

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10,, 2018 7:00 P.M.  
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

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

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Carol Faruolo

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello; Deputy Chief Rahn; Lt. Chila, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

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

Prior to the start of the meeting, Chairman Smith asked everyone present to join in a moment of silence in memory of Comm. Wanosky,

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none**

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- S. Giroux – 610 Merwin Ave. – referred to an incident which occurred on 8/4 when her daughter had to initiate a 911 call for an emergency situation at Point Beach. Officer Broderick responded to the call and in the ensuing weeks he has been helpful in getting family and daughter through this situation whenever he has been called upon.
- P. Vetro – took the opportunity to express sympathy on loss of Comm. Wanosky.
- V. Mazza – 20 Sandpiper Crescent – addressed item 10b Traffic Study – Merwin/Sandpiper Crescent – speed & crosswalk concerns, referred to the many motor vehicle accidents that occur in that area of Merwin Avenue, referring specifically to one which occurred this past Memorial Day. He noted residents are concerned with speeding vehicles and crosswalk in the area. Further he noted a Traffic Study was conducted this past summer which noted 32,000 vehicles traveling on that street in specific time frame, with average speed in excess of speed limit. He stated Officer Hemperly has been very helpful through this process noting the result of the study suggested installation of “Slow for Pedestrian” device or another device which would initiate pedestrian crossing signage. He explained much of the existing signage on Merwin Avenue is faded or unreadable.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE – Chief Mello shared the following:**

- Sopchak Family – expressed appreciation to the Department for representation at recent family funeral.
- M. Lynch – thanked Sgt. O’Keefe for returning her lost wallet, adding he went above and beyond in this effort.

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- Resident – expressed sincere gratitude to Milford Police Department for their presence and handling of a recent situation with a family member. The letter specifically thanked Sgt. Dunaj, Officer Luth and Officer Bodnar for the professionalism and compassion displayed.
- C. Grady – 100 Viscount Dr. – expressed appreciation to Sgt. Doyle for handling a situation with the towing of his vehicle adding he went above and beyond in helping locate where the vehicle was towed to.
- Wendy Gibbons, Milford Prevention Council – thanked the officers who participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ride for Hope event.
- Chief Gary MacNamara, Fairfield Police Dept. – thanked Sgt. Todice, Officer Noss and Officer Hoff for their participation in the annual motor cycle training class.
- Charles Sherwood, South Central Criminal Justice Administration – expressed appreciation to Capt. Alexopoulos for serving as panelist at recent oral examination for rank of Detective Lieutenant.
- Dept. of Emergency Services, State of CT – thanked Lt. Rojee and Officer DeVito for the participation in the Blue Courage Program.

Chief Mello added that it is important to recognize the fact that Milford Police Department trains for the region and the state which illustrates the necessity of training and the need for it to be mandatory.

- Mary Ann Cianciulli – Resident – commended Sgt. Cruz for his great work ethic and eagerness to be of assistance.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**

- a. Request to accept car seat donations from Yale NH Hospital grant.- Chief Mello explained the Department received a grant from Yale Police Dept. and he added much of what is done requires the Department to rely on alternative funding sources. He stated this grant is for donated car seats and related material from YNHH which will allow our Department to provide car seats to those in need.

Motion was made by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to authorize acceptance of car seat donations from YNHH Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Off duty weapon request from Officers Aaron Norowski, Derek Waller, Michael Brennan (2), Scot Knablin, Patrick Taylor, Courtney Bothwell, Christopher Park and Kyle Magnan. Chief Mello explained the weapons have been authorized and qualified for off duty use by officers.

Motion was made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve off duty weapon authorization to Officers Aaron Norowski, Derek Waller, Michael Brennan (2), Scot Knablin, Patrick Taylor, Courtney Bothwell, Christopher Park and

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Kyle Magnan as recommended by Chief Mello. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Safe Driving Awards for the following Officers: Paige Bodnar, Christopher Doyle, Justin Eddy, Danielle Frith, Kevin Hilliard, Matthew Mello and Douglas Youd. (informational)
- d. Informational – Letter from Carter Colter regarding 258 Gulf Street – Chief Mello distributed letter from Mr. Collier regarding the Gulf Street project and also noted the letter was sent to the City Engineer and Chief Mello was copied with regard to purchase of traffic control signs. He explained the location of the signage has been an issue and this letter relates to the presence of this sign on the writer's personal property.

Chief explained when the Department makes a decision to put such signage at a location, that is where it will go. He added there is a responsibility to the public to be partners in this measure. Further he noted that at this time he was not sure of the status of the sign on Gulf Street.

Chairman Smith added he recently spoke with Ald. Fortunati who is a resident of that area regarding the location.

Chief Mello explained there are only a few areas where the signage could be located on Gulf Street but he emphasized the sign must go where the data from the Traffic Study reflects it is needed.

Comm. Jagoe asked if the sign was initiated by Public Works or the Mayor and Chairman Smith stated he was unsure where it was initiated.

Lt. Chila explained the data shows there is excessive speeding in a specific area and that is where the sign must go. He added once the road is widened, it was felt speeding will increase.

Chief Mello stated the plan for widening the road has been approved and unless it is revisited, the location noted is where the sign will go.

- e. Chief's General comments - none

## **7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS**

- a. 6 Unit Apartment Complex – 63 Washington Ave – Amendment – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 6 Unit Apartment Complex – 63 Washington Ave – Amendment. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Office Building, 100 Plains Rd (Carter Mario Law Offices) – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Office Building, 100 Plains Rd (Carter Mario Law Offices). Motion carried unanimously.
- c. 6 Unit 8-30g Affordable Housing Project – 232 West Main St – it was moved by Vice

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Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 6 Unit 8-30g Affordable Housing Project – 232 West Main St. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Key Hyundai – 570 Bridgeport Ave – Addition to property - it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Key Hyundai – 570 Bridgeport Ave – Addition to property. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. 162 Kings Highway – Convert property into two single family residences - it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 162 Kings Highway – Convert property into two single family residences.

Comm. Jagoe expressed her concern regarding the number of new buildings being built on small parcels.

Motion carried unanimously.

- f. 440 Wheelers Woods – Traffic Signal - it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 440 Wheelers Woods – Traffic Signal. Motion carried unanimously.
- g. 440 Wheelers Woods – Addendum – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 440 Wheelers Woods – Addendum. Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe 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. Traffic Study – Parking concerns – Thornton St north of West Ave - it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation to install signs on Thornton St north of West Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Traffic Study – Merwin/Sandpiper Crescent – speed & crosswalk concerns – it was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Merwin/Sandpiper Crescent – speed and crosswalk concerns.

Lt. Chila explained there are 2 options presented and the 2<sup>nd</sup> option is the preferred option.

Comm. Jagoe asked if the city creates the ramp needed and Lt. Chila stated Public Works would be doing that.

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Chief Mello explained the funding will be requested to the city.

Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Traffic Study – Mfd Point Rd/Court St (speeding issues) – Laurel Beach Association – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Mf. Point Rd/Court St (speeding issues). Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Platt Tech Reconstruction – Informational Only

**11. COMMENDATIONS:**

Letter of Recognition for Officers Matt Joy and James Preto – case #673-18

Deputy Chief Rahn stated earlier this year, Officers Matt Joy and James Preto were working in the area where many burglaries were taking place and they encountered a suspicious vehicle on the move. As per their training, they sent for other officers to come to the area; there was no vehicle pursuit and driver was apprehended. The incident was unrelated to the other burglaries but officers were being diligent and obviously following their training. Deputy Chief Rahn noted that Officer Joy is a new officer who is still on probation.

Chief Mello explained that officers are trained when to not engage in a vehicle pursuit when it is felt there are youth offenders driving the car and thus they are trained to call in other officers to assist with the apprehension.

**12. Executive Session**

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the following matters:

- a. Final probationary rating for 7 Officers retroactive to July 14, 2018.
- b. Sick leave deficit request by Employee.

(Commissioners present, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Rahn remained for Executive Session.)

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to reconvene in public session at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

No actions necessary.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk September 11, 2018