

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2018 7:00 P.M.  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

COMMISSIONER NOT PRESENT: David Rubenstein

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Capt. Marschner, Lt. Chila, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

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

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**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none**

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Ald. Vetro – extended Merry Christmas and Happy New Year wishes to Chief Mello and his department and to the Police Commissioners.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- Rev. Ashley Grant, Food 2 Kids Program – expressed appreciation to the Department for their participation in the Food 2 Kids Program.
- Christopher Lynn – Troop 196, Milford – letter of appreciation to Officer Dempsey who took the time to meet with he and his parents on 11/21/18 in preparation for Merit Badge project.
- Officer Tielemens, Mahwah Police Dept., Mahwah, NJ – noted on 11/7/18 he assisted our Department regarding a suicidal person who traveled to Milford from NJ. Officer Tielemens complimented and thanked Dispatcher Martone for his assistance and professionalism with this matter adding he was a great assistance in this case.
- Chief Clark, Newington Police Dept. – thanked Officers Hoff and Noss for their participation in the 1eth annual Officer Peter Lavery Memorial Motorcycle Ride.
- Karen, Orange resident – sent personal thanks to the Department.
- Megan Altomare, Director of Boys & Girls Club – thanked Chief Mello and members of the Department for their assistance and participation in the Pumpkins on the Pier event.
- Get In Touch Foundation, Milford, CT - recognized the help and participation of members of the Department for participating in a fundraising event recently held at the mall and for having the “pink” patrol car at the event. The fundraising efforts were in remembrance of a loved on who has battled breast cancer.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

- a. Safe Driving Awards for Officers Michael Brenna, Scott Knablin, Kevin Macharelli, Christopher Murray, Derek Waller and Jeffrey Cortes - informational

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b. Police Commission meeting dates for 2019 – it was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the schedule of Police Commission meeting dates for 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Chief's General comments – Chief Mello reported Milford's Police Academy program begins on 12/14. He noted that Milford's Academy is the longest running satellite academy and continues to receive wonderful respect for its training of officers.

Chief Mello stated this year members of the Department participated in No Shave November program for the first time. This program allowed officers to grow facial hair during November, 2018 and every officer who participated was asked to contribute \$75 to the Department's charity of choice. The charity chosen was "Closer to Free" and our officers raised \$5,000 for this cause. Chief added not only the officers who participated in the No Shave efforts but officers who chose not to participate in the no shaving also donated the \$75. He added he was proud of our officers for these efforts.

Chief Mello reported applications are now being accepted for Citizens Police Academy beginning January 2019. As well applications are being accepted for the Youth Citizens Academy offered to high school students.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS**

a. 230 Woodmont Rd – Milford Point Brewing Expansion – motion was made by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding 230 Woodmont Rd – Milford Point Brewing Expansion.

Chairman Smith raised the issue which has come up in the past as to what is the role of the Police Commission in such requests.

Chief Mello stated the role of this board is with regard to sight lines and traffic flow and the review should focus on that only and we should not be considering matters such as number of parking spaces.

Lt. Chila added if the request is going to create a large number of parking spaces that could eventually be a traffic issue.

Comm. Mager expressed his concern that P & Z would be looking to delegate the issue of parking spaces to this body.

Motion carried unanimously to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding 230 Woodmont Rd-Milford Point Brewing Expansion.

b. 3,5,7 Cherry Street & 85 Prospect St – Conversion of Dental Office to Residential Apartments – motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Division recommendation to deny the request.

Comm. Mager suggested tabling this matter until we have clarification from P & Z with regard to our respective roles in such matters.

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Chairman Smith noted we can deny such matters and yet they can eventually come back to this board for reconsideration.

Comm. Jagoe stated she would support Traffic Division recommendation to deny.

Comm. Faruolo noted the existing site is for professional offices and the change would be to make those offices apartments and she questioned how this would make more traffic in that area.

Lt. Chila explained with such requests it is necessary to look at peak traffic hours for the current use of this building compared to people coming and going to their apartments. It was felt that people going to the professional office (dental) would not be at peak traffic time.

Chief Mello asked that Traffic Division monitor the requests that are denied to ascertain how many come back for reconsideration.

Comm. Mager recused himself from voting on this because of his professional affiliation with the owner of the building.

Motion carried with Comm. Mager recusing himself.

c. 1040 & 1052 Boston Post Rd – Retail Development – motion was made by Comm. Mager and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding 104- & 1052 Boston Post Rd – Retail Development. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Informational Only – Mixed Use Development Land Use Change from Hotel to Office  
Rt. 1/Plains Road

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the following reports (October and November 2018):

- 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. Zion Hill Rd/Southworth St – Change Yield sign to Stop sign – motion was made by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Mager to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Zion Hill Rd/Southworth St – Change Yield sign to Stop sign.

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Chrmn. Smith noted there are no accident history reports at this location and that is surprising based on the road configuration. He asked Chief if there has been a formal change in the process for requesting traffic studies.

Chief Mello explained complaints go through City Hall and if necessary are referred to this Department. He added the Traffic Division follows procedure regarding traffic studies and may decide a traffic study is not necessary but will do a quick overview of the data, speak to the officer who works that beat. He stated it is a reaffirmation of what has been done for years.

It was explained the configuration of the road is the problem with this location.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Proposed Signal at 150 Boston Post Rd. – motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Proposed Signal at 150 Boston Post Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. COMMENDATIONS** – Capt. Marschner noted the following:

a. Letter of Recognition for Off. Cameron Luth – Case #4850-18 – on 9/17/18 Officer Luth was dispatched to a private residence on Nicole Drive regarding a suicidal male. When Officer Luth arrived at the scene he found the individual outside with deep lacerations to various parts of neck and body. Immediate first aid was administered until Fire Department arrived at which time the individual received further treatment prior to transporting to hospital. Officer Luth has also received recognition from the Fire Dept. as well for his extreme efforts with this incident.

b. Certificate of Commendation for Officer William Barbour, case #3555-18. - On 7/11/18, while on private duty in the area of Bridgeport Avenue, Officer Barbour heard the call come in regarding a suicidal male. He proceeded to the reported location and found the male who had attempted to hang himself. He immediately cut him down, saving his life.

Comm. Jagoe commended these officers and added we are fortunate that we have officers like this who have saved people's lives.

Chief Mello added that he agrees that we are fortunate and added we are not receiving enough recognition and support for our officers.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the following matters:

- a. Consideration of the performance of three (3) employees.
- b. Final probationary rating for one Officer (retroactive to 11/18/18)
- c. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter review for one Officer.

Chief Mello, Capt. Marschner and commissioners present remained for Executive Session.

The meeting reconvened in public session at 8:12 p.m.

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Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to uphold Chief Mello's disciplinary action recommendation on 3 incidents, involving 2 employees, Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Faruolo to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk December 11, 2018