

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016– 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

Vice Chrmn. Bergami 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, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Richard Smith,

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

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS – none

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS - none

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried with Comm. Faruolo abstaining as she was not present at the October meeting.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello noted that each month he receives a good number of letters from students and residents thanking our officers for being their heroes and explained at this meeting he was sharing a few of those letters along with other correspondence:

- Friends of the Library – wrote to express thanks to Capt. Dumas and Officer Frey for assisting them with the permitting process.
- Margaret Barrett – resident – thanked the PBA for the thoughtfulness on their part by sending a birthday card to twin sister of former police officer Bob Hokunson adding this thoughtful gesture was appreciated by the family members. Letter included a donation to the PBA.
- David Hempe, Compliance Officer, AAA – thanked Officer Tomaselli for his assistance in a police investigation.
- Chief Cappiello, Woodbridge Chief of Police – letter of appreciation to Officer Napolitano and K-9 Mack, Officer Mahoney and Det. Noss for their assistance 10/7/16 when a robbery occurred at the TD Bank of Woodbridge. The letter also stated it was with the assistance of the K-9 and the officers noted that they located a male hiding in the woods which led to the apprehension of the perpetrator. Further, the letter acknowledged the fact that the officers are a credit to the Milford Police Dept and should be commended for their dedication and professionalism.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016– 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. Suggested Meeting Dates for 2017 Police Commission meeting.- it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the 2017 Meeting Dates of the Milford Board of Police Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Appeal of Michael Bellairs for rejection as a Police Officer candidate. - Chief Mello explained the process followed to become a police officer candidate. He noted that Mr. Bellairs had received a rejection letter but the Board of Police Commissioners has the power to overturn that decision.

Mr. Bellairs introduced himself and added he hoped his name and application will not be removed from the eligible list for police officer candidates. He stated he understood the issues resulting from the polygraph and thanked the Board for allowing him to attempt to pursue his lifelong desire to become a police officer. He stated he is a graduate of St. Peters College with a degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He shared his merits and accomplishments received throughout his college career. He also noted he has participated in the Citizens Academy with the Norwalk Police Dept. and has taken an EMT course at Bridgeport Hospital which he passed. He currently is Access Control Security Officer with NBC Sports. He stated he takes responsibility for all actions that have happened in his past but those actions are not a part of the person he is today and he fully understands the principles needed for the betterment of the community and the Department.

Chief Mello stated he did not dispute anything Mr. Bellairs has shared noting he scored very high on the exam; however, the background check reflected on 2/16 he was terminated from a job for falsifying a document. Also on 4/16 he received a verbal reprimand for allowing unauthorized people to enter area without being properly escorted. Chief added Mr. Bellairs has been turned down by other departments for issues in his background (failing polygraph and marijuana use). Chief explained Mr. Bellairs college roommate was a drug dealer and Mr. Bellairs had participated in sale of marijuana. As well criminal activity shows a number of circumstances which are issues of character.

Mr. Bellairs apologized for his former actions and stated he takes full responsibility for those actions.

Chief Mello stated many people apply to be an officer and it is important that the same standards are followed and consistent as in the past.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold the decision of Chief Mello to reject Michael Bellairs as a police officer candidate. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Appeal of Paul Krivosta for rejection as a Police Officer candidate. - Mr. Krivosta stated being a police officer is a career he has always wanted. For 7 years he had been a teacher but he chose to leave that profession and follow the dream of becoming a police officer. He stated he enjoyed the interview process and felt this is a great department. He added he is

MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016– 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS

attempting to get the polygraph from Norwalk adding he has passed the polygraph but was denied because of failure in his background. He explained he learned his former employer stated he was not qualified. Further Mr. Krivosta explained in 2015 he left employment at Sun Glass Hut in Westport. Following leaving that employ, he was contacted by the Westport Police Dept because of a theft at the Sun Glass Hut and they questioned if he still had keys to the business facility. He explained he never met with anyone from that department and the matter went unresolved. He stated he did not bring the incident up during his interview with the Chief because the thought did not occur to him to bring it up.

Chief Mello stated the incident in Westport was not disclosed during the interview noting further that Mr. Krivosta was interviewed in 6/15 regarding stolen sunglasses as he was considered involved in the theft. Further, Mr. Krivosta has received a “do not recommend” by his employer at the Sun Glass Hut. Chief Mello also stated there is no evidence to support this accusation and if Mr. Krivosta had met with the Westport Police Dept. and charges were found to be unsustainable, the situation would be different but this is still an open investigation and the matter is unresolved. As well, it was noted the polygraph shows distinct reactions to questions about crime or robbery and recommended he be retested if he was to be considered.

Comm. Wanosky asked Mr. Krivosta if he wanted this position as an officer why didn't he go to the Westport Police Dept. to resolve the matter and Mr. Krivosta replied he did not have the opportunity to get to the Westport Police Dept.

Comm. Jagoe asked if he was a certified teacher in CT and she was told he let his certification lapse. Further, Comm. Jagoe asked if he left those previous teaching positions voluntarily and Mr. Krivosta stated he had with the exception of his last teaching job which he was terminated due to the fact his certification had lapsed.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation to reject Paul Krivosta as a police officer candidate. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Donation to K9 fund from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Craig – Chief Mello stated a donation had been received in the amount of \$100 from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Craig and he was recommending that donation be applied to the K-9 Purchasing Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to accept the \$100 donation from Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Craig and apply the donation to the K-9 Purchasing Fund as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Off duty weapon authorization for Officer Kenton Brooks - Chief Mello recommended approval of Off Duty Weapon request by Officer Kenton Brooks for non-law enforcement reasons.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Off Duty weapon request for Officer Kenton Brooks for non-law enforcement reasons. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016– 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

f. Consideration of 17/18 proposed budget for the Police Department.- Chief Mello explained priority requests included in the 2017-18 Proposed Budget noting that recently police and fire dispatch has been combined which has provided a safer and better system which is working well. He added it has not been possible to integrate police and fire and at this time there are not enough dispatchers making it necessary to use officers for that role. He explained 8 dispatchers for a department this size are needed and currently there are 4 and he is requesting an additional 3 in the budget proposal.

As well he has asked for NARCAM noting the Fire Dept is considered first responder not Police Dept. and while NARCAM is not required it would be beneficial in saving lives.

Also, 2 radar signs that will collect data and flash speed is included in the budget request.

Chief Mello directed comments to the Department's overtime noting it less than other departments of this size. He stated there is never enough money allocated for overtime and he added that fire dispatchers are included in the Police Dept. overtime. He also stated that overtime goes up when there are a lot of vacancies within the Dept.

Comm. Faruolo asked what personal protective equipment was and Chief Mello explained after 9/11 this was included for chemical protection suits but there is not enough money to replace this equipment.

He also noted there is a request for 8 new cars in this budget proposal.

g. Chief's General comments – Chief Mello noted that 11/19/16 is the annual Physical Fitness Challenge competition within the Department adding this is part of the Department's officer wellness program.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS - none

8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

It was moved by Comm. Faruolo 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. 92 Old Field Lane – public hazard regarding stone wall – requested by Chris Saley – it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding .92 Old Field Lane – public hazard regarding stone wall. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2016– 7:00 P.M.
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

- b. Rivercliff/Kerema – DOT recommendation of repainting of markings.- it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Rivercliff/Kerema – DOT recommendation of repainting of markings. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Governors Ave (at length) – speed concerns – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Governors Ave. – speed concerns. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Governors Ave/North St Intersection – Pedestrian signals/traffic light – it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding Governors Ave/North St Intersection – Pedestrian signals/traffic light. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. 41 East Rutland Road – speeding and accident concerns in this area – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 41 East Rutland Road – speeding and accident concerns in this area. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. 1060 New Haven Ave/Colonial Manor Condos – line of sight issues – it was moved by Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to approve Traffic Div. recommendation regarding 1060 New Haven Ave/Colonial Manor Condos – line of sight issues. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

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 Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. for the following matters:

- a. 1st quarter Probationary review for 7 Officers.
- b. Grievance #3-2016 at Step #3.

Police Commissioners present, Chief Mello and Deputy Chief Rahn remained for executive session. Sgt. Doyle and Sgt. Todice were also included until 8:25 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 8:42 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. Informational
- b. It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to deny Grievance #3-2016 at Step 3. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to adjourn at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido
Submitted to City Clerk November 15, 2016