

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Anthony Candido, Sam Bergami, Melvin Eisenhandler, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, Jerold Wanosky

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Capt. Butler, Ald. Vetro and D. Candido, Secty.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ald. Vetro informed Chief Mello and the commissioners that the new Democratic administration and aldermen are 100% supportive of the Milford Police Dept.

With regard to other matters, he stated he is still receiving calls regarding the tree on Lawrence Avenue that obstructs traffic sight line and he questioned the final decision from this body regarding the matter.

Chief Mello explained the tree was to come down and he will look into it.

Chrmn. Jagoe congratulated Ald. Vetro for his reelection to the Board of Aldermen and thanked him for his support of the department.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Joseph Hurley – Anchorage Dr. – wrote in appreciation of the expeditious handling of a complaint by Officer Thornberg noting as a new resident of Milford he was concerned about the traffic flow at the corner of Anchorage Drive and Gulf Street because of a tree that obstructed a full sight line. After sharing his concerns with the Police Dept., within a short period of time, Officer Thornberg contacted him regarding the matter and followed through with the proper channels to have the tree trimmed and the problem resolved. Mr. Hurley noted it was a welcome relief to find that complaints to the Milford Police Dept. are responded to in a timely fashion.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Chief Mello explained that based on Officer Thornberg's investigation of the matter, it was referred to the Public Works Dept. who took care of the issue with the tree. He added he will be sending a copy of Mr. Hurley's letter to Mr. Kolwicz, Director of Public Works.

- Stephen Wing – 26 Crown St. – extended heartfelt congratulations to the department for the arrest of graffiti artist.
- Charles Sherwood, Director, South Central Criminal Justice Assoc., New Haven, CT – thanked Det. McCollum for serving as a panelist at the recently completed oral board examination for the position of Recruit Police Officer.
- Deborah Slater, Asst. U.S. City Attorney, Project Safe Childhood Coordinator, District of CT, New Haven, CT – expressed appreciation to Det. Robt. Nash for his participation in the investigation and prosecution of a criminal case in federal court in Hartford charging enticement crimes against children. Further, it was noted that after much preparation as a trial witness, Det. Nash is to be commended on his importance to the investigation and his efforts were outstanding; he was professional, committed to success and a pleasure to get to know. The letter explained the defendant was convicted and therefore a child predator who is believed to be extremely dangerous has been incapacitated with the assistance of Det. Nash.

Chief Mello noted Det. Nash is a tremendous asset and an energetic and ambitious veteran in the department.

- Name withheld – thanked the Chief and the department for their fast and professional response for assistance.
- Carney Family – appreciation for the generous donation to the Carney Memorial Fund and words of support and condolence.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Informational: Detective Stephen Staurovsky will retire effective 11/18/11. No action necessary.

Chief Mello added there is the possibility that the current benefit package for the officers will change and that may result in a number of retirees coming before the commission in the next year. He stated these officers who are considering retiring will be difficult to replace.

With regard to Det. Staurovsky's retirement, Chief Mello stated he is a dedicated member of the department and will be missed very much.

b. Suggested Meeting Dates for 2012 – it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the suggested meeting dates for 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

c. 2011 Auction Proceeds – Chief Mello reported the Annual Auction held on 10/8/11 raised \$1,765 and he recommended that money be deposited in the Officers Sick and Relief Fund.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the recommendation of Chief Mello to deposit the \$1,765 raised at the Annual Auction to the Officers Sick and Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Donation from Andrew Preiss (Boy Scout Troop 12) for K9 Unit – Chief Mello stated Andrew Preiss recently conducted a fundraiser for the department's Police Canine Unit and it was recommended the proceeds from that donation was placed in the donation account for the next police canine.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the recommendation of Chief Mello to deposit the proceeds from the fundraiser conducted by Andrew Preiss (Boy Scout Troop 12) in the donation account for the next police canine. Motion carried unanimously.

e. \$1,000 Grant from Walmart Foundation – Chief Mello stated he was recently notified by Walmart that our department will be receiving a \$1,000 grant for the Hunger Outreach Program and the Chief recommended that money go toward the purchase of a movie projector and screen to be used for various departmental programs.

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the recommendation of Chief Mello to apply the \$1,000 grant money from Walmart (Hunger Outreach Program) toward the purchase of a movie projector and screen to be used for various departmental programs. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Proposed FY 2012/13 Budget Request for Police Department – Chief Mello directed comment to the proposed 2012/13 budget provided to the commissioners adding if any member had any questions or matters to be discussed please contact him. In outlining the budget, Chief stated there were new areas included this year; for example, the CT. Police Academy will be implementing a mandated charge per recruitment in the amount of \$2,500 per recruit. He added if the department chooses to run their own academy there would be no cost but if the choice is to go with the state program, it will be necessary to wait until after 7/1/12 for the funds to be available.

In addition, Chief Mello noted the state will be charging for each in-service training session and the CT Police Chief's Association has asked legislators to hold this in abeyance until 7/1 but the outcome of that request is not known.

With regard to wages, Chief Mello explained the budget includes an anticipated 2% wage increase for 2012 with no request for additional personnel and no additional increase in overtime hours.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Comm. Wanosky asked why there was not a request for additional personnel and Chief Mello explained given the state of the economy he did not feel it would be wise to make that request.

Comm. Faruolo asked if the department is reimbursed for Oyster Fest police protection and it was explained the department is reimbursed but the amount is not known in advance.

Regarding Revenue items, Chief Mello cited the example of federal government reimbursement for 1/3 cost of bullet proof vests and therefore the budget includes 2/3 of what will be needed for each vest.

He also noted the department has submitted some grant applications asking for additional officers but the city's financials do not allow the department to qualify for this type of hiring grants.

With regard to patrol cars, Chief explained Crown Victoria models are no longer made and last year the department was able to find a company that had a surplus of that model and therefore the department still has 6 vehicles left over from last year. He noted that he does not know what the model of the new cars will be but he does know the new cars will not accommodate the items that are needed in each car. He felt approximately an additional \$15,000 per car will be needed to outfit the vehicles properly. He explained the vehicle replacement plan in place which helps in keeping the cars on the line longer. As well, he explained the replacement cycle in place for building technology items and technology items in the patrol cars.

With regard to other state mandates, the state has enacted new laws regarding processing juveniles; photo line ups and is very close to mandating departments video tape all interviews and interrogations regarding felonies. With this mandate comes the requirement to store and maintain tapes and files and those costs are included in the budget.

Chief added in preparing this budget he tried to stay consistent with what was included last year and there were items that the staff felt should be requested but are not included.

Comm. Candido asked how many people might the department be losing in 2012 and did the Chief feel he will be understaffed based on retirements/resignations.

Chief Mello explained he will be bringing forward candidates in the near future that are trained officers and ready to start immediately which will save on training costs. He felt he has a good field of candidates for the positions that may open up.

He added he submits the budget based on what he thinks the needs are but if the commission has concerns about personnel, he would address those concerns in the budget.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Comm. Wanosky questioned the concept that was in place of gaining one officer per year and he was told that was in place but that practice has stopped.

Chief Mello stated he would be happy if the officer that had recently been placed in the Dispatch Center could be replaced by a civilian staff member and that officer put back on the department which now has 112 officers.

Comm. Wanosky felt it is worth the try to put back the practice of adding one officer per year.

It was agreed by the commissioners to put the dispatch position back in the budget.

Chief Mello further explained currently a member of the city's MIS staff maintains the departments computer work stations but an IT person with more advanced skill levels is needed. He stated at this time the department hires an outside person for more difficult tasks and any further discussion regarding additional IT personnel needs to be a city-wide conversation. Chief stated he has had discussion with the MIS Director who agrees the IT staff needs to be increased; however, there is nothing in the budget for IT except for consultant fees. Chief Mello stated he would be meeting with the Mayor-elect this week and will share the commission's concerns with him and with the MIS Director as well.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to approve the Proposed FY 2012/13 Budget Request with the recommended changes included. Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

a. Cherry Blossom Ridge Subdivision – 44 Cedarhurst Lane – Chief explained there is a revised recommendation for this request and based on that there is an additional statement which notes the request meets the minimum recommended distances and if there are no further changes to be made to the plan, it is recommended to approve.

It was moved by Comm. Eisenhandler and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the revised recommendations from Traffic Division regarding Cherry Blossom Ridge Subdivision – 44 Cedarhurst Lane. Motion carried with Mr. Bergami recusing himself from the vote.

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Youth Bureau Report
- c. Crime Prevention Services Report
- d. General Highway Safety Summary

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to accept reports a, b, c and d as presented.

Comment was directed to the *June 2011* date included on the Uniform Crime Reports and Chief Mello stated he will confirm whether that date is correct or not.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - none

10. NEW BUSINESS - none

11. COMMENDATIONS

a. Unit Citation for 4 Officers – Capt. Butler reported that Officers Lacey, Moreno, Owens and Sgt. Riordan responded to a call from Howard Johnson Hotel where a female guest was having a problem in the room she was in. When the officers arrived they apprehended an agitated male with a weapon and were able to taser him and take him into custody. Based on this, the 4 officers are recommended for Unit Citations.

b. Letter of Recognition – Civilian – Capt. Butler recommended a letter of recognition be sent to Cody Chizmadia who on 10/18 reported an infant was left unattended in a parked vehicle. Capt. Butler noted the individual was able to remove the infant from the car with no harm or injury to the child.

12. Executive Session

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

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

- a. Consideration of the performance of 2 employees
- b. Evaluation of the candidates for position of Deputy Chief

Chief Mello and Capt. Butler were invited to remain for Executive Session.

Motion carried unanimously.

[Ald. Vetro left the meeting]

Capt. Butler remained for item A only and left Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Eisenhandler to reconvene in public session at 9:11 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Candido and seconded by Comm. Marrone to uphold the Chief's recommendation regarding the performance of 2 employees. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to adjourn at 9:12 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary