

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008
COMMISSIONERS ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Vice Chrmn. Giles called the meeting to order at 7:01P.M. at which time he introduced the new Commissioner, Mr. Jerold Wanosky.

Vice Chrmn. Giles announced that he would publicly like to thank the former Chairman for his 16 years of dedicated service to the Commission, and his 4 years as Chairman. Comm. Jagoe added she would also like to thank former Commissioner Fellenbaum for his service; he was a loyal supporter of the Milford Police Department and did a good job for the Police.

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler; Carol Faruolo; Carlton Giles; Alberta Jagoe; Sharon Marrone; Thomas Zawislinski; Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Fournier; L. Stock, Secty; P. Vetro, Board of Aldermen; K. Patterson, Planning & Zoning Board Liaison

a. Reorganization of the Board

Vice Chrmn. Giles called for nominations for Chairman. Comm. Jagoe nominated Vice Chrmn. Giles as Chairman of the Police Commission. She stated he has demonstrated leadership qualities and integrity to the City and she believes he would do an outstanding job as Chairman. The nomination was seconded by Comm. Marrone. Comm. Eisenhandler moved that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast one ballot for Comm. Giles as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and carried unanimously.

Chrmn. Giles then called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Comm. Marrone nominated Comm. Jagoe as Vice Chairman, noting that she is dedicated to the City and the Police Department. The nomination was seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and Comm. Faruolo. Comm. Eisenhandler moved that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast one ballot for Comm. Jagoe as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and carried unanimously.

Comm. Zawislinski commended both Commissioners for their service, noting they are a great asset to the Commission.

It was moved and seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, respectively, to amend the agenda as follows:

- Add item 6f. – Annual Report Acceptance
- Add to item 11 – a 2nd commendation

There being no discussion the motion carried unanimously.

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2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS

None

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Noting that there were many citizens present, Chrmn. Giles asked that they limit their comments to 3 minutes and speak only on issues within the purview of the Commission.

Bill Chicos, 20 Chetwood Street, stated parking at Silver Sands State Park is a problem. He read a prepared statement, mentioning visitors parking on East Broadway rather than using the state parking lot because it is too far away from the water. They will be having a meeting with the State DOT and Jim Amann regarding same. He noted that it is impossible for residents to leave their homes on the weekends, only to return to find no parking available. He also mentioned that not all the side streets allow parking and people are also parking on the esplanades. All the parking interferes with trash pick up as well as blocking visibility of the side streets. However, the Police Department does ticket vehicles in violation. He believes that if the Police Department raises the fine, it will deter people from parking there. Parking in the area is very bad during the summer months and they need the support of the Commission when they deal with the State DOT. In addition, they would like any illegally parked vehicles towed.

Marsha Ziebell, 10 Silver Street, also spoke of the parking problem. She stated that from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the number of people in the area escalates to 2 or 3 times the norm. The excessive vehicles parked present a dangerous situation because of the esplanades. She noted that East Broadway is now considered a service road. She received a report from her Alderman that from June 2007 to June 2008, 34 parking violations were issued. However, only considering the area in question (the 600 – 900 blocks), there were 29 issued. She stated the Police did a great job over the 4th of July weekend. However, over the Memorial Day weekend, she counted 14 violations. She noted that the residents are addressing these issues with various departments, i.e., the DEP, DOT, and Jim Amann as well as several City Departments. She would like the Department to change the area to a “Class 3” so that the fines would be a deterrent.

Chrmn. Giles asked that the Chief interject at this time, so that he may perhaps answer some of the questions before they are asked.

Chief Mello stated he agrees with their assessment of the parking fines. He explained that the figures given to Ms. Ziebell by her Alderman were only from residents complaint calls. He noted that in July there were 51 tickets issued and in June, 28 were issued. Tickets that are initiated by the Department are not listed. He explained that the Commission cannot raise fines; this can only be done by the Board of Aldermen. However, they can take existing violation (which are established by the Board of Aldermen) and they can place it in a different category. If they classify the area in

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question as a “Beach Zone,” it will have a category 3 fine during Memorial Day through Labor Day. This will have to go before the Board of Aldermen.

Further, East Broadway is a State Road, and a request has already been sent to the State to make the parking “residents only.” Currently there are 24 signs that need replacing in the area and perhaps additional painting as well. Public works will be installing advisory signage noting that parking for Silver Sands State Park is off of Meadowside Road.

Chief Mello informed the residents that their police van was parked in the area for 6 hours and they issued 21 tickets. The officers found that many of the people parking in violation were parking too close to the curb and many were Milford residents, not necessarily those who live in the immediate area, but residents of the City.

He reiterated that the Commission did not have jurisdiction to change fines or create an ordinance; that was under the purview of the Board of Aldermen.

As far as a tow zone, this needs to be approved by the Board of Police Commissioners; they can tow if someone is blocking the roadway or is in an actual “tow” zone.

Although Chief Mello empathizes with the residents who live in the area, they must remember that this is a public roadway and must remain as such absent of any regulation to the contrary. The Department will continue their enforcement.

Regarding the police van and the tickets issued, Ms. Ziebell questioned if they were residents of Milford or Silver Sands to which the Chief responded they were other Milford residents.

Catherine Cellini Attoletta, 681 East Broadway, stated she is the last house before Silver Sands. She has a problems with parking and boats as well as fishermen from New York, taking up parking spaces. It appears that they don't get tickets but she does. She is very angry because no one seems to be helping with this problem, which is getting worse. Men are using the area as a canoe launching area very early in the morning, which is disturbing to her.

Joe Attoletta, 681 East Broadway, stated that he realizes that East Broadway is under State jurisdiction; however, there is another big problem because there is no buffer zone between their property and the park.

Due to the fact that the Board of Aldermen has jurisdiction on some of the issues presented, Vice Chrmn. Jagoe suggested that the Commission let them know that they will support an increase in fines and also ask that they do whatever they can to help the residents. Chrmn. Giles believed this was already on the record. Chief Mello added that there must be laws in place before anything can be accomplished.

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Mrs. Cellini-Attoletta reiterated that the fishermen from New York are taking up parking spaces all day long and that issue should be addressed.

Comm. Zawislinski wondered if the Board of Aldermen could increase the fines without the approval of the State. Chief Mello responded that it has to go to the DOT and they can reject the increase, however, they are sensitive to the situation.

The Chief continued, stating that regarding changing the area to resident parking only, they would need State approval. This suggestion has already been submitted to the State for their input.

Lorraine Trueman, 847 East Broadway, stated she has been in the area since 1935 and she gets a lot of Milford company. She is not in favor of resident only parking because her guests would have no place to park when they visit.

Chief Mello stated he has spoken to many residents and there are many options to consider. He made it clear that if ticket fines are raised, they are raised for everyone, including residents of the area. In addition, the increase in fines may push people to park on the side streets. There is much to be worked out with regard to an ordinance and recommendations will be made. He noted that it would be extremely difficult to please everyone in this situation.

Tom Haley, 685 East Broadway, believes that many people will still park in the area, no matter what the fine because it is close to the beach. At one point, he even resorted to having his wife physically sit in a parking space so it would be available when he returned with an invalid relative. Visitors are also parking in handicap spaces even if they don't have a handicap sticker. He feels that the parking lot's distance to the beach is only part of the problem. He noted that kids bring full coolers to the beach at night and leave with empty coolers and may be driving under the influence.

Mrs. Joy, 795½ East Broadway, suggested there were too many openings in the esplanade. She thought perhaps some of them could be closed off to make more parking. However, Chief Mello stated that they are required for emergency vehicles. Mrs. Joy also suggested that golf carts be used to take people from the parking lot to the beach.

David Jones, 12 Mayflower Place, stated he would like to see the access kept open to the public. Although he walks to the beach, he does need to bring his vehicle when he wishes to use his kayak. He suggested that there be an unloading area so that people can drop off their equipment and then park in the parking lot.

Referring to comments of previous speakers, Comm. Zawislinski stated he agrees with the problem of kids entering the park at night and he suggested that the residents pursue this with the DEP law enforcement agents. The Commissioner also noted that whenever he and his wife drive through the area, there is always a boat trailer parked at

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the end of East Broadway. Mrs. Cellini-Artoletta responded that it was not her trailer and furthermore, there is a boat parked there all winter long. She believes it belongs to a local homeowner.

Regarding boats and trailers, Chief Mello explained that as long as they are legally parked, there is no issue. In addition, although Silver Sands State Park is state property, the Milford Police will investigate if they receive complaints.

Michael Hawie, 21 James Street, stated he has a trailer, which he parks at the end of James Street and he has been told by the Police to move it. He mentioned that he has deeded beach rights along with others in the neighborhood and suggested that those who do not have deeded beach rights are trespassing. Chrmn. Giles interjected that land issues are not under the purview of the Commission. M. Hawie responded that trespassing is a Police matter as well as speeding. He believes this is an overflow issue from the parking situation. Chrmn. Giles state this is a very complicated situation.

M. Hawie continued, asking if a Class 3 violation would increase speeding fines as well.

Chief Mello reminded everyone that this was the time for public comments and not two sided discussions. He suggested that if anyone has an enforcement issue, they can direct it to the Traffic Division. M. Hawie interjected that there are not only parking issues but many other issues as well.

Karen Sayball, 6 Watrous Lane, thanked the Chief for the police presence in the Brewster Field area. They also have a major issue with parking, people blocking driveways, mailboxes, etc. During ball games, they will even park where it is specifically noted "No Parking." There are times when they don't get their mail delivered or their trash picked up because cars are blocking their mailboxes and garbage. She also mentioned that handicap parking signs were added but they are removed from time to time. Although there is a parking lot, there are more vehicles parked in the street because people do not want to walk to the fields. The residents are getting in touch with their aldermen as well. They would like restricted parking, perhaps on only one side of the street from April through November. Again, she thanked the department for the Police presence, which does make a difference.

Chief Mello stated the department can perform a traffic study and see if it would be possible to restrict the parking. However, the problem that arises when this is done, is that the vehicles will simply move to another street.

Barbara Skopf, stated her mother lives at 4 Watrous Lane. She believes the neighborhood is being over-used and emergency vehicles cannot get down the street because of the parking situation. Her second issue is the traffic light at the corner of Gulf Street and New Haven Avenue. She feels it is a dangerous situation because there is no left turn arrow onto Gulf Street from New Haven Avenue when coming from the Woodmont area. She feels this needs to be addressed.

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It was explained by Chief Mello that this corner was totally re-engineered by the State (as this is also a state road) and they now feel it is a safe intersection.

Chrmn. Giles thanked all residents for attending the meeting and voicing their comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was moved by Comm. Zawislinski and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting. The motion carried with Comm. Wanosky abstaining.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

The following was noted by Chief Mello:

A letter was received from the location manager of the feature film, All Good Things, thanking the department on behalf of the cast and crew for their help and support and for providing security while they were filming on Washington Bridge.

Town of Stratford Police Chief John Buturla sent a letter thanking the department for their marine patrol support during their fireworks display.

A group of officers were thanked for their participation in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

The 2008 Milford Harbor Duck Race committee thanked the department for their support and assistance.

A letter of thanks was sent to Capt. Butler and Off. Dumas from several High Street residents, for enlightening them regarding crime watch. They would like to meet with them again so that they can form a neighborhood watch.

A letter was sent to the Mayor with copies to the Chief and the Commission regarding the speeding done by cars and buses on Melba Street. The letter was from George W. Ganim, Jr., who recommended speed humps or stop signs be installed to slow down the traffic.

An accident occurred on "Pirates Day" where a 3 year old child fell and cut her head open. Several officers immediately rushed to assist and calm the child down so that she could be transported to the hospital. The mother of the child sent a letter of thanks.

The Junior Women of Milford sent a letter thanking the department for their participation in the 3rd annual Touch a Truck fund raiser.

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Thomas Kiely, Trumbull Police Chief, sent a letter thanking the Chief for providing a motorcycle escort at the funeral of a retired police Lieutenant.

Greenwich Police Chief David Ridberg, sent a letter thanking several officers, specifically Sgt. Wydra, Sgt. Matchett and Sgt. Youd, for their assistance in connection with a jewelry store robbery that took place on September 1, 2006. It was determined that a Milford resident committed the robbery; his apartment was searched, the suspect apprehended and sentenced to 21 years in federal prison.

Early Learning Day Care sent a thank you letter for Off. Ospina's visit to their facility.

Barbara Jason, 47 Governors Avenue, sent a letter requesting that a "pedestrian crosswalk" traffic sign be installed at the intersection of North Street and Governors Avenue. She noted that there are problems in that area when a pedestrian is trying to cross North Street; she nearly got hit several times.

Chief Mello believed this to be a valid request, however, it is not under the purview of the Commission. These signs are approved through the Mayor's office and are an expensive item as they have to be replaced many times. They are hit by vehicles and stolen; in addition, they are removed and stored inside during inclement weather. The Chief will discuss this issue with the Mayor as this is a problem intersection.

Addressing the Chief, Comm. Zawislinski recalled that several years ago, the Commission approved a stop light at this location and the funds were allocated. He stated he "knows for a fact" that this was approved and the funding guaranteed. Chief Mello noted they will look into this matter and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

- a. Consideration of accident free mileage awards to Officers Richard Anderson, Tyrone Dancy, Christopher Dunn and Mathew Lima

Chief Mello noted that these officers have accumulated 25,000 accident free miles and will receive, as an incentive, 8 hours compensation time.

- b. Appeal of conditional job offer rejection – Jason Thornhill

Chief Mello explained that Jason Thornhill applied to be a police officer and was given a conditional job offer. Mr. Thornhill being present, Chrmn. Giles asked if he would rather discuss this issue during Executive Session, to which Mr. Thornhill responded in the affirmative.

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It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Zawislinski and unanimously carried, to reorder the agenda and place item 6b as item 12c on the agenda.

c. Greg's Auto Body – Tow List Request

Noting that Mr. Gregory Christofakis was present, Chrmn. Giles offered him the same opportunity as Mr. Thornhill, to discuss this matter during Executive Session. The response was affirmative.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to reorder the agenda to renumber item 6c as 12d. The motion was seconded by Comm. Faruolo.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Zawislinski questioned why these items were moved to Executive Session to which Chief Mello responded there were matters of personal privacy to be discussed.

d. Donation from Coleman Brothers Shows in the amount of \$2,651.60

Chief Mello explained that the carnival donates half of its proceeds equally to the Fire Department and the Police Department. He asked that the Commission accept the donation, although it has not as yet been determined where it will be utilized. They will place the funds in a donation account until a decision has been made.

A motion to accept the donation from Coleman Brothers Shows in the amount of \$2,651.60, to be placed into the donation account, was made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried unanimously.

Chief Mello suggested that they will probably utilize the funds for the next Citizens Police Academy and perhaps the D.A.R.E program.

e. Annual auction proceeds to be deposited into Police Sick and Relief Fund in the amount of \$3,943.00.

Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to deposit \$3,943.00 of auction proceeds into the Police Sick and Relief Fund. The motion was seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Wanosky asked what the auctioned items were. Chief Mello explained that it is found property or property that has been turned over to the Police Department. Some of the property is taken as evidence and they cannot locate the owner of the merchandise. Once a year the department holds a public auction of these items. Prior to the auction, these items are audited and kept secure.

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There being no further discussion, the motion to accept and deposit the funds carried unanimously.

f. Acceptance of Annual Report

Noting that the Commissioners received copies, Chief Mello explained that the report was prepared by Deputy Chief Fournier with input from the division commanders.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler and carried unanimously to accept the report as presented.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

In response to Chrmn. Giles, Atty. John Knuff stated he did not intend to speak regarding item 7b, Aldi Food Market. He had previously spoken with Sgt. Sharoh and did not feel that the matter needed additional discussion.

Therefore, it was moved and seconded by Comms. Zawislinski and Faruolo to adopt traffic's recommendations for items 7a and 7b. The motion carried unanimously.

a. "OTB" – Off Track Betting Facility – 89 Roses Mill Road

b. Aldi Food Market – 232 and 242 Boston Post Road

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 explained to Comm. Wanosky that these reports are received every month and they cover various areas of the Police Department

It was moved by Comm. Zawislinski, seconded by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe and unanimously carried to accept reports "a" through "e."

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

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10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request to restrict parking on Lewis Street at Seaside Avenue to allow fire apparatus onto Lewis Street – Assistant Chief James Wilkinson

A motion to adopt Traffic's recommendation was made by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried unanimously.

- b. Request for installation of stop sign at Broadway/Fairwood Street

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe, seconded by Comm. Faruolo and unanimously carried to adopt Traffic's recommendation.

11. COMMENDATIONS - 2

Deputy Chief Fournier stated that Sgt. DellaMonica would receive a Certificate of Commendation. He responded to a call at Dunkin Donuts on Broad Street, where a male was locked in the rest room for over an hour. When Sgt. DellaMonica got into the bathroom, he found the male unconscious and not breathing. He gave him a sternum rub, which brought him to. Sgt. DellaMonica saved his life.

The second Certificate of Commendation is for Off. William Simpson. On June 18, 2008, Off. Simpson was investigating thefts at the Red Roof Inn. He was knocking on doors when he noticed an individual wearing a surgical mask in one of the rooms. The individual closed the curtains as soon as he spotted Off. Simpson. When Off. Simpson entered the room, he noticed a strong chemical odor. He had discovered a Nigerian money fraud ring, the money is referred to as "magic money."

At 8:17 P.M., it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Jagoe seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried by roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss items 12a through d. 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. Probationary Reviews – None
- b. Consideration of the performance of 1 employee
- c. Appeal of conditional job offer rejection – Jason Thornhill
- d. Greg's Auto Body – Tow List Request

The Commission left Executive Session at 9:05 P.M. at which time Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to uphold the recommendations of the Chief of Police on the Appeal of Jason

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Thornhill and the request by Greg's Auto Body. The motion carried unanimously after a second by Comm. Wanosky.

At 9:06 P.M. Vice Chrmn. Jagoe moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Comm. Faruolo and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stock, Secretary