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

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, D. Rubenstein, Richard Smith

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Sam Bergami

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rojee, Lt. Chila, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS** –

* R. Silver, 58 Governors Ave. – appreciated opportunity to speak and hoped the petition and cover letter from Governors Avenue residents was received as the residents are concerned with the ongoing and increasing concerns regarding intersection of North Street and Governors Avenue. She noted there have been 5 accidents there in the last 2 months. Mrs. Silver referred to other times when neighbors approached the Police Commission about installing a traffic device and in recent years a speed meter has been installed. She noted that drivers know there is no consequence for exceeding the speed and so they 25 mph speed is not adhered by drivers. She stated that due to the increased accidents, the neighbors are requesting another traffic study and also consideration be given to a speed hump and a 3 way stop sign at the aforementioned intersection. She noted she did not believe there are any speed humps in Milford at this time. Mrs. Silver stated she is hopeful this matter will be on the agenda for the December Police Commission meeting for further discussion.
* W. & S. Morse – Governors Ave. – echoed previous comments noting she has lived on the street since 1995 and she is familiar with the cross walk on North Street adding it is very dangerous at all times of the day. She expressed her appreciation to the Commissioners for listening to the concerns of the neighbors.

Chairman Smith noted that the Commission has taken this topic up before and he asked Chief Mello for his input at this time.

Chief explained the matter will be on the agenda for the December meeting. He added there is a traffic study there now and he added it is the most studied area in the city. He noted there were a number of accidents at the intersection and the cause was the right of way issues. Chief Mello noted in 2016 it was recommended a Traffic Engineer Study be conducted and referenced that again in 2017. Further, he noted at that time the city opted for the beacon speed light. He added the matter can be discussed now or wait until the study is completed. With regard to the speed light, there are no consequences to exceeding the posted speed limit and the only way there would be a consequence was if a police officer was there with a radar device. Chief Mello stated about 10 years ago he personally met with the residents regarding this matter. He explained at this time there are traffic counters in place and the Department is aware that cars enter the wrong way from Cherry Street and it was noted a new One Way sign is needed at that location. Chief Mello added this area has been totally studied and there will be ongoing issues unless potential engineering recommendations are considered.

* T. Stevens/A. Cormier – Governors Ave. – Mr. Cormier stated in his job he works all over the state and often sees speed humps and feels they will be very effective. He added he and his wife walk around the duck pond often and see when vehicles are taking a left on to Governors and drivers go around them on the right side which is a big problem.
* C. Mager – Governors Ave. – noted it is very dangerous when people go around a vehicle turning left and the residents want to work with the city but we want to do something before we are faced with a serious accident.

Chief Mello stated this study will reflect the same thing as the recent studies and the recommendations will not say much more than it has in recent years. He noted in terms of speed humps, there are pros and cons if that is to be done and it will be done in many other Milford streets. He stated the study will compare the data with past studies.

Lt. Chila interjected we have pulled the data for Governors Avenue and it reflects that in the 85 percentile, the speed is 30 mph which is a decrease from 33 mph in the past. He noted that 2,500 cars were included in that data and the speed sign has dropped the average speed on Governors Avenue.

Chairman Smith invited the neighbors back to the Commission’s December meeting.

Mrs. Mager asked if it would be possible to see the report prior to the meeting and Chief Mello explained that is not the usual process as it is considered a traffic report which the Commission will review at the meeting and if necessary we will convene again to further discuss and review.

Chief Mello questioned what type of roads in New Haven are the speed humps located and Mrs. Silver stated she will provide him with that information.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Bevan to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 13, 2020 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Chief Mello noted that the folks on Governors Avenue are all very nice people who are concerned with the speed on that street.

* Domestic Violence Program – expressed gratitude for the support of the Department not only during Domestic Violence Month but ongoing.
* Karen Fortunati, City Clerk – thanked Chief Mello for the private escorts for the daily emptying of the ballot boxes for absentee ballots for the month of November.
* Resident – complimented Sgt. McNamar who was recently working at one of the polling locations and someone entered the area with a political face mask on. Sgt. McNamar handled the situation quietly and appropriately and the individual removed the mask.
* South Central Criminal Justice Association – thanking Sgt. Cortes for serving on an oral board for Recruit Police Officers.
* Chief Neil Dryle, Cheshire Police Dept. – thanked Milford officers for their participation in a celebration for World War II Veterans who celebrated milestone birthdays.
* SRO at the middle school for investigating and bringing closure to a theft of student’s bicycle from the bike rack at school, noting her compassion and care for the student and the situation.

Chairman Smith added it is incidents such as the WSMS bicycle theft and the way it was handled by one of our officers that makes are officers and the work they do special.

Chief Mello stated he serves on various task forces and one of them is to have police be law enforcement officers and not deal with policing complaints but only have police respond to those incidents where there is criminality. He added we are proud of our officers and if such a recommendation goes forward you may start to see situations like the one mentioned not addressed. He added the Department is proud of the fact that we hopefully improve people’s quality of life.

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

a. $30.00 in cash turned over to Police Dept. from Court – Chief Mello recommended the $30 donation be applied to the Officer’s Wellness Account. Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to apply the $30 cash donation turned over to Police Dept. from Court to the Officer’s Wellness Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Donation of shoe insoles from Arciuolo’s Shoe Store in Milford – Chief Mello explained 20 pairs of insoles were donated to the Department on 1st Responders Day and we were asked to accept them on behalf of our officers who many want them. Motion was made by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Bevan to accept the 20 pairs of insoles donated from Arciuolo’s Shoe Store as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Consideration of the Meeting Dates for 2021 Police Commission meetings – motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the meeting dates for 2021 Police Commission meetings as presented. Chairman Smith noted the calendar reflects there are no scheduled meetings for July and August, however, if necessary a meeting can be convened with proper notice. Motion carried unanimously.

d. INFORMATIONAL - Safe Driving Award for Officer Michael Cruz

e. Chief’s General comments – Chief Mello stated he submitted the 2021-22 budget electronically as requested and following the meeting with the Mayor, he will provide Commissioners with a copy of the budget. He reminded Commissioners that there were significant cuts last year and the Police Accountability Bill will bring about $200,000 in additional costs in this budget.

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

a. Proposed 14 Lot Subdivision – 161 West Rutland Rd. – motion was made by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to accept Traffic Division recommendation regarding Proposed 14 Lot Subdivision, 161 West Rutland Road.

Chairman Smith stated the supporting documents and reports are appreciated but he reminded Commissioners that our purview is only site lines.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Subaru of New England – 143 & 163 Boston Post Rd. – motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Subaru of New England – 143 & 163 Boston Post Rd. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith took the opportunity to express sincere condolence to Comm. Rubenstein for the passing of his wife.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager 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** – none

**11. COMMENDATIONS** - none

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

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

**Employees.**

Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:34 p.m. regarding the following:

1. Consideration of the performance of two employees.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chef Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee and commissioners present remained for Executive Session.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Bevan to reconvene in public session at 7:46 p.m.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Bevan to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk November 10, 2020