

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021 7:00 P.M.  
ZOOM CONFERENCE MEETING**

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. DelMonte, 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. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2021 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE –** Chief Mello noted as discussed at last month's meeting, this item will be removed from future agendas as the correspondence received via mail is minimal and members do have the opportunity to read any correspondence to the Department by logging into various social media.

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

a. Consideration of the 21-22 fiscal year budget – Chief Mello apologized for the lateness of the delivery of the budget to members. He explained the budget had been submitted to Mayor Blake and the Chief had the opportunity to meet with him last week regarding the document and felt it was a productive meeting. He highlighted some of matters of priority in the budget noting a 10% plus increase in the overall budget.

- Legal mandates in the police accountability bill (i.e. dash cams, funding for drug testing and other mandates) were addressed and anything that was mandated was left intact with the exception of the body cam program; which the city entered in to a contract for the body cams 5 years ago and that contract ran out within the past week. He stated the new contract with Axon Enterprise was based on pricing, included improved hardware and peripherals, getting a better product so the Department will continue to have the best product available. It was noted this contract includes the new devices, hardware and new peripherals as well as new tasers and maintenance cost and data storage cost. Chief stated other options were explored but they did not offer the features that he felt were important. He stated the Mayor agreed with his opinion that our officers deserve the best equipment and the continuation of this contract was recently present to the aldermen who approved it.
- Another budget item highlighted was the funding for a part time employee to assist with fingerprints as there is a backlog on this due to the increase in pistol permits which require fingerprinting. Chief stated Mayor Blake agreed to the hiring of this part time person hopefully until we catch up on the backlog.
- Chief Mello reminded members of the problems that have taken place requiring additional officers at the beaches during the summer peak season. He felt it was agreed that the beach season slows down somewhat after July 4<sup>th</sup> and based on that they will cut back on assignments to the beaches after that time.
- Current parking plan at the beaches takes a good deal of resources and it was felt the hiring of a parking attendant rather than assigning an officer to that task would be beneficial Chief Mello

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explained there have been difficulties staffing for this task and the Mayor agreed to this request so that position will be included in the budget.

- Chief stated the budget included a request for 4 new police officers because, as other departments are seeing, there is a labor shortage for officers. He noted officers do not want to work overtime shifts and although 9 officers were recently graduated, there are many openings. Further the ordering of people in is affecting morale and thought it is not as bad here in Milford as in other places, it was felt this scenario will continue for quite some time. The request for 4 additional officers will provide 1 more officer per shift. Chief Mello noted 5 people have been taken out of the Detective Bureau to help with this staff shortage and though providing more overtime funding might be the solution, we are seeing more officers who do not want to work that extra time.

Chairman Smith recalled Mayor Blake had suggested the Commission look at parking configuration at the beaches and he felt it might be good for the members to take a look at those parking plans before the next summer season begins.

Chief Mello agreed. He stated per the charter the Commission can support the budget or not but the document has already been submitted so it might be difficult to make any changes now.

Chairman Smith felt the Chief knows best what the Department needs and it seems as he is getting the support from the Mayor's office as well.

Comm. Jagoe felt it is important for the members to support the Chief and she felt a positive vote on the budget would reflect that.

Motion was made by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to support the 21/22 Fiscal Budget as submitted to the Mayor by Chief Mello.

Comm. Mager asked if there were any other area in the proposed budget where funding is being cut and there may be a concern and Chief Mello stated there were none.

Comm. Bevan asked if the Chief had a feeling as to what may be cut from this budget.

Chief Mello stated he did not but again repeated the discussion with the Mayor was productive; some areas were left as is, some discussed as alternative funding and also looked at reducing the budget and looked at possible other areas to save monies. He added he is proud that the Department gives back what is not used in the budget and he happy to know the Commissioners support this budget as presented. Further, he stated it is important to address how we maintain officers and how we handle having our officers stay on after their shift and the budget addresses that.

Comm. Bevan noted the new police station is back on the Capital Improvement Plan and he asked if the Chief had any discussion with the Mayor regarding that.

Chief Mello stated he has not as he has been focusing on work on our existing station (new lockers and replacement of boilers). He added this matter is not in his hands adding construction costs are high at this time and he planned to leave this matter with others to address.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. Chief's General Comments – none

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

- a. Big Y Gas Station – 150 Boston Post Road – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding the Big Y Gas Station – 150 Boston Post Road. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Caswell Cove Expansion – 1500 Woodward Road – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Bevan to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Caswell Cove Expansion – 1500 Woodward Road. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Quarry Road Resubdivision – Quarry Road and Rosebrook Road – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Quarry Road Resubdivision – Quarry Road and Rosebrook Road. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein 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**

- a. Crosswalk Request – 42-49 Bridgeport Avenue – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve installation of crosswalks at 42-49 Bridgeport Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

**11. COMMENDATIONS – none to report**

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees – none to report**

Being no further business to discuss, with the exception of holiday wishes to all, it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido  
Submitted to City Clerk December 14, 2021