

**Minutes of Board of Police Commissioners Meeting**  
**Held Tuesday, November 12, 2013**  
**Staff Conference Room – Police Headquarters**

Commissioner Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

Commissioners present: Alberta Jagoe, Sam Bergami, Sharon Marrone, Chip Rubenstein.

Not Present: Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky, Carol Faruolo

Also present: Chief Keith Mello, Deputy Chief Tracy Mooney, Marcia Krusewski, Alderman Phil Vetro

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

Commissioner Jagoe asked to add an item to the agenda. Item 12a: Discussion of the discipline concerning one (1) employee.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami to add this item to the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Consideration of Appointments – none**

**3. Citizen Comments**

Several residents of Central Avenue were present. Commission Jagoe asked if anyone would like to speak.

Sheri Penkowski of Central Avenue indicated that she has on street parking and she has received tickets for parking over the 2 hour limit.

Chief Mello said that the signs that will be going up will be a 2 hour limit from 6 am to 6 pm. The signs have been printed and will be put up.

He said that we received requests from residents about the problem of commuter parking on the street. A study was done and the restriction was to stop commuters from parking all day. However, restricting parking on one street tends to push the commuters to other streets. The Commission voted in a prior meeting to approve the Traffic Divisions recommendation to put up the signs. Chief Mello said that the time could be changed if that will work for the residents but that we need to be consistent.

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One resident commented that the signs went up and that no one knew about it until they were up.

A question was asked about whether there was a way to know if someone is a resident. Chief Mello said that there is no way to know that. He said that people can ask for a special request if there are issues such as construction (dumpsters) or if someone needs an on-street handicapped spot.

A resident from 9 Central Avenue commented that there is no on street parking at that address.

Chief Mello commented that we cannot make everyone happy. If we take away the signs, the commuters will come back. Some people will be happy, some will not. There is no way to carve out single exemptions. He has no answer for that, but feels that the 6 am to 6 pm restrictions are his answer.

Judy Hudak – 23 Central Ave. She commented that Center Street has 6 to 6 but she would like it later. People will need to get up very early to move cars. From Pond Street to her house it is a long walk to park, especially in the cold weather. When people are home on holidays and vacations there is nowhere to park. She felt 9 to 5 would also have issues.

Chief Mello thought that he saw driveways in some residences.

Walter Orteleva – 25 Central Ave. He said that Central Avenue is a historic neighborhood with many old houses. They need to maintain the look of these homes. Most of them don't have a lot of space for more parking. Driveways can accommodate some but that they rely on the street for parking. Parking restrictions will push commuters to other streets. There has got to be a broader solution. Maybe resident stickers for residents. It is a hardship to be forced off of your street.

Roger Witherall – 7 Central Avenue. He presented a survey and petition that he had done. There was a tally of all the houses on the survey. He indicated that it was about 25 to 8 – in favor of getting rid of the 2 hour restriction. He indicated that there are many renters in the neighborhood and there was nowhere to park during the day.

An elderly resident indicated that she was able to park on the street but when she had guests they had nowhere to park.

Mr. Witherall indicated that he felt that there was a general feeling that this was not a solution and that they were pushing the problem to other streets.

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Chief Mello said that we had to respond to the 5 people that had contacted the police department regarding the parking issues. He felt that people will not park further away. The restrictions force people to park in the legal parking lots. The problem is that the city lots require a resident sticker. The police are trying to respond to what commuters and the majority of residents want.

Chief Mello said that we can take the signs down, but the new problem can potentially be much worse. He asked the citizens what they thought would help solve the problem. Mr. Orteleva indicated that would now make Central Ave a prime place to park.

Chief Mello spoke about resident stickers. There would be a cost involved; each car registration would have to be issued a sticker, much like the beach stickers. We have had numerous requests for this issue especially on the shoreline where there is limited street parking. If we do this for one area, we will have to do it for everyone and that would be very difficult.

A question was asked about the possibility of getting a sticker when you pay your taxes. Chief Mello said that some commuters are residents and there would be issues of tracking and losing stickers. He said that resident stickers are issued to any Milford resident.

Commissioner Jagoe questioned whether the residents on the petition wanted the 2 hour limit or no signs. The survey seemed to indicate “no restrictions”. She suggested that we give this information to the traffic division and come up with recommendations. They will take the residents recommendations under advisement.

Chief Mello said that we will not put up the signs for now.

Commission Bergami noted that many commuters are residents and that resident stickers would not solve this. Chief Mello said that he didn’t think an ordinance could pass that is for particular streets only. He felt that there is only one option and that is the 6 to 6 restriction. He is trying to satisfy most people.

Roger Witherall said that he would be willing to do a more formal study.

Chief Mello said that he would appreciate his help and that we should include the five residents that have reached out to the police department. He said that we will do more work on this and provide data to either keep it as it is or make changes.

Judy Hudak said that the shortest time limit possible would be best for residents and that most commuters are gone by 3:00.

Chief Mello said that most likely Officers would only be enforcing when they get a call. If the window is too short, they would not get ticketed due to manpower and other calls.

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Walter Orteleva said that a parking garage possibly behind the library would help. He said that the parking lots are all filled early in the day.

Chairman Jagoe said that this is an issue that should go before the Board of Alderman.

Chief Mello told the residents that he appreciated those who have contacted him and this issue will be on the agenda for next month. The current restrictions will be waived for now and if someone receives a ticket; it will be waived until next month's meeting.

The Central Ave residents then left the meeting.

Commissioner Jagoe asked Alderman Phil Vetro if he had any comments.

Alderman Vetro said that he was contacted by a resident on Hunters Run regarding getting a street light on her street. The street is a cul de sac and is very dark. Chief Mello said that those requests go to City Hall and then the Police do a study and send a recommendation to City Hall. Then a decision is made whether the City will pay for the light. Alderman Vetro said that the UI pays the city a certain amount each year for lights.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 15, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Reading of Correspondence**

A letter of thanks from students at The Academy thanking Officer Lugo who talked to them about improving the relationship between the police and students.

A letter was received by the Officer Brian A. Aselton Memorial Scholarship Fund thanking our department for traffic assistance during their motorcycle run. Officers Dale Demirjian and William Localzo contributed to the assistance.

A letter of apology was received from a citizen concerning his actions in July.

A letter of thanks was received from Team CherBear, a group that raises funds for cystic fibrosis. They thanked Sgt. Tony Vitti and Officer Al Mauro for their assistance.

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

a. Consideration of Police Meeting dates for 2014. It was moved by Commissioner Marrone and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Rubenstein to approve the meeting dates for 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget Request for Milford Police Department. Chief Mello asked if the Commission wanted to table this discussion for the next meeting when all of the Commissioners were present. The budget has been submitted to Finance but the Commissioners can certainly recommend changes.

Motion was made to table this discussion to the December meeting by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Rubenstein asked about the DARE funding. Chief Mello indicated that we are out of money for this year's DARE program. We are requesting money for next year's program.

c. 2013 Police Auction Proceeds. Chief Mello said that the auction netted us a total of \$2409.05. We gave a \$75 gift certificate to the auctioneer who donates her services. He recommends placing this money into the Police Sick and Relief fund as usual.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Marrone to approve placing the auction proceeds into the Police Sick and Relief fund. Motion carried unanimously

Resident John Carriseau and his wife Beverly were present and wished to thank the following volunteers who helped with the Police Auction. Linda Pierpont, Dorothy Corrigan, Barbara Genovese and Judith Toohey.

Chief Mello also wished to thank all the volunteers who helped out also including John and Beverly.

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

a. 121 West Main St. – Metro Crossing – Resubmission

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by

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Commissioner Rubenstein to approve this submission based upon a zoning change. This study was contingent upon that zoning change from David Sulkis. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello said that he was contacted by a person who questioned the police department's role in zoning studies. This person indicated that the police had no authority to act upon zoning issues or private projects unless a public safety concern was present (such as traffic issues). These issues should be a zoning issue only. Chief Mello was contacted by David Sulkis who said that he should do the calculations. Chief Mello said that he would be contacting the City Attorney to see if we should discontinue private projects. Chairman Jagoe said that we should rely on the advice of the City Attorney.

- b. 190 Seaside Ave – 2 lot subdivision

It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to accept the submission. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. 229 West Main Street – Resubmission – Addition of handicapped space.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to approve this submission. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Acceptance of Reports**

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

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Rubenstein to approve reports a through e that were included in the Commissioners packets. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Unfinished Business – none**

**10. New Business – none**

**11. Commendations – none**

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Chief Mello said that he wanted to tell the Commissioners about the Fitness Challenge that the Police department ran last weekend. The officers competed in a physical fitness challenge and he hopes that it motivates the officers to continue being physically fit. He plans on running this challenge annually. 75 officers participated and it was a very enjoyable day. It was held at Simon Lake training facility. It was a very positive experience. Commissioner Jagoe remarked on how physically fit today's officers are.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:56 pm. to discuss Item a. Discussion regarding the discipline of one employee. Motion carried.

**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 Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to reconvene in public session at 7:57 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Rubenstein and seconded by Commissioner Bergami to table item 12 a. Discussion regarding the discipline of one employee to the next police commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Commissioner Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Rubenstein to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Marcia Krusewski