**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2003 7:00 P.M. TRAINING ROOM, MILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

**Roll Call**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee, Capt. DelMonte, Lt. Holder, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** – none

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Tony Catapano, 94 Brewster Road, Milford – present on behalf of 24 residents of the Brewster Road neighborhood regarding his request of the Board of Aldermen, the Mayor and Sgt. Kranyak of the Traffic Division. He also noted he has sent photographs to Sgt. DelMonte reflecting the problems the neighbors are facing with the parking issue near Brewster Field. He explained the field does not have the parking capacity to accommodate the number of teams playing on that field at one time, noting at times there are 3-4 games being played at the same time and he has suggested playing only 2 games to help with the issue. He expressed his concern that the field is being used by travel ball teams the majority of playing times adding the Milford Little League is renting the fields to these travel teams. He noted that the residents of the area want our Police Department to enforce the no parking regulations for violations of parking laws. Also offered the suggestion that the Milford Little League should hire an officer for safety reasons. He shared the fact that in some instances some of our local officers are parents of team members which added to his concerns. Mr. Catapano noted that the parking lot is a lot for commercial vehicles idling during the day and also attracts young people for troublesome activities.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Bevan to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 13, 2023 as presented.

Comm. Mager referred to item 6, last 2 sentences in the 2nd paragraph which read as follows:

*Commissioner Mager replied that the project was scaled back. He further spoke about how we are an independent ranking organization and that we should support these recommendations. If we said no, it would pause the development and that we definitely have the authority to block development.*

He explained he did not make those comments and wished to have the minutes corrected to reflect that and to eliminate the section referred to.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting with the elimination of those comments.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMNIISTRATION**

1. Donation to K9 Fund from 2023 Citizens Academy Class - $540 – It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein to approve the donation to K9 Fund from 2023 Citizens Academy Class in the amount of $540 as recommended by Chief Mello. Comm. Bevan inquired regarding the status of safety vests for our dogs and Chief Mello stated all dogs have vests.

Motion carried unanimously

1. Thank you and donation to Officer Wellness Fund, $500, Kaoud Family It was moved by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the donation of $500 from Kaoud Family to be placed in Officer Wellness Fund as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Chief’s General Comments – Chief Mello noted the summer season is extremely busy for the Department adding they are operating on a skeleton crew but doing better than other agencies our size. He explained this problem is due to product of labor force and the lack of interest in law enforcement and he expects the issue to continue through the summer. He explained there are presently 2 officers on medical leave and there are officers fulfilling their military reserve duty. Chief Mello noted academy classes start June 23rd and he also noted the aldermen recently approved 2 additional officers which helps. He stated there have been two resignations from the previous class explaining one had the skills needed but realized the job was not for her and another resigned to take a job in a city closer to his residence and for more money. Chief Mello noted officers are going where the pay and benefits are better and at this time we have lost 2 officers and are down 13 people.

**REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS** - none

**ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS –** It was moved by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve the following reports;

1. Special Investigations Unit Report
2. Detective Bureau Report
3. Crime Prevention Unit Report
4. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

Comm. Mager referred to Detective Bureau Report and noted the detectives have not had many new cases assigned.

Chief Mello explained people have been reassigned to work on specific cases as an uptick in burglaries have occurred.

Motion carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Police Sick and Relief Fund Discussion – Comm. Mager referred to previous discussion regarding the Sick & Relief Accounts noting the money has been invested but after research he felt there are safe accounts the money could be invested in. He referred to discussion he has had with John Kuehnie of the Milford Bank who has indicated we could invest at that bank but that would be savings accounts. He also spoke with the city’s Director of Finance and City Treasurer and they have indicated that investments in laddered treasury bills would be advisable. He has shared these conversations with Chief Mello who agrees with the recommendations. Based on the advice provided, it was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein to reallocate investments of the Police Sick and Relief Fund **(see attached motion details).** Motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS –** Request to restrict truck traffic – Essex Drive/Shamrock Rd

Lt. Holder explained the residents of the area are complaining about the truck traffic and the Traffic Division is recommending to not make any changes. He explained there are no engineering problems with this area and prohibiting trucks in this specific area would cause traffic problems in other neighborhoods.

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding the request to restrict truck traffic on Essex Drive/Shamrock Road. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENDATIONS –** Letter of Recognition for Officer J. Nesmith – Case #2023-2590

Deputy Chief Rojee explained Officer Nesmith successfully used Narcan for opioid overdose at a city residence.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of department employee.

It was moved by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. regarding the following.

1. Consideration of the performance of 4 Officers
2. 1st Quarter Review for 8 Probationary Officers

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

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Mager to reconvene in public session at 7:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Bevan to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk: June 13, 2023

PROPOSED MOTION RE:

REALLOCATION OF INVESTMENT OF THE POLICE SICK AND RELIEF FUND

At present, the Police Sick and Relief Fund (hereinafter "Fund") is invested in two accounts: The Milford Bank Money Fund account number ending 4427 (hereinafter "Money Fund") and The Milford Bank Certificate of Deposit (hereinafter "CD").

It is moved that the commission take all funds on deposit in the Police Sick and

Relief Fund but for the sum of $25,000 which shall continue to be held in the Money Fund. The designated funds shall be divided into four equal amounts and invested in laddered treasury bills of three (3), six (6), nine (9) and twelve (12) month durations. Upon each bond's maturity, the principal and interest shall be reinvested in another one (1) year treasury bond. In the alternative, a laddered Certificate of Deposit portfolio could be utilized if that would provide a more prudent investment at the time the funds are reallocated.

The Milford Bank Money Fund shall continue to be maintained as the primary source for liquid funds in the event a request is made by a qualified member of the Police Department for money from the Fund in accordance with the Fund's intended purpose and criteria.

The Commission shall reserve the right to consider future motions to transfer monies from the laddered treasury investment into the Money Fund account if required because of reduction or depletion of the funds on deposit therein as a result of claims made against that account by qualified members of the Police Department and as authorized by the Commission.

The City Treasurer, Lucia Branco, and the Director of Finance, Peter Erodici, shall continue to serve as authorized signers on the Money Fund account and shall also be authorized signers on the investment account to be established for purposes of creating the laddered treasury bill or CD portfolio investment. Further, the Treasurer and/or Director of Finance shall be authorized to close the Police Sick and Relief Fund CD and, in addition, withdraw all funds in excess of $25,000 contained the Money Fund, and use those aggregate monies to establish the laddered treasury bill or CD portfolio investment in manner and form consistent with this motion.

The laddered treasury or CD portfolio investment shall be with TMB Financial

Solutions (the investment division of the Milford Bank). The Treasurer and/or Director of Finance shall be authorized to take whatever steps are reasonably necessary to establish this investment account for the benefit of the Police Sick and Relief Fund in accordance with the City's standard practices and State statue.

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