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

Prior to the start of the meeting Chairman Smith took the opportunity to thank fellow commissioners for expressing their confidence in him for another term as Chairman adding he has hopes and intentions to live up to the role they have asked him to play in the coming year.

Chief Mello also noted that item 12a. Consideration of the performance of three employees has be revised to note “two employees”.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – none

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

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2021 as presented. Motion carried with Chairman Smith abstaining as he was not present for that meeting.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

* Deepa Joseph, Director of Milford Health Dept. – expressed gratitude to the Police Benevolent Association for their generosity and participation in the Adopt-A-Family Program held during the recent holidays adding the program this year gave families the opportunity to enjoy the holidays and in some cases where that would not have been possible. She added the family that the Association adopted was very thankful for what was done for them adding it was the biggest gift they could have received this year.
* Letter from resident expressing his thanks to Officer Al Mauro for turning around a difficult situation by his display of understanding and respect.

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

a. Police Sick and Relief Fund – Annual report - it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to accept Chief Mello’s recommendation to roll over the Police Sick and Relief fund. Motion carried unanimously.

b. INFORMATIONAL: Safe Driving Awards to: Off. D. Bodnar, Sgt. D. Broderick, Off. E. Mills, Off. C. Park and Off. E. Robinson

c. Chief’s General comments

* Chief Mello reported the next Police Academy will begin on April 15 adding this session has been postponed three different times in recent months. He stated every trainer and the 9 police recruits will have been COVID vaccinated prior to the classes starting. All classes will be held in the gym at the former Simon Lake School. Chief Mello added there has been a decline in applications for police officers and emphasized the fact that there will not be any lowering of our present standards in order to attract recruits.

Chairman Smith asked how long the academy runs and he was told 7 months and Chief Mello further explained it takes 11-12 months before a recruit takes their 1st call but there are currently conversations going on that it should be longer than that.

Chairman Smith further asked if the entire training time takes place at the Simon Lake location and he was told the training is at Simon Lake and other off-site locations. Chief Mello added this academy will spend more time in Meriden as other departments and their staff members are brought in for training. He also explained the staffing at the academy focused on keeping costs at a minimal.

Comm. Bevan questioned the cost for the academy attendees.

Chief Mello stated direct costs were approximately $48,000; recruits are using our open facility not a facility that must be opened specifically for this. He explained Lt. Sikorsky will be reassigned from his shift to manage the academy and only if necessary will we have to hire someone to fill the void in his position. He emphasized the fact that we are training the recruits and want them trained according to our standards.

* Chief Mello stated new pistols and holsters have arrived and he was pleased to note it was not necessary to spend city money for this equipment and it was possible to use private duty equipment funding to partially pay for the pistols.
* Chief Mello explained the Department continues to address the car thefts and robberies in our community and on occasion our officers have been successful in interrupting car thefts adding on 2 occasions the attempted thefts resulted in drivers trying to get away and hitting our cars. He added a number of arrests have been made including an investigative search of a hotel room and guns and ammunition were found. Chief Mello also stated these incidents are not occurring only in Milford but in surrounding communities and the media have not been sharing a lot about them but it has been dangerous.
* Chief Mello stated he continues his work on the Police Accountability and Transparency

Task Force as well as the POST Council adding there are a number of issues which have some merit currently being discussed in terms of proposals with regard to police. For example recently a study was presented on the impact of using social workers

to respond to calls for assistance or go with a police officer on calls. This information has been distributed to the media and in the future it will be necessary to address which direction to go and the value in terms of costs and effect.

Comm. Bevan asked what type of pistols were acquired and Chief Mello stated they were the same pistols the department had but just newer ones. He added the older pistols were traded in.

Chairman Smith asked what our Department’s pursuit policy was and Chief Mello stated we do not pursue for property crimes but do pursue for violent crimes or if the driver of the vehicle is wanted for a dangerous crime. He added he realizes the general public is frustrated and also noted our Department stopped chasing cars before the law came into place. He emphasized their goal to find other ways to prevent the stolen car crimes and most importantly emphasized the need to have people lock their cars.

Chairman Smith asked if a spike in robberies and car thefts had been noted and Chief Mello stated we are seeing more stolen car incidents and now seeing more robberies which our Department has put a good deal of effort into offering deterrence.

Chairman Smith asked if the Department issues press releases about these incidents and Chief Mello explained the Department issues press releases as he feels the people have the right to know about the incidents and again stated these incidents are occurring in many surrounding communities.

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

a. 48-52 Broadway – Subdivision of property – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to accept Traffic Division recommendation regarding 48-52 Broadway – subdivision of property. Motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chair 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.

**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 Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. for the following matter:

1. Consideration of the performance of two employees.

Motion carried unanimously

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

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Commissioner Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 8:08 p.m. and to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk February 10, 2021