

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2013
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

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

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Mooney, Deputy Chief Butler, Ald. Vetro, Mr. Mead (P & Z) and D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

E. Mead – 67 Peak Ave. – as this was his last official meeting as P & Z Vice Chair, he was hopeful to be appointed to fill a vacant seat on that board in the near future. He thanked the commissioners for the experience of sitting in at the meetings and the opportunity to also be a member of the 1st Citizens Police Academy. He also informed the commissioners that the Milford Irish Heritage Society is hopeful to purchase the Star Café in Devon and utilizing that for the society events/meetings.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn Bergami and seconded by Comm. Smith to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2013 meeting as presented.

The following revisions were made:

Chief Mello referred to page 2, paragraph 6 noting it should read as follows “*Chief Mello stated all of the residences on Central Avenue had driveways.*”

Chrmn. Jagoe referred to page 6, paragraph 1 noting it should read as follows “*This study was contingent upon that zoning change from Planning & Zoning.*”

Motion carried to accept the minutes as corrected 5 yes and 1 abstention (Comm. Faruolo as she was not present in November).

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Steve Kaplan, President, University of New Haven – thanked Chief Mello and the Department for their swift response to the recent emergency situation on that campus. He stated that because of the work of this dedicated department, the situation was diffused correctly.

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- Chief Gagne, Orange Police Dept. – thanked the Department for assistance rendered at the scene of a recent domestic dispute. He stated he was grateful to the Chief and the Department noting officers had been deployed several times to Orange since the decision was made to regionalize. He thanked Sgt. Youd and the members of the team and officers who responded to the initial call. Further he stated he was grateful to the Chief and the Department for the resources provided to help manage many incidents.
- Chief Mulhall, Newington Police Dept – expressed appreciation for traffic assistance with the 9th Annual Officer Lavery Motorcycle Run; specifically acknowledged Officers Localzo and Todice for their assistance.
- Lt. Anthony Schirillo, Commanding Officer, Ct. State Police – thanked Deputy Chief Money and all responding officers who responded to the recent situation involving a trooper shooting in Milford. Specifically he commended Sgt. O'Keefe, Sgt. Bethke, Officer Frithe and Officer Degnan who reacted professionally, displayed professionalism and their presence conveyed a tone of 100% cooperation and communication between agencies.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Informational: Officer Noel Luth has retired effective 11/22/13. Chief Mello stated Officer Luth had come to Milford from the Orange Dept and recently retired under a disability pension.

b. Consideration of Chief's suspension of Anthony's Hi Tech from Tow List. – Chief Mello referred to the copied letter included in the commissioner's packets regarding Mr. Monaco (owner of Anthony's Hi Tech) temporary suspension from the towing list. Chief Mello explained he recommends this board reconsider the suspension of Anthony's Hi Tech or anyone of his DBA's until he is adjudicated from the pending charges. Chief Mello noted the commissioners could consider rescinding the suspension at that time.

Based on Chief Mello's recommendation, Comm. Faruolo and Comm. Rubinstein moved to suspend Anthony's Hi Tech from Tow List.

Comm. Smith asked if the new tow list regulations were presently in effect and Chief Mello stated they were.

Comm. Smith also noted this is the same policy this commission would follow for any of the department's vendors who were arrested.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello explained currently there are no funds remaining in the DARE account as all of the funding and donations have been expended. He stated the department goes through the money for this account very quickly and therefore receiving this type of donations is fortunate. He recommended approval of the following three donations.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the following donations:

c. Donation to DARE program - \$1,000 – Anonymous donation

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- d. Donation to DARE program - \$1,000 – Chip Rubenstein
- e. Donation to DARE program – Vera Overchak

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Safe Driving Awards - It was moved by Comm. Smith and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve safe driving awards for Officers Antonio Moreno and Nathaniel Doerr and award eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations to the officers noted. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the following reports:

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

Comm. Smith referred to the packets of material (reports) received by commissioners and he questioned whether or not receiving the physical copy of each report is necessary.

Chief Mello explained he could provide commissioners with more detailed reports if that was what they wanted. He added the Uniform Crime Report is actually an FBI report and is posted on the website.

Comm. Smith noted with regard to the Uniform Crime Report that some of the data having to do with Milford might be helpful to this board. Further, he suggested if there is an increase in larceny for example, or something that might be beneficial for the commissioners to know then a report would be helpful.

Vice Chrmn. Bergami agreed and suggested not sending copies of the Uniform Crime Report to the commissioners.

It was the consensus of the commissioners present to not have the Uniform Crime Report material included in the monthly packets.

Motion carried unanimously to approve the reports as presented

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Discussion of Fiscal Year 14/15 Police Budget Request – Chief Mello recommended tabling this discussion at this time. He explained the department's budget has been

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submitted to the Mayor and he would prefer deferring this discussion until after the Mayor makes possible further cuts or changes.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to table the discussion of Fiscal Year 14/15 Police Budget Request. Motion carried unanimously.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Traffic Study re: Request for bollards to protect transformer in front of Orange Ave School – It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the recommendation of Traffic Division regarding the request for bollards to protect transformer in front of Orange Avenue School.

Comm. Smith noted the Board of Education originally requested the bollards.

Comm. Faruolo stated perhaps the Board of Education is attempting to make a justification prior to the budget sessions in order to strengthen their position.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. East Coast Greenway – Shipyard Lane at Wilcox Park – Chief Mello explained there was a traffic study in July (2013) and following that this commission approved signage (bike route from West Haven to East Coast Greenway.) He added that the request was presented for Milford to be the first community to approve “counter flow bike lanes” but he explained bike lanes go with the traffic flow and that was what was recommended.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding East Coast Greenway – Shipyard Lane at Wilcox Park. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

Chief Mello requested the commission to add to the agenda item 9 b. Consideration of traffic study on Central Avenue.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Smith to add to the agenda item 9b Consideration of traffic study on Central Avenue. Motion Carried unanimously.

Chief Mello explained complaints were received regarding people parking on Central Avenue and Green Street. He stated the Traffic Division surveyed residents in the area and it was determined there is a parking problem in that area. He added the Traffic Division previously did a study and signage was put up regarding parking. He explained shortly thereafter there were complaints received from the residents because there was no parking available on the street. Chief reminded the commissioners of the discussion regarding this matter at the November meeting but no decision was made.

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In the interim since last month's meeting, Chief Mello stated all but 3 of the residents in the area were surveyed regarding the problem and that resulted in 11 neighbors wanting signage removed and 5 wanted to keep the signs that stated 2 hour parking between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Comm. Smith noted if 11 out of 16 residents want the signs removed, that would justify the recommendation of Traffic Division.

Chief Mello stated there is no recommendation on this but there must be some action of whether or not the signs be removed.

It was moved by Comm. Smith and seconded by Vice Chrmn Bergami to remove the signs on Central Avenue (currently 2 hour parking 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.).

Comm. Faruolo asked if there were any changes in the commuter parking in Milford now that the West Haven railroad station is in operation and Chief Mello stated they had not seen any notable change.

Motion carried unanimously.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. for Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees.

- a. Discussion regarding the discipline of one (1) employee.
- b. 2nd quarter probationary ratings for two (2) Officers.

Present were the commissioners, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Mooney.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to reconvene in public session at 8:20 p.m.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Smith to support the recommendation of Chief Mello on the draft agreement regarding the discipline of one (1) employee and uphold his authority to negotiate the matter to a final agreement.

By roll call vote the motion carried 4 yes (Vice Chrmn. Bergami, Comm. Faruolo, Chrmn. Jagoe, Comm. Marrone) and 2 no (Comm. Rubinstein and Comm. Smith).

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Vice Chrmn Bergami and seconded Comm. Faruolo to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk December 10, 2013