Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, D. Rubenstein, Richard Smith

ALSO PRESENT:Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rojee, Lt. Chila, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE –** Chief Mello explained reading of all correspondence will be held until the next meeting at which time we will hopefully be meeting all together.

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

a. Food donation from Elizabeth Elam – Chief Mello explained there have been numerous donations made to the Department from restaurants and private citizens and he shared his appreciation and sincere thanks for those acts of kindness for the officers and staff.

b. Donation of masks from Ocean State Job Lot – Chief Mello expressed his appreciation for the donation of surgical masks from Ocean State Job Lot adding the Department has a good inventory of protective equipment at this time.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to accept the donation of masks from Ocean State Job Lot. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Off Duty weapon authorization – Officer Sam Noss and Capt. B. Marschner – item removed from the agenda.

d. Donation from Catherine & Charles Ross - $200 – Chief Mello recommended the donation of $200 from Catherine & Charles Ross be placed in the Officer’s Wellness Donation Account.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept the $200 donation as noted by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Donation from NRG Energy Inc. - $2500. For Covid-19 relief efforts – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Bevan to accept the donation from NRG Energy Inc., $2500 for

CoVid-19 relief efforts.

Chief Mello explained that at this time he has not specified where that money will be earmarked for but he will cover that further in his General Comments.

Motion carried unanimously.

f. Chief’s General comments – Chief Mello reminded members that he was actually planning to be going away a few days before all of the restrictions and executive orders were put in place and he had changed his plans as he could see that things were going to change quickly and soon. He assured the members that the Department was prepared in the way of personal protection equipment and at this time are doing fine with the inventory of masks. Chief Mello explained efforts are made to minimize interaction with the public and protocols have been put in place to have calls handled over telephone, video-conferencing or FaceTime if at all possible. Further he noted essential calls are handled and we have changed procedure for when someone is to be arrested. He stated there have been few in-custody arrests and continue working closely with the courts if a bond is imposed and if so, work to get that bond reduced. It was noted that if any person who is arrested is tested for the virus and tests positive, there is no way around the fact that they have to be isolated.

Chief Mello reported 3 officers had tested positive for the virus and 18 officers have been quarantined for one reason or another. He added the building is closed to the general public and the lobby hours are limited. He felt the Department’s plans and procedures are strong and effective. Also, at this time officers spend a good deal of time, electronically, with kids through daily reading programs to students and generally doing our best to continue to connect with kids and encourage them to be safe and practice social distancing and officers have been escorting party parades for various celebrations. Chief Mello noted that the majority of the tasks are to support those in the front line, our Health Dept. and various city agencies as they are doing a fine job for our residents and he emphasized the fact that the plans here in Milford are solid as are those of the state.

Comm. Mager asked how the three officers who tested positive are and he was told each of them are back to work.

Chief Mello expressed concern about our dispatch center as there is only a limited number of staff in that small area and if the numbers of illness in that department were to grow, it would be necessary to find other options to staff the dispatch center.

With regards to upcoming retirements, Chief Mello announced that Capt. Brendan Marschner has left the Department and his effective retirement date is October 29, 2020.

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

a. Dog Daycare Facility – 40 Quirk Road – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Dog Daycare Facility – 40 Quirk Road. Motion carried unanimously.

b. 9 Unit Housing Development – 526 Naugatuck Ave – It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and

seconded by Comm. Bevan to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 9 Unit Housing

Development, 526 Naugatuck Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

c. 0 William St. – Northeast Horticultural Services – Chrmn. Smith explained the commission had entertained this request previously and at that time the proposed owner could not acquire the property from the city.

Lt. Chila explained P & Z are in favor of the purchase of this property and are going to move forward with this project.

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Bevan to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 0 William Street – Northeast Horticultural Services.

Lt. Chila explained there is only one driveway for this building and our concerns are only with that driveway and the slight lines on to Rowe Avenue.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chair 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**

Chief Mello explained that as the state looks to reopen, there may be some accommodations that need to be made quickly regarding traffic patterns. He added those decisions will be made based on the Mayor’s Executive order and the Department will work with him on such matters which will be reported to the commissioners at the next meeting.

Chrmn. Smith cited matters such as restaurants will be able to use their parking lots for dining areas and that will make for parking and traffic concerns.

Comm. Bevan stated he has had numerous conversations with the Traffic Div. regarding concerns of residents and the response and reactions have always been prompt and courteous. He also noted patrol cars are doing a great job in areas such as Gulf Beach with matters relating to people congregating.

Chief Mello referred to the Mayor’s direction to allow only Milford residents to use our beaches is also

a great loss of revenue to the city in that non-residents would have had to pay to park and go to the beach. However, he stated this will be greatly reducing the numbers at the beach. He stated officers will be enforcing this as it will be keeping the maximum capacity down at the beaches but when it comes to social distancing issues at the beach, officers will not be getting involved in that but will make public safety announcements in the area in such instances. He added the goal of the Department is not to be social distancing enforcement or to be the “mask” police in the city.

Chrmn. Smith commended Chief Mello for the tone that the Milford Police Department has set as it is sensitive to the challenges we are facing.

**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. Jagoe to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. regarding the following:

1. Consideration of the performance of one employee
2. 12b. Request for sick time deficit for one employee.
3. 12c. Request for sick time deficit for one employee.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 8:44 p.m.

1. Consideration of the performance of one employee – no action necessary.
2. 12b. Request for sick time deficit for one employee - It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to consider the request of Emily Mills for additional sick time. Motion was unanimously denied.
3. 12c. Request for sick time deficit for one employee - It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to consider the request of Peter Parks for additional sick time until May 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello added such requests emphasize the importance of members of the Department to preserve their sick time.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk May 12, 2020