Division recommendation to approve 18 Unit Housing Project, 690 New Haven Avenue.

Comm. Jagoe asked who the developer of this project was and that definite information was not available at the time of the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami 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. Roadway User Improvement Plan – E. Broadway/Naugatuck to Viscount – Sgt. Kranyak and Officer Hemperly were present to explain the plan from Westcott & Mapes regarding safety concerns in taking up the grass area islands in the center of the road (E. Broadway/Naugatuck to Viscount) and the installation of angled parking which you back into as well as bike lanes. It was explained this has proven to be a safer way of parking and will create a safer area for the driver as well as those exiting the car (i.e. parents with small children).

Chief Mello explained one of the benefits of this project is the removal of some of the grass area islands and the alignment of parking would provide the Department the opportunity to install conduits for future installation of kiosks.

Comm. Jagoe complimented the Traffic Division for the excellent detailed report on this study.

Chrmn. Smith noted this will add approximately 35 additional parking spaces.

Sgt. Kranyak explained after a careful look at the entire area, some type of angled parking would be something workable and would allow more parking.

Comm. Marrone asked what the benefit was for backing in to the angled parking spaces.

Officer Hemperly stated it would give the driver a better view to see over the hoods of the cars parked near you and as well it was a safety benefit especially when parents were exiting the

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car with children as the open door would serve as a “barrier” to hinder a child from going toward the street.

Chief Mello noted backing into an angled space is a recommendation and the Commission could request that be changed if necessary.

Comm. Rubenstein agreed with Comm. Jagoe in the fact that the report was excellent and he would support the backing into the angled space.

Chrmn. Smith questioned the cost of the kiosks compared to the number of people who park in that area and Chief Mello explained he could provide an estimate of the numbers based on daily counts for the past 2 years, including violation counts.

Chrmn. Smith noted parking in that area is seasonal and during certain hours and he questioned if the kiosks are programmed for those certain hours at specific times of the year and he was told yes.

Discussion ensued regarding whether the Commission needs to consider kiosk proposals and Chief Mello stated this was presented to the Commission for informational purposes only regarding the conduits for electrical work. He added he would leave it up to Chrmn. Smith whether or not to take formal action on this at this time.

Comm. Faruolo asked how people will know they are required to back into a space and it was explained the space will be on enough of an obvious angle and there will also be adequate signage.

It was agreed this report was informational only and Westcott & Mapes submitted a final plan, it will be brought back to the Commission for consideration.

Chrmn. Smith asked how similar parking was accepted in other towns and he was told a similar plan was put in place in New Britain and there were a few problems in the early stages but it has become acceptable practice with few problems.

Chrmn. Smith felt there must be compelling data for backing in to angled spaces and Officer Hemperly agreed explain the data address safety for walkers and those exiting the vehicle as well as improved sight line for the driver.

Chief Mello recommended action be taken on this as presented tonight.

Comm. Mager added everything explained makes sense and he supports the safety issues that have been raised.

Chrmn. Smith felt the Commission could anticipate questions and feedback from the residents.

Officer Hemperly explained many other communities are going with this type of parking.

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It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to support the Traffic Division recommendation to consider backing into angled parking as part of the improvement plan on E. Broadway/Naugatuck to Viscount. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Request to convert Daggett St. to one way – Karen Warycha – it was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve Traffic Division recommendation to decline the request to convert Daggett Street to one way.

Chief Mello explained it is necessary to begin declining some of the requests submitted specifically because the Department does not have the man power to conduct every study.

Comm. Jagoe added a good deal of time is taken to complete the studies and prepare the reports.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of equipment such as speed signs and counters that allow the Department to produce the data needed in a short amount of time.

Motion carried unanimously.

c. North St/Orange Ave – Reconfiguring the island between North St and Orange Ave – it was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding North St/Orange Avenue – reconfiguring the island between North Street and Orange Avenue.

Sgt. Kranyak explained the Division had been approached regarding road improvements in that area and he noted a reconfiguration of the island would be an issue for longer vehicles turning onto Orange Avenue. He explained the plan proposed including the changing of a “Yield” sign to a “Stop” sign as you come from Orange Avenue to North Street.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS – none

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION - none

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk October 16, 2018