

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012
STAFF CONFERENCE ROOM – POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

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

1. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Carol Faruolo, Alberta Jagoe, Sharon Marrone, Richard Smith, Jerold Wanosky

COMMISSIONERS NOT PRESENT: Melvin Eisenhandler

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief 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

- E. Mead, P & Z Vice Chair – referred to Milford Progress study of downtown area, specifically recent updated report and inquired if any commissioner had received it and was able to access it as he was hopeful to get the information included in that report prior to P&Z making their final decision.

Vice Chrmn. Bergami offered to provide Mr. Mead a copy.

- Ald. Vetro took the opportunity to wish Chief Mello and the entire department and the commissioners a Merry Christmas.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Wanosky to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mello shared the following correspondence:

- Letters from Lauralton Hall Students – Chief Mello explained a number of letters had been received from Lauralton Hall students regarding Det. Frawley's visit to the school and his presentation regarding internet crime and the students' appreciation of the time spent with him.
- Kelli Kupson/Circe Deitelbaum – Orange Avenue School PTA – extended thanks to Officer Nielsen for his participation in the inaugural Trunk or Treat event recently held at the school.
- Andi Grant, President, Give 2 The Troops – extended appreciation to the department for donations, helping lift the morale of our troops and showing the men and women in the military that we care.

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- Janice Saam, Principal, Naugatuck High School – expressed gratitude for the opportunity of having our officer and canine participate in drug search in coordination with other departments.
- James Heavey, Greenwich Chief of Police – extended appreciation to Det. Broderick and K-9 Cedar and their recent narcotics presentation to the Citizens Police Academy in that town adding it is a good opportunity to share the resources and common goals of police departments.
- Christine Schreiber, Broadway – a copy of a letter she had sent to Mayor Blake commending the police, fire and public works staff for their efforts during the recent Hurricane Sandy. The letter also commended those departments for their obvious presence and care before, during and after the storm for days to come. She added the police officers were professional and showed many acts of kindness; the firefighters and public works staff response to cleaning up the debris and maintaining safety and all put their personal needs second to those of others.
Chief Mello reminded the Commissioners that he does post letters of this nature for the officers to see.
- Maude “Mickey” Johnson – resident – praised the department for their patrol during Hurricane Sandy.
- Michelle Gauvreau and her neighbors – letters of personal thanks for the show of presence in the residential areas during and following Hurricane Sandy.
- Family of Brent Smith – extended their warm thanks and appreciation for kindness during a difficult time.
- J. Dreher, “Braking the Cycle” – extended appreciation for efforts during the recent fundraising event raising awareness regarding HIV virus.

6. CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

a. **2013-2014 Police Dept. Budget Request** – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to reorder the agenda and place this item under New Business. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Off Duty weapon requests for Off. Frith, Off. Ballard, Off. Kranyak - It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to remove Lt. Dumas from the following request and add Officer Sikorsky. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Smith and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve Off Duty weapon requests for Off. Frith, Off. Ballard, Off. J. Kranyak and Off. Sikorsky. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Informational – Officer Mark Thornberg will retire effective 1/12/13. Chief Mello stated Officer Thornberg was the 3 – 11 p.m. traffic officer adding approximately 3 years ago the department implemented a 3 – 11 p.m. traffic division and Off. Thornberg is responsible for selective motor vehicle incidents. Chief Mello added this officer has done an outstanding job and will be missed by the department. Chief Mello also noted that although he hoping to

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fill this vacancy, the person chosen must be a special individual to handle the tasks before him.

7. REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS

- a. Milford Medical Center Phase 3 – Torry Corporation – 835 Boston Post Rd. – it was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the Traffic Div. recommendation and approve Milford Medical Center Phase 3 – Torry Corporation – 835 Boston Post Rd for purpose of discussion.

Comm. Wanosky questioned why this board was considering this before the state traffic looks at it. He added approval from the Police Commission will be conditional based on state traffic department study.

Chrmn. Jagoe stated the original application was reviewed but the department states the plan is different then what is being reviewed.

Chief Mello stated that is the reason why it is being sent back for reconsideration. He stated the criteria must be met and this body's approval is conditional based on the state's approval.

Comm. Smith asked what is the advantage of getting conditional approval rather than wait for the final approval and Vice Chrmn. Bergami explained it would delay the purchase of the property for one additional month.

Motion carried to approve 5 yes and 1 recusal (Vice Chrmn. Bergami who recused himself due to his role on the Board of Directors of the Hospital).

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 Comm. Faruolo and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to approve the following reports for November 2012.

- a. Uniform Crime Report
- b. Special Investigations Unit Report
- c. Detective Bureau Report
- d. Crime Prevention Services Report
- e. Traffic Division & Licensing Unit Report

Discussion ensued regarding a detective's assignment to a case and the length of time a case may stay open.

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Comm. Faruolo and Vice Chrmn. Bergami withdrew their motion to approve reports a – e and approve only reports b through e as clarification was needed to report a.. Motion carried unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Golf Cart Ordinance – will remain on the table.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Trumbull Ave. – request for elimination of parking spaces and implementation of walking and bicycle pathway – Trumbull Ave. residents – It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to approve the Traffic Div. report regarding the above noted request. Motion carried unanimously.

11. COMMENDATIONS - none

At this point in the agenda, the board returned to item 6a. 2013/2014 Police Dept. Budget Request - Chief Mello directed comments 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 Mello noted there are some considerable increases in some of the categories over last year. He explained in the previous year, significant cuts were made to last year's budget and it was necessary to make up some of those shortfalls. He compared Milford's department to similar size communities whose budgets are higher in terms of categories. Chief Mello noted that the department has not been able to get back to their core mission because they are not budgeted for that.

Chief Mello noted the department is at full staff at this time.

He directed specific comments to overtime which he felt needs more funding allocated to cover vacations, holidays, storms, prisoner watch, events, missing persons, surveillance, bike patrols, special resources in Milford center and investigations. He stated this year \$500,000 was allocated and the account is still underfunded. Further, he explained departments our size are at \$1.1 and \$1.5 million for overtime which means anything over the \$500,000 will have to come from anticipated surpluses arrived at by other department efficiencies.

Other areas in the budget which Chief Mello expressed concern over was the Detective Training Account which is mandated training for officers, Parks overtime, the increase to Operation Off Road because that provides weekend coverage for open space property, overtime for COPS (Community Policing Unit), Crime Suppression Unit allocation should be reinstated. Further Chief Mello addressed the need for more funding for Holiday Pay, Oyster Fest, Seasonal & Temporary, Uniform and Weather Gear (annually spend \$100,000 and \$56,000 is allocated so he has increased request to \$70,000 for next year). Other areas underfunded are Election Expense, Training Expense, Ordinance Supplies (anticipated spending \$55,000 and that overage must also be covered), Communication Costs, Reinstating rental cars.

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In the area of Operating Expenses, Chief Mello explained the majority of the expenses in that area are technical and cover maintenance of these systems; Homeland Security, Gasoline (anticipated \$215,000 to be spent and that money will come from surplus from car rental account).

In other areas, Capital Outlays reflected a decrease, replacement of 2 Tasers are needed at this time, Vehicle Equipment (needs to be at level of 14 cars), a motor for pursuit boat.

In the Personnel area, Chief Mello noted the need to reinstate a dispatcher.

Comm. Wanosky asked what is the percentage increase this year as compared to what was allocated last year and he was told the department's budget is at \$10.6 million.

Comm. Faruolo asked about grant funding and she was told the department receives approximately \$800,000 in grants.

Chairman Jagoe thanked Chief Mello for the budget overview and for all his hard work in preparing this budget which reflects an honest evaluation of what is needed.

Comm. Smith noted the Chief and Commissioners are going into this budget deliberation time knowing the request is a big request but he was confident the Chief knew the priority line items to address.

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. Wanosky to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:33 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. 3rd quarter review for Officer David Pecoraro
- b. 1st quarter review for Officer Michael Compare
- c. Review of the probationary status of one employee.

(Present were commissioners, Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Butler)

It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Butler to reconvene in public session at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Vice Chrmn. Bergami and seconded by Comm. Faruolo to uphold Chief Mello's recommendation to extend the probationary status of one employee for an additional 6 months. Motion carried unanimously.

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It was moved by Comm. Wanosky and seconded by Vice Chrmn. Bergami to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Candido, Secretary