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

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: David Rubinstein, Bill Bevan, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, Richard Smith

NOT PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Alberta Jagoe

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rojee; Capt. DelMonte, Sgt. Kranyak, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**1a. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Bevan to nominate Comm. Smith as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners. Being no other nominations, the motion carried unanimously,

Chrmn. Smith thanked fellow commissioners for their vote of confidence in him.

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to nominate Comm. Bergami as Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners Being no other nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** – Chief Mello explained 8 probationary police officers are up for appointment and this will be discussed further in executive session. He stated he will be recommending 6 of those officers be appointed.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS** –

There was an unidentified log-on to the meeting and Chrmn. Smith asked the person to identify

themselves; however since there was no response it was noted that person was on as a public attendee.

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

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm**.** Bevan to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

a. Year End Report for Police Sick and Relief Fund - informational

b. Donation to K9 Fund in memory of K9 Zar – Lynda McKinstry – Chief Mello recommended the $50 donation from Lynda McKinstry in memory of K9 Zar be accepted and placed in the K9 donation account.

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the $50 donation from Lynda McKinstry in memory of K9 Zar and placed in the K9 Donation account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Chief’s General comments – Chef Mello reported Sgt. Bryan Jock has resigned from his duties and Sgt. Cacchillo has retired which are 2 additional openings in staff. He added it is anticipated to have 8-10 openings by May/June, Further, Chief Mello stated there are 20 officers still in training and when that training is completed they will be probationary officers and 13 months away from being full time officers. He stated even with those 10 officers, there currently are 6 openings and it is anticipated to have 8-10 openings by May. He also stated 4 officers are on restricted duty so actually the department is out 20 which is difficult for a department this size. He added it was due to these openings that he previously requested 4 additional officers.

Comm. Mager referred back to the Year End Report for Police Sick and Relief Fund and he asked if any thought had been given to the bulk of those funds and purchasing Treasury Bonds which would provide a good return rate.

Chief Mello stated that decision would be up to the Board. He noted the $28,000 liquid funds is needed for emergency access.

Chrmn. Smith asked if the commissioners want to agree to pursue this and draft a recommendation to be considered at our next meeting.

Chief Mello explained it would be up to this board whether they want to have a board member or someone from the department research this further. He added it was a board in the past that made the decision to handle the funds this way.

Comm. Mager questioned what the historical need for this money has been and Chief Mello believed the last time it was accessed was 7-8 years ago and he recalled approval of $5,000, $7,000 and $10,000 in the past.

Chrmn. Smith asked Comm. Mager to outline a proposal for a percentage in bonds and another percentage kept liquid and such recommendation can be presented next month and acted on.

Chief Mello felt the concept was a valid one and he would forward Comm. Mager the dates and amounts accessed in the past as well as who would be the contact person in the city’s Finance Dept regarding this account.

Comm. Bevan noted the statement received from the Milford Bank for this account included the account number and he asked if that number could be removed in the future so it is not public information.

Chief Mello explained it is considered a public record once included in the agenda material; however, he would look into the possibility of redacting that number in the future.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to add item 6 b to the agenda as follows: 44-64 River St. – Metro Center. Motion carried unanimously.

a. Beaver Brook Apartments – 553 West Ave. – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Beaver Brook Apartments – 553 West Ave.

Comm. Bevan noted this construction includes 189 units with 261 parking spots and he could not support this as he was concerned with the trip information provided and felt it was not correct. He noted the study was done by a company who tends to be supportive of the developer. The project includes 189 units made up of 1- or 2-bedroom units or efficiencies, affordable housing. He added Milford regulations state 317 parking spaces are needed for that amount of housing. Mr. Bevan stated the back and forth trips to work by the residents could be 70 and he felt that should be higher and the study was not done properly.

Chrmn. Smith reminded members that the number of parking spaces is not under this board’s purview as we are only concerned about site lines.

Sgt. Kranyak explained this was an addendum from a few year ago as the original plan had 350 units and it has been downsized considerably but the change in the level of service was not affected. He noted the decrease in the number of units is going to help with the traffic flow.

Motion carried with Comm. Bevan voting no.

b. 44-64 River Street – Metro Center – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding 44-64 River Street – Metro Center.

Comm. Bevan asked if Railroad Avenue will continue to be a one-way street and Sgt Kranyak stated it would.

Comm. Bevan questioned the access for construction vehicles and Sgt. Kranyak explained the reason for the change in the building structure is to eliminate the overhang. He stated the primary use of Darina Place is for this access, down Darina and take a right into construction site.

Motion carried unanimously.

**7. 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.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

a. No Parking Sign Request – Pleasant St/East Broadway – it was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Bevan to approve Traffic Division recommendation for No Parking Sign Request – Pleasant St/East Broadway. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Radar Speed Sign Request – Milford Point Rd/Court St. – Laurel Beach Association – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to approve Traffic Division recommendation for Radar Speed Sign Request – Milford Point Rd/Court St – Laurel Beach Association.

Chief Mello explained the radar sign is on a pole and the sign is currently part of department inventory.

Sgt. Kranyak added if approved there are no more of this type radar sign in inventory.

Comm. Mager took the opportunity to commend Sgt. Kranyak and Officer Hemperly for their reports and recommendations which are crafted in a style that answers most of our questions and further commended them for their good work with the traffic studies.

Motion carried unanimously.

**10. COMMENDATIONS** –

Deputy Chief Rojee stated he appreciates the opportunity to share the commendations and citations with the Board.

Unit Citation for Sgt. Degnan, Officers Hilliard, O’Keefe and Rivera (case #78-23) – Deputy Chief Rojee noted the department takes the Route 1 corridor area seriously and in this instance Officers O’Keefe and Rivera observed a car in a parking lot with someone sitting in the driver seat. Officers called for a back up and Officer Degnan and Hilliard along with K9 Tyson moved in to contact individual who put the car in drive and backed into the officer’s vehicle contacting the cars a few times. When the officers searched the car, they seized thousands of dollars’ worth of crack cocaine and marijuana in the vehicle.

Deputy Chief Rojee commended the officers for handling themselves professionally in what was a dangerous situation.

Chrmn. Smith thanked Deputy Chief Rojee for sharing these reports and asked that he pass along the appreciation and thanks on behalf of the commissioners.

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – **Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees**

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to adjourn to executive session at 7:34 p.m. with regard to the following:

1. 4th Quarter (Final) Probationary Ratings for 8 Officers

Motion carried unanimously. (Commissioners present, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Rojee remained for Executive Session).

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to reconvene in public session at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved with great pleasure by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the recommendation of Chief Mello for the following 6 officers who have satisfactorily completed their probationary period: Officers Hopkins, Deprey, Nelson, Kreitman, Liptak and Nesmith. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone with regard to Officer #7 as discussed in executive session, probationary period be extended for one month. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Bevan and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the recommendation of Chief Mello with regard to Officer #8 as discussed in executive session to extend review of probationary status for up to 90 days.

Motion carried with Comm. Mager and Comm. Rubenstein voting no. Comm. Mager explained based on the information received in executive session this employee should be terminated for failure to meet the standards of police officers.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk: February 15, 2023