

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chrmn. Jagoe called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, Deputy Chief Butler, Ald. Vetro, Mr. Mead (P & Z Vice Chair) and D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS - none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS – Chairman Jagoe read a prepared statement regarding guidelines for addressing the Board of Commissioners during the citizen comment portion of the meeting noting each speaker should provide their name and address for the record and that the opportunity for addressing the board is not to engage in discussion but hear the comments of those present.

- Ald. Vetro stated he has been contacted regarding crosswalk at the Anchorage Condo/Shipyard Lane noting that during the morning and evening hours the area is heavily traveled with the commuters who park their vehicles in the public parking area.

Chief Mello stated he would be happy to contact those individuals who are concerned and asked Ald. Vetro to provide their names.

Ald. Vetro stated he also has received comments regarding North Street/Governors Avenue crosswalk and the residents in that area feel the crosswalk is not enough.

Chief Mello explained the recommendation of the department was to put some type of traffic control in that area but it would require narrowing a section of the road.

Ald. Vetro shared comments regarding heavy truck traffic traveling on West Main Street, turning onto High Street and the fact that the truck traffic is brought to that narrow street route via GPS systems. He stated residents he spoke with have requested banning heavy truck traffic in that area.

Chief Mello explained there is no statute of prohibition from keeping trucks from going on that route. He added advisory signs can be posted which would give drivers warning.

- E. Mead, P & Z – expressed his concern regarding the previous approval of exiting the CVS at Schoolhouse and Boston Post Road. He noted exiting the driveway, turning left and crossing traffic, going onto the Post Road is dangerous. He added just this past weekend there was a serous accident at that location.
- Mike Sevalko – 25 Innsbruck Rd. – directed comments to his neighbor who continuously makes unnecessary noise with his motorcycle at all hours of the night. He stated he has previously contacted the Police Dept. regarding this problem and they have come out and

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spoke to the individual but it isn't long before it happens again. He questioned the procedure for getting a noise ordinance in place in Milford.

Chief Mello offered to put Mr. Sevalko in touch with the Supervisor in the department who could help him with the handling of this problem. Chief explained that a noise ordinance would require the department to actually hear the noise via the equipment which would need to be set up. Chief Mello suggested meeting with Mr. Sevalko to discuss further the issues with a noise ordinance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 meeting as presented. Motion carried/Comm. Wanosky abstained as he was not present at the May meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Attny. Robt. Chesson, Landlord Law Firm – letter of appreciation to the department for assistance provided to his company involving an incident at his office. He noted the situation regarding employee termination was handled with complete understanding and commitment and the officers stood by to peacefully engage if needed. He expressed his gratitude to Officers Taylor, Frey, Davidson, Dunaij and Canine Noble who also provided assistance.
- Toni Dolan, Director, Beth El Center – letter of congratulation and recognition to Det. Tomaselli upon receiving the United Way of Milford's Spirit of Milford award for all he does and gives back to the community in many ways.
- Residents, Surf Village/Sandpiper Crescent – letter of appreciation to the department for the officers presence while addressing disorderly conduct at the complex. Further, it was noted the individuals dealt with were extremely hostile and residents are pleased that the problem was finally solved.

Chief Mello explained with the letter came several gift cards for distribution but he stated the gift cards were returned with a polite thank you and explanation of why they could not accept them.

- Capt. Joseph M. Vojvodich, USCG – expressed appreciation for the department taking part in the boating safety and security missions. Specifically thanked Officer Nielsen and Kranyak for their essential contribution to the event.
- Reilly Family, Milford residents – expressed appreciation from the Reilly family for the department's assistance and help in caring for an elderly relative. Special thanks was extended to Officer Owens.

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6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Off Duty Weapon authorization for Officers Michael Cruz, Austin Groves, Vincent Senatore - It was moved by Comm. Marrone and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve Off Duty weapon requests for Officers Michael Cruz, Austin Groves, Vincent Senatore. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Donation of various items for K9 Unit – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve donation of various items for K9 Unit. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Donation of bicycle rack from Milford resident – It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the donation of a bicycle rack from John Ratzenberger, Milford resident. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. Renovation of Milford Transit bus stop at 1201 Boston Post Rd – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve the recommendation of Traffic Division regarding renovation of Milford Transit bus stop at 1201 Boston Post Rd. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. 258-266 Boston Post Rd – Cumberland Farms Convenience Store/Gas Pumps - It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding 258-266 Boston Post Rd – Cumberland Farms Convenience Store/Gas Pumps. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello reminded the board that the State Dept. could over rule this body's decision on such matters.

- c. 121 and 123 West Main St – Metro Crossing – It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the recommendation of Traffic Div. to reject the application regarding 121 and 123 West Main St – Metro Crossing. Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Chrmn. Jagoe noted the reports of items a, b, c, d and e were included in the Commissioners packets.

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve the following reports:

- a. Uniform Crime Report (Dec)
- b. Special Investigations Unit Report
- c. Detective Bureau Report
- d. Crime Prevention Services Report

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e. Traffic Division & Licensing Unit Report

Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Golf Cart Ordinance – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to remove from the table consideration of the Golf Cart Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Smith and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to approve the Golf Cart Ordinance for purpose of discussion only. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Mello explained this ordinance was designed by the City Attorney sometime ago and it is modeled by other towns that have been successful with it. He added he is not in favor of the ordinance in the form it is presently in. He felt if the ordinance is passed in its current form, the only way it will work if this body approves every street requested.

Comm. Smith asked how many tickets the department issues per year for golf carts on the road in Milford and he was told in the past 12 months there have been none.

Comm. Smith stated it is up to this board to decide if the department is going to enforce it or legalize it and by allowing usage of the carts, it ensures the safety of the carts and will also generate minimal revenue for the city. He questioned if it is approved, can the department control the usage and he did not feel approving requests street by street would work.

Chief Mello stated it is a tedious process to approve each street but the department can exempt and specify certain streets.

Comm. Faruolo asked if there is any town besides Old Saybrook that has such an ordinance.

Chief Mello stated studies have been done of several communities, mostly shoreline, and they are smaller with narrow streets. He added there is nothing in the ordinance which defines insurance or liability requirements.

Comm. Faruolo asked how many golf carts would be in consideration and Chief Mello thought the number would be very few.

Vice Chair Bergami asked if the city could be more restrictive than the federal guidelines and he was told yes they could.

Comm. Rubinstein asked if the ordinance is enforceable the way it is written and he was told yes.

Chair Jagoe asked if the ordinance had been before the aldermen and she was told it has not because the local traffic authority must first make a determination.

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Comm. Smith approving this would provide the ability to control the usage and legalize the use of such carts.

Chair Jagoe stated she personally was not in favor of the ordinance.

Comm. Wanosky felt he could not support this because of the lack of more details regarding insurance requirements and specification of streets.

Chief Mello reminded the board if they make a final decision and in the future you see the need to change it that can be done.

Comm. Rubinstein asked if this body could table it for further consideration and he was told the only thing the commission could further consider is to exempt certain roads.

Comm. Wanosky expressed his concern regarding the language for insurance requirements.

Chief Mello stated he was not sure if this board has the authority to include further language in the ordinance.

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to table the Golf Cart Ordinance, pending further information regarding a list of streets to be exempt from the regulations as well as more detailed language regarding insurance requirements. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Stop Sign Request – Morningside Drive/Little Pond Rd – no discussion/matter remained on the table.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Parking lot review – Shipyard Lane/tennis courts – It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to approve recommendation from Traffic Div. regarding Parking lot review – Shipyard Lane/tennis courts. Motion carried unanimously.

b. 2 Hour Parking Request – Central Ave (at length) – It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to approve the recommendation from Traffic Div. regarding 2 hour parking request – Central Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

Prior to adjourning to Executive Session, Chief Mello stated the request for SRO's has been approved and while it took a long time to make the need for this staffing clear, it has been one of the strongly debated topics he has seen since he had been Chief. He added he was proud of Milford and the elected officials who took leadership and it was satisfying to see the process evolve. Chief Mello further stated while the money to fund this has been found within the budget, it is still the taxpayer's money and this department is committed to make this a model for other communities. He added that his matter has received a great deal of attention from places outside of Milford.

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Chief Mello explained the program will be reviewed in April 2014 and prior to that they are committed to selecting the right people for the position.

Comm. Smith stated the passage of this was due in no small part as a victory to Chief Mello.

Vice Chair Bergami added there have been a number of people who have approached him and asked what these positions are needed for and he felt there is still a good deal more educating the public needed, perhaps meeting with parent groups.

Comm. Rubinstein asked if this was a desirable move for officers and Chief Mello explained it takes a special skill set to want to do this.

Discussion ensued regarding the screening process and training.

Ald. Vetro echoed Comm. Smith's comment and stated the Chief's efforts to explain the SRO program put the city leaders in the right direction.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. for the following matters:

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

- a. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees.
- b. 3rd Quarter Probationary Review – Officer Michael Compare

Motion carried unanimously.

Present were commissioners, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Butler.

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Smith to reconvene in public session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubinstein to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation regarding consideration of the performance (disciplinary action) of 2 employees. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Smith to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk, June 17, 2013