

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016– 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Capt. Alexopoulos; Ald. Vetro, E. Mead, P & Z Liaison, D. Candido, Secty.

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

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to add item 12 d. Request of officer for sick time deficit. Motion carried unanimously.

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Marty Lippman – E. Broadway – owner of two condos in the Walnut Beach area and addressed the parking proposals for the area. He stated he is a licensed professional engineer and he shared comments on the modifications he made to the plan. He recommended changing two hour parking to “residents only parking”.
- Sue Jerue – 610 Merwin Ave – explained she and other alumni of the Citizens Police Academy at the opportunity to participate in another learning experience (Wet Lab). She thanked Chief Mello for involving the members of the academy to such events.

Chief Mello explained Wet Lab is a DUI Training Night.

- John Carissimi – 64 Kirkside Ave – thanked Chief Mello for the opportunity to be part of the recent Use-Of-Force Summit.

Chief explained the Summit was a two-day event held at the Parsons Complex.

- Ed Mead, Vice Chrmn. P & Z – referred to his comments made at a previous meeting regarding future requests of the service of a traffic consultant. He added many people did not realize the Police Department does not have the resources or staff to do such studies and going through P & Z for the service of a traffic consultant would be most helpful.
- Wm. Parry – 158 Orange Ave. – referred to the proposal for parking in the Walnut Beach area and surrounding streets and expressed his concern for residents designated parking spots.

Chief Mello explained in doing this study every effort was made to be responsive to the residents and the business community.

Chrmn. Smith explained there have been multiple plans proposed and the commission is now ready to hear the details of the final plan to be taken into consideration.

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Mr. Parry expressed concern regarding the lack of handicap parking spaces and Chief Mello assured him that issue will be addressed in the presentation.

- Susan Patrick, President of Walnut Beach Arts & Business Assoc. – stated she was pleased this commission is looking into improving parking during the summer season in the Walnut Beach area. She shared the associations' preferences for timed parking areas as well as the need for repainting of the lines. She added it was felt the better alternative would be to study the upcoming increase in fees and that impact on parking before making any future decisions. As well she directed comment to the 20-22 employees of various businesses in the area who will need parking on a daily basis and the restricted parking areas for beach goers will make it difficult for these employees to park. She also felt a study at the end of the summer would be advisable with a recommendation for summer 2017. She presented a list of business owners who support the recommendations she shared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried with Comm. Wanosky abstaining as he was not present at the January meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Horizons Fairfield County newspaper (AAA magazine) highlighting John And Barbara Carissimi as Traffic Study Heroes
- Resident – thank you note to the Department acknowledging the officers belonging to a well-trained police department
- Maria Martorano – West Haven resident – thank you note expressing her gratitude to an officer who helped her locate her car in the parking lot of the shopping mall.
- Barbara Veccharelli – thank you for car seat installation and \$20 donation.
- National Board, Staff & Membership of Concerns of Police Survivors - commemorative message on the anniversary of the death of Officer Dan Wasson (4/12/97).
- NASRO newspaper showing Officer Kiely accepting the National Award of Valor from the organization for his single act of courage and valor at the tragic incident which occurred at JLHS two years ago.
- Lauralton Hall Students – thank you note to the Department.
- Chief Salvatore, Monroe Police Dept. – thanked Chief Mello for assistance of Milford's K-9 team and noted his appreciation of mutual cooperation between departments.
- Copy of Facebook page showing Officer Mazzara assisting elderly resident cross the street.
- Beth El Center – thank you note for donation to soup kitchen.
- Milford's Rape Crisis Center – thank you for generous raffle gift presented at the recent Indoor Golf Tournament.

Chief Mello explained the gift was a parade ride in squad car in one of Milford's annual parades.

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- WCSU – thank you for allowing officers to conduct Chemical Agents Instruction course at our Police Academy and special thanks to Sgt. O’Keefe for his efforts in making training a success.
- Thank you note from resident to department for responding to accident and the officer’s ability to calm both victim and driver.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Year-end report for Police Sick & Relief Fund – Chief Mello referred to the balance statement of this fund included in the commissioner’s packets and recommended rolling this fund over as has been past practice.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to roll over the Sick & Relief Fund account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Safe Driving Awards to the following: Off. A. Aquino, Sgt. T. Bassett, Off. D. Bodnar, Det. D. Broderick, Off. S. Drubrow, Sgt. A. Dunaj, Det. R. Frawley, Off. M. Goldfuss, Off. K. Hilliard, Off. G. Todice, Det. M. Warwick and Off. K. Zbikowski, Off. Binkowski, Off. Covelli, Off. Jock and Off. Lacy.

It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to award eight hours of comp time for an accumulation of 12,000 safe driving miles with no safety violations to Off. A. Aquino, Sgt. T. Bassett, Off. D. Bodnar, Det. D. Broderick, Off. S. Drubrow, Sgt. A. Dunaj, Det. R. Frawley, Off. M. Goldfuss, Off. K. Hilliard, Off. G. Todice, Det. M. Warwick and Off. K. Zbikowski, Off. Binkowski, Off. Covelli, Off. Jock and Off. Lacy. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Donation for purchase of K9 dog (anonymous donation) – It was moved by Comm. Rubinstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept a \$4,000 anonymous donation to purchase police canine and to extend thank you and appreciation to the donor for the donation.

Chief Mello explained the city does not purchase dogs and fortunately it is through the generosity of donors that the Department is able to purchase members of our K-9 team.

Motion carried unanimously.

d. \$20 donation from car seat installation – Chief Mello recommended this \$20 donation be applied to the DARE account.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the \$20 donation from resident for car seat installation and apply funds to the DARE Account as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Chief’s General comments – Chief reported one of the Department’s officers is currently attending K-9 training school and that is working out well.

He extended an invitation to the commissioners to the Police Academy Graduation scheduled for 5/23 at the Parsons Complex.

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He commended officers who have been instrumental in initiating life saving measures at various incidents adding such action is a direct result of the combine dispatch program. Upon question from Comm. Rubinstein regarding Narcan, he explained our Department members are not considered first responders and therefore do not carry Narcan but at this time they are looking into implementing that usage.

Chief Mello and Chairman Smith updated the commissioners on the Police Station Building Committee explaining that based on a needs assessment done years ago, there was an overwhelming consensus that the Department has outgrown this facility. He added the committee is looking at the proposal to do something on this property site and are looking at the opportunity to visit the Danbury Police Station as a model facility.

Chief Mello added a new police facility was first proposed in 1998 and has remained in the Capitol Improvement Plan ever since. He added a needs assessment was done 6 years ago which determined the need was even greater and at this time he is grateful the Mayor has recognized the need to build a new facility. He stated he is looking forward to building the last police department facility that the city will ever have to build.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo 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

a. Parking Proposals – Walnut Beach area – Chief Mello distributed the most recent revision of the parking proposal and explained the Department operates under the premise that parking should only be restricted when absolutely necessary. He noted Silver Sands State Park will now have an entrance fee and the city would like to have paid parking along Walnut Beach surrounding streets. The proposal ensures adequate space for businesses and residents. Chief explained the proposal will remain as two-hour restricted parking for the summer months with enhanced enforcement. With regard to the business district, Chief Mello stated adequate turn-over of parking spaces, both 2 hour and 30 minute parking spaces, are proposed. With regard to the Beachside Condos, the 4 present parking spaces are included with two additional handicap accessible spaces. Also, employees need to park and not in time restricted areas and that has been considered.

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Chief Mello agreed that it is important that we gather supporting evidence to making additions or revisions and if necessary changes can be made in a short period of time if it becomes necessary. Further, the Department needs more data to make a good decision. He also emphasized the fact that signage and crosswalks are included in the proposal.

It was explained in the past it was difficult to enforce designated timed parking however Chief Mello stated he is recommending restoring overtime fees for Parks and Parking for the Department which would include a dedicated officer to do traffic enforcement.

Chief Mello invited residents to call him if they had concerns or wanted to discuss the recommendations further.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to accept the recommended parking proposals consistent with data outlined by Chief Mello with regard to Naugatuck Avenue, E. Broadway, Joy Road, Shea Avenue, Monroe Street and Viscount Drive. (attached map). Motion carried unanimously.

Comm. Jagoe thanked the Chief and staff for presenting a concise and well thought out proposal.

Chrmn. Smith added this is the beginning of a multi-year process but it is a good start.

b. Traffic Study – Raised Crosswalk request – River St./Railroad Ave. – Chief Mello explained this was originally presented as a raised crosswalk but it is known that raised crosswalks could cause damage and liability concerns. As well, he noted the Department does not support raised speed table but does support pattern stamped concrete or similar aesthetics.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept Traffic Dept recommendation regarding raised crosswalk request at River St/Railroad Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - Capt. Alexopoulos presented the following information:

a. Commendation for one Officer – Certificate of Commendation to Officer Mazzaro who responded to possible drug overdose; officer performed chest compressions until paramedics arrived and determine victim's breathing/pulse had been restored. Victim survived.

b. Letter of Recognition for 7 Officers – Letter of Recognition to Officer Wardowski who investigated a residential burglary and broadcast a description of the suspect's vehicle to other officers. Unit Citations issued to Officers Groves and Degnan who observed and stopped the suspect's vehicle a short time later and ultimately arrested suspects and stolen items were recovered.

c. Certificate of Commendation for 3 Officers – Certificate of Commendation to Sgt. Doerr, Officers Magnon and Bova for their response to report of motor vehicle accident with a female victim pinned under car. Without regard to their own safety, officers comforted the victim, jacked the car up as much as possible in order to relieve pressure on victim's leg and held the vehicle stable until Milford Fire Dept unit arrived and extricated the victim.

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12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment, Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department Employees

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. regarding the following matters.

- a. 2nd quarter Probationary review for 6 Officers (from February)
- b. Consideration of the performance of two employees.
- c. Grievance #1-2016 at step #3.
- d. Request of officer for sick time deficit

Motion carried unanimously.

Included in Executive Session were commissioners present, Chief Mello and Capt. Alexopoulos.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to reconvene in public session at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to deny Grievance #1-2016 at step #3. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to accept the recommendation of Chief Mello regarding request of officer for sick time deficit. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn at 8:36 p.m.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk, April 13, 2016