Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:0 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rojee, Capt. Alexopoulos, Capt. DelMonte, Officer Magnan, Officer Moreno, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – none

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

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 13, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Consideration of Chief on Matters of Administration**

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Bevan to add item 5d to the agenda: Report from Chief Mello on disciplinary actions. Motion carried unanimously.

1. $50 Gift Card from the Swaller Family – Chief Mello recommended accepting the $50 Gift Card from the Swaller Family and placing gift card in the Officer’s Wellness Donations Account.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to place the $50 Gift Card from the Swaller Family in the Officer’s Wellness Donations Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

1. 3 $15.00 Gift Cards – Anonymous Donation – Chief Mello recommended accepting the

three $15 gift cards and placing same in the Officer’s Wellness Donations Account.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Mager to place the three $15 gift cards in the Officer’s Wellness Donations Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Chief’s General Comments – Chief Mello explained the 8 new recruits are doing well in the

FDL program and he added at this time there are approximately 120 applicants testing and many of those people have applied before here or in other departments and may not pass tests, therefore, those numbers may dwindle. He added 5 written tests are administered and Capt. DelMonte is proctoring those tests and then they move on to oral testing and then agility.

In another matter, Chief Mello reported over the past weekend there was an incident where someone entered into the backyard parking area of police headquarters. He stated this has occurred before and he explained departments now are designed with security fences and operative security measures which he stated he will be looking to have that done at this site provided the department will be staying at this location.

1. Chief Mello noted in the past he has brought disciplinary reports to this body who have served as a civilian oversight on such matters.  He added in the past he has appreciated any recommendations provided regarding the discipline extended.

Deputy Chief Rojee referred to incident in December 2021, a written reprimand was given to Officer Noss for an on-duty minor fender bender (collision).

Also in December a written reprimand was given to Officer Deida who failed to report to two separate hearings with the DMV on a matter he had investigated.

Chief Mello stated in December he had received information that two officers, while on duty had attended a retirement party at a bar in Milford.  Those officers were Officer Magnan and Officer Noss.  Officer Noss was at the party for 45 minutes and had not asked permission to attend or for a meal break.  The venue location of the party was in his assigned area.  Officer Magnan was at the party for approximately1 hour 20 minutes and did not ask for permission to attend or for a meal break.  The venue location of the party was not in Officer Magnan’s assigned area and while there he was not able to receive calls and was not patrolling his assigned beat.  An off-duty officer at the party was observed, in uniform, attending the party.  Officer Magnan received a 2-day suspension. Officer Noss received a written reprimand.

As well it was noted that Officer Zbikowski was seen removing a magazine from Officer Magnan’s gun.

Further 70-80 people were at the function and the matter was brought to the Chief’s attention and as well, two city officials were also present and noted that two uniformed officers were at the bar (Officer Noss and Magnan).  Chief Mello noted he watched the video taken at the venue and found it disturbing and embarrassing as well as dereliction of duty.

Chief added Officer Magnan was not on his beat, was not available for calls/service and his supervisor had no knowledge.  He also explained meal breaks are 30 minute durations and if an officer goes over that time they are disciplined.

Chief Mello explained the video shows Officer Magnan going around to many other people at the party and it verifies he was at a bar, at a party, on city time.  Further, Officer Noss was there for a shorter time and he was on his beat.  Chief Mello stated they have heard from every other officer involved with the exception of Officer Magnan and that the other officers have accepted responsibility for their actions.  He added when people talk about police reform, they talk about accountability and lack of responsibility. We expect our officers to accept responsibility for the actions. Chief added as a result of those who have accepted responsibility, he has lowered their discipline to a lower tier.

Chief Mello reminded Commissioners that Officer Magnan was involved in an incident in July regarding his ability to make sound decisions.

At this time, Officer Magnan still has two-day suspension and has not received a reduction however, he will received a reduction if he decides to accept responsibility.

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

a. Offsite Parking Lot – 352 Wheelers Farms Rd. – motion was made by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to accept Traffic Division report regarding offsite parking lot at 352 Wheelers Farms Road. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe 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.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

**9. NEW BUSINESS** - none

**10. COMMENDATIONS** – none to report

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Mager to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:25 regarding the following matters:

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment,**

**Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department**

**Employees – none to report**

1. Consideration of the performance of nine (9) employees.

Motion carried unanimously. (Present in executive session were those Commissioners present, Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee. Officer Moreno (Police Union President) and Officer Magnan were present only for discussion pertaining to disciplinary action of Officer Magnan.

Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Mager to reconvene in public session at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Mager to support Chief Mello’s recommendation regarding 8 employees and to table the disciplinary action of 1 employee. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to add to the agenda the reorganization of the board. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein and Comm. Jagoe to nominate Comm. Smith to serve another term as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners. Being no other nominations, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager and Comm. Jagoe to nominate Comm. Bergami to serve another term as Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners. Being no other nominations, motion carried unanimously.

Chrmn. Smith thanked the commissioners for their continued support of both he and Vice Chrmn. Bergami.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk January 11, 2022