

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami; Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo, Carleton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; D. Candido, Secty; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ald. Vetro thanked Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Fournier and Sgt. Sharoh for taking the time to provide him an explanation of how decisions were reached regarding previous citizen requests. Specifically, Dixon Street and Brewster Road and Watrous Lane.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2010 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Giles noted there are two matters to be added to this meeting's agenda.

It was moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to add item 12 c. Contract of Chief of Police. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to add item 6 c. Consideration of Safe Driving Incentive Program. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

Susan St. Pierre, Milford resident – stated she recently found it necessary to report an incident concerning a young man stalking her son. Officer O'Keefe was assigned to the matter and shortly after meeting with the Officer, her son was more at ease with the matter. Officer O'Keefe worked with the administration on JLHS and assigned a contact person at the school for the young man to go to if a similar situation should occur. She stated she was grateful to Officer O'Keefe for taking the time to listen and help.

D. Botwell, Milford resident – noted that he was unaware that his registration had lapsed and this motor vehicle violation was brought to his attention by Officer Robinson who explained what appropriate steps needed to be taken in accordance with the law. He

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commended Officer Robinson for doing his job with an outstanding degree of professionalism.

Gary L. Mazzone, Inspector, Div. of Criminal Justice, State of CT, Office of State's Attorney – stated that in 2009 he was assigned to assist the Department with the Kelsey Monahan case. He noted that on his first visit it was apparent that the officers were neatly uniformed, desk sergeants professional and polite and the detectives were professional in both their demeanor and attire. He noted that Sgt. Youd and Det. Nash worked with him in the ensuing months as well as Capt. Butler and each handled all requests expeditiously. He commended Judy Werner, Secretary for her professionalism and being so helpful and stated the Department is a well-run municipal police department.

Bonnie Hudson, Milford resident – writing to acknowledge Officer Tomaselli who had offered professional help and advice to her family and many others as well. She stated he will go out of his way to lawfully try to offer assistance and to do his best to set things right. Ms. Hudson requested this letter be added to his service record noting he is a fine officer and she was greatly impressed with his professionalism and people skills.

Michele Chandra, Milford resident – thanked Sgt. Sharoh for following through with her request and recommending a crossing guard at the intersection of West Main & High and added she was pleased with the outcome.

Chief Mello added that when the Commission approved this request he had explained that it was a possibility that the crossing guard may not be added until it was determined there were sufficient funds available. He explained those funds were available to add a guard immediately on a per diem basis through 7/1/10.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Off Duty Weapon authorization for Officers Edward Bethke, Christopher Lennon and William Localzo – Chief Mello explained that the weapons had been inspected and the officers qualify to carry those weapons while off duty.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to authorize Officers Edward Bethke, Christopher Lennon and William Localzo to carry their weapons while off duty.

Comm. Wanosky questioned if the weapons are selected from an authorized list or can the officers choose a weapon of their choice.

Chief Mello stated the weapon must be in good working order and chosen with reasonable discretion. He added the sole purpose of being authorized to carry

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the weapon is to provide the officers with coverage in terms of liability; however, the weapon must be qualified.

Motion carried unanimously.

b. 2009 year end report for Police Sick and Relief Fund – Vice Chrmn. Jagoe reported that she has been tracking the accounts and at this time her recommendation was to continue with the existing accounts noting that interest rates are similarly low at all banks.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to continue with the existing accounts at Milford Bank for the Police Sick and Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Safe Driving Incentive Program – Chief Mello discussed the current safe driving program noting that an officer can earn 8 hours after 25,000 accident free miles. He reported the driving accidents involving police officers while on duty are monitored over a 12 month period and the past year the department had 9 at-fault accidents. He noted they were minor accidents, consisting of mostly backing accidents, but nonetheless will cost the department money. He stated an incentive of 8 hours after 5,000 miles was suggested; however, Chief Mello proposed 8 hours after 12,000 miles. He added miles will be taken away from an officers total if they are seen talking on their cell phone while on duty, not wearing a seat belt while on duty or any improper driving practice while in a patrol car. He felt it is necessary to be aggressive in order to address behavior in the future and this proposed incentive will have a financial impact which will be slight.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe asked how long it might take to reach 25,000 miles and she was told approximately 24 months.

Comm. Bergami referred to a study just released which states that hands-free telephone use can cause a 35% distraction of your cognitive awareness.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the Chief's proposed driver incentive program of awarding an officer 8 hours after 12,000 accident free miles. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. 145 High St./0Railroad Ave. – Apartment Building/parking lot – It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Bergami to approve the P & Z request regarding 145 High St./0 Railroad Avenue Apartment Building/parking lot. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

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- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Youth Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. Detective Bureau Cases Report
- e. General Highway Safety Summary

Chrmn. Giles noted these reports were included in the Commissioners packets and item e. General Highway Safety Summary included reports for a two month period.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to accept reports A through E as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Draft proposal for local ordinance titled “An Act Prohibiting Blocking the Box” – Chief Mello explained there is a new statute regarding blocking an intersection and this new law requires the intersection be street-painted with a grid (box-shape) and appropriate signage. He stated it is necessary for this proposed ordinance to go before the Ordinance Committee of the Board of Aldermen before it is put in place. Further, he noted the department has designated streets within the city that are problem intersections, specifically Boston Post Road/Cedarhurst Lane and Boston Post Road/East Town Road and the plan is to ask Westfield Shopping Center to supplement the cost of the street painting and signs since both locations are access to the shopping center.

Comm. Bergami suggested adding Boston Post Road/Roses Mill Road as well.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the draft proposal for local ordinance titled “An Act Prohibiting Blocking the Box” be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe suggested adding the Yale/Edgefield Avenue intersection in the future.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS

a. Officer Robert Weymer – Deputy Chief Fournier reported that on Friday, January 8, 2010, Officer Robert Weymer was dispatched to 23 Raycroft Street for a report of a chimney fire. The officer was the first emergency responder on the scene and took the initiative from the moment of his arrival to ensure the best outcome of this incident. Doing so, he removed the fire extinguisher from his

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vehicle and approached the home. The homeowners were found outside and immediately directed the officer to the rear of the home where the fire was coming from the siding of the home adjacent to the chimney. Officer Weymer used the fire extinguisher to extinguish and stop the spread of the fire from outside of the home until the fire department arrived on the scene. Deputy Chief Fournier stated that Officer Weymer's actions contributed to the containment of the fire and minimized the loss experienced by the homeowners.

12. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF OF POLICE ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, PERFORMANCE, EVALUATION AND HEALTH OR DISMISSAL OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. to discuss:

- a. Probationary Reviews - none
- b. Request from Steno Deanna Fields
- c. Contract of Chief of Police

Motion carried unanimously.

Deputy Chief Fournier remained in executive session for the discussion of item 12 b. Request from Steno Deanna Fields.

[Ald. Vetro left the meeting at 7:28 p.m.]

Deputy Chief Fournier left executive session at 7:35 p.m.

Chrmn. Giles reconvened the meeting in public session at 8:02 p.m.

- b. It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to uphold the Chief's recommendation regarding the request of Steno Deanna Fields. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Bergami to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary