

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, MONDAY MARCH 16, 2009
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler; Carlton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Jerold Wanosky

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to reorder the agenda so that items 12a and 12b will be taken up under item #2 as 2a and 2b. The motion was approved after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

- a. Appointment as Probationary Officers for the following: Officer Vincent Senatore, Officer Sean Degnan, Officer Gary McDonnell, Officer Matthew Mello, Officer Michael Cruz, Officer Richard Pisani, Officer Garon Delmonte and Officer Emily Sopchak. All probationary appointments retroactive to February 27, 2009.

Chief Mello noted that these officers had completed their training retroactive to February 27, 2009. He asked that the officers introduce themselves, after which they were sworn in as probationary officers by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe. The officers were congratulated by the remainder of Commission members.

- b. Completion of Probation for the following: Officer David Chila, Officer Antonio Moreno and Officer Erek Robinson, retroactive to 2/29/09.

Chief Mello noted that Off. Robinson was not present due to a family illness; however, he would be present at next month's Commission meeting. He stated that Offs. Chila and Moreno were the newest regular officers who have completed their probation. These two officers were sworn in by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and then congratulated by the rest of the Commission.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Alderman Phil Vetro, 4th District, stated he has received quite a few complaints from local florists that all holidays that require flowers, i.e., Mother's Day, Easter, etc., there are "pop up tents" all over the city. He wondered if these people needed a permit from the Police Department or Planning & Zoning, to which Chief Mello responded they would require a vending permit. Ald. Vetro questioned if officers would stop and ask these vendors for their information, to which the Chief Mello stated they would check to see if the vendor had a permit if a complaint had been received. The Chief will look into

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this matter, however, if these vendors are operating within the zoning regulations, the Police cannot stop them. Ald. Vetro suggested that perhaps the Aldermen can adopt an ordinance regarding these itinerant vendors.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Via e-mail to Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, Comm. Faruolo noted that on page 2, paragraph 1, should read: "Comm. Faruolo congratulated Chrmn Giles and Vice Chrmn Jagoe, noting that they had done a fabulous job and it was easy to recommend them both.

Comm. Wanosky noted that his name was misspelled on several pages; it should be Wanosky – not Winosky.

The minutes being so corrected, the motion to approve same carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

A letter was received from Kevin Lawlor, Office of the State's Attorney, regarding a Milford case in which the person received a 25 year prison sentence. The following officers investigated and testified in this case, playing major roles with distinction: Sgt. Alexopoulous, Det. Gall, Sgt. Burton, Off. Lima and (retired) Off. Barry. They were thanked for their hard work and efforts. K. Lawlor noted that he was fortunate to have worked with them.

John L. DelNegro sent a letter of appreciation to a dedicated officer, Off. F. Tomaselli, who provided valuable information to him. Off. Tomaselli assisted Mr. DelNegro in a case that involved his receiving a check from an account with insufficient funds. Off. Tomaselli found the person who issued the check (whose business had closed) and recovered the funds. Mr. DelNegro expressed his gratitude for the capable assistance from the department.

Sgt. Wydra and Off. Mitkowski were thanked in a letter from a family whose sister suffered a tragic loss. The sister received assistance, kindness and compassion from these officers. Sgt. Wydra especially was extremely responsive to the family's concerns. They appreciate the assistance they received from these two "wonderful" officers.

A complimentary letter was received from Dr.Yassanye regarding Sgt. Rahn's working with the Health Department in placing people in the no-freeze shelter.

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6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Comm. Marrone moved to add the following officers to item 6a: A. Dunaj, J. Kiely, J. Nielsen and J. Salas. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

- a. Consideration of accident free mileage award to Sgt. Patrick Tierney, Off. A. Dunaj, Off. J. Kiely, Off. J. Nielsen and Off. J. Salas

Chief Mello stated that these officers have all achieved 25,000 accident free miles and they will be awarded 8 hours compensation time.

It was moved and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and Comm. Marrone, respectively, to approve these awards. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello explained to the Commission that part of President Obama's stimulus plan is to designate \$4 billion toward law enforcement. Milford may also be awarded a \$79,000 Justice Assistance Grant, with which the Chief would like to purchase in-car video cameras. He believes that all law enforcement officers should have these cameras in their vehicles. Of course, there are other areas where these funds can be utilized, i.e., for training. The department will also apply for a COPS (community policing) grant of \$2.5 billion, however this is competitive, but if received, it will aid in hiring additional officers. There has been previous discussions regarding staffing the department with four additional officers over a particular time period. However, if they can secure this grant, they can gain one or two additional officers. The submittal will have to be backed up with pertinent paperwork and if they are successful, they will appear before the Board of Aldermen for acceptance of the grant.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe noted that she had read in the newspaper about the grants that area towns will receive or have received. She questioned how it is determined how much each community will receive. Chief Mello explained that it is based on demographics and crime rates. The higher the crime rate community, the more funds they will receive. The Fairfield County communities receive far less than Milford and there are those that receive considerably more than Milford.

Comm. Wanosky questioned if they do receive the grant monies, will it be put into the general fund or into the Police budget. Chief Mello responded that it has to come to the Police Department as it is slated for law enforcement purposes. Comm. Wanosky further questioned who will ultimately make the decision on how the monies will be used, to which the Chief responded, they will have to review the language of the grant, i.e., if it is for equipment, they will use it for the car cameras. If they cannot use it for equipment, they will use it for training; for instance, he was questioned as to why the officers are not trained as EMTs.

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Comm. Wanosky clarified his question, asking if the Chief will bring this item before the Commission to discuss before any decision is made as to how the funds will be utilized. Chief Mello reiterated that all monies received have to be approved by the Board of Aldermen. Comm. Wanosky wondered if they could come before the Commission first to ask what they think; however, the Chief explained that they have to indicate what the funds will be used for before they get it. They have to submit what the department's needs are. They can discuss it in an advisory role.

Chief Mello noted that the Finance Board will be meeting on Wednesday evening on the budget that will go before the Board of Aldermen. He and Deputy Chief Fournier will attend.

The Mayor has sent a memo to all department heads regarding spending controls. Among those are: hiring freeze, spending freeze, no capital expenditures. In addition, seasonal and temporary positions have to be approved by the Mayor. All travel and conference requests will not be authorized. All overtime will be curtailed and approved for an emergency only.

Regarding the Finance Board meeting on March 18th, Vice Chrmn. Jagoe wondered if their proposal will be discussed be at the April 13th Board of Aldermen meeting? She mentioned that both meetings are public, to which the Chief responded in the affirmative.

Chief Mello stated that due to the fact that the Board of Aldermen meeting will be held on April 13th, the same night as the Commission meeting, perhaps the Commission meeting could begin at 6:30 p.m., after which he can attend the Board of Aldermen meeting. He noted that they are toward the end of the meeting. Although he has already testified, he would like to know how they voted.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe stated she read an editorial in the paper regarding racial profiling where some cities have complied and Milford, among others, has complied.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

None

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- 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.

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It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe to accept reports “a” through “e.” The motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. No parking request – Old Buckingham/New Haven Ave. – Richard Chandler

It was noted that a request for traffic study was submitted with this item. Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to accept the report of the Traffic Division. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

11. COMMENDATIONS

None

At 7:37 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Wanosky and carried by roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss the consideration of the performance of one employee. Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Fournier were asked to remain.

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

- a. Consideration of the performance of 1 employee

The Commission left Executive Session at 7:45 P.M., at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to uphold the recommendation of the Chief of Police regarding the performance of one employee. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Marrone.

Comm. Marrone moved to adjourn at 7:46 P.M. The motion was seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stock, Secretary