Vice Chrmn. Bergami called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

NOT PRESENT: Richard Smith

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rojee, Officer Hemperly, Traffic Div., Ald. R. Pacelli, Aldermanic Liaison, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS** – available via social media

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

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 7, 2022 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

a. Chief’s General Comments – Chief Mello explained that a class of recruits graduated in December, 2021 and normally there would be a longer period of time before considering another class; however another class is now scheduled to begin April 21st. He noted there were 129 applicants for the upcoming class which is a record low number of applicants for Milford and he added some departments in the state had a much lower number. Further, Chief Mello stated out of those applicants, 13 were unable to pass the screening process. He added as this new class begins, there will be other communities joining who will be paying to be part of this academy. Chief Mello noted that shortly after this class commences, this Department will have additional openings and there could be approximately 15 openings here in Milford as we go through the summer.

Chief Mello noted that there are officers now who do not want to work weekends or extra shifts and due to the need to call back officers to fill these shifts, it is causing morale issues within our Department. As well, he stated some officers are leaving the Department when they reach 20 years or there are others who are not getting that far into their career who decide to leave. Further, as part of this academy recruits will be receiving Critical Incident Training and it will be the 1st academy to do this and train every recruit in this specific area.

Chief Mello reminded the Commissioners that April 12th will be the 35th Anniversary of the Death of Officer Daniel Wasson and as in the past there will be a ceremony commemorating his life as has been done every year since his passing. He extended an invitation to the Commissioners to join in this ceremony.

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

a. Costco-Boston Post Rd. - 900 sq. ft. addition – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to accept the Traffic Division Report regarding Costco-Boston Post Rd. – 900 sq. ft. addition. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Amendment to Special Permit and Site Plan Review for Auto Dealership – 1052 Boston Post Rd -.It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to accept the Traffic Division Report regarding Amendment to Special Permit and Site Plan Review for Auto Dealership – 1052 Boston Post Rd. 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

Comm. Rubenstein noted there were 18 juvenile arrests included in this month’s report and the severity of the crimes are shocking.

Chief Mello explained people are concerned about shopping on the route 1 corridor here in Milford and he added these young people are praying on the older generation and the crimes range from purse snatching to car thefts. He explained that unless violence is involved in the incident, the juveniles cannot be detained. Chief Mello referred to a policy that was written and adopted throughout the state regarding police not being involved in high speed car chases as in most case, it involves juveniles who may also be carrying a gun.

Comm. Mager noted that unfortunately this is not the first time this commission has had this conversation.

Chief Mello added he has been asked many times by legislators and city leaders as to why the policy he referred to is not changed back to its original wording. Chief Mello explained law enforcement leaders do not think chasing these kids until they perhaps cause a fatal crash or injure an innocent person is how they want to see these episodes turn out. He referred to the number of juvenile crimes and stated he has not seen it as bad as it is at this time.

Comm. Jagoe took the opportunity to thank Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee and all of our officers for putting their lives out there every day in order to protect all of us. The Commissioners were all in agreement.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none

**9. NEW BUSINESS** - none

**10. COMMENDATIONS** – none to report

**11. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – none to report

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Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to adjourn at 7:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk April 12, 2022