Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**1. ROLL CALL**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, D. Rubenstein, Richard Smith

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

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

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

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

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Mager to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

* Deepa Joseph, Director Dept. of Human Services/Health Dept. – (Attention: Officer DeVito) – expressed sincere thanks for generosity of the Department during the holiday season specifically to the Adopt-A-Family Program.

Chief Mello explained the Department adopted 2 boys through the PBA and provided the youngsters with a holiday they would not have otherwise.

* Megan Altomare – Director, Boys & Girls Club – expressed gratitude to Officer DeVito and the Department for the $500 donation to the holiday campaign adding this donation helped make a difference in the lives of many youths in our community.
* James Goggin – while in the process of returning to Branford from Stratford where he was hunting geese, he experienced an episode which caused him to exit I-95 and park in the McDonald’s parking lot where he experienced subsequent “black out” episodes. He called the Department and both fire and police were dispatched to his location. Officer Dubrow was very helpful and understood the driver’s concern about the shotgun and ammunition he had in the car from his recent hunting. He further noted the officer contacted his Sergeant and arrangements were made to store the gun and ammunition at the Police Dept. He was thankful for this assistance until other arrangements were made and he expressed his gratitude to the Chief for helping create a Police Department with very capable and professional officers.
* Lisa Kaplan – Secretary, Orange Volunteer Fire Dept. – on behalf of the Orange Volunteer Fire Dept., expressed appreciation for police escort at the funeral services of Fire Marshall Tim Smith.
* Angela Mazzoco – resident – expressed appreciation for police escort for husband’s funeral.
* Ken & Bethia Miller – took opportunity to thank the Milford Police Department for their assistance in locating their son this past January. Letter explained their son has health issues which require monitoring and medication and on this specific day he did not show up for work which caused his co-workers concern. Co-workers went to great lengths to reach the parents who live in another state. Parents subsequently called the Department to ask for help and within a few minutes of their call and officer was at the son’s apartment. The officer called parents immediately to confirm the son was alright and was at home with flu-like symptoms. It was noted this courteous call to confirm the son was okay meant a great deal to the parents who lived miles away.

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

a. Donation to the Milford Police Dept. from the Socquet Family – Chief Mello recommended the $300 donation from the Socquet Family is deeply appreciated and he recommended the money be placed in the Police Department Sick & Relief Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to accept the recommendation of Chief Mello and apply the $300 donation from the Socquet Family to the Police Department Sick & Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Year End Report for Police Sick and Relief Fund - Chairman Smith asked what criteria is used to dispense the money from these accounts.

Chief Mello explained an officer may be burdened by medical bills or other bills if he is unable to work and these funds are there in times of need/crisis for an officer’s family upon request.

Comm. Mager asked if the money is paid as a gift and he was told yes.

Chairman Smith noted that $2,000 was spent out of this account in 2019.

Discussion ensued regarding managing of the Year End Report of the Police Sick and Relief Fund, and the possibility of looking into a better investment account for these funds.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Vice Chair Bergami to accept the Year End Report for Police Sick and Relief Fund as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Further discussion regarding the investing of these funds will be placed on a future agenda.

c. Off Duty weapon request for Off. Chris Lennon – it was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the off-duty weapon request for Officer Chris Lennon. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Informational: Safe Driving award for: Det. Richard Mahoney, Off. J. Dempsey, Off. A. Mauro, Sgt. Z. McNemar, Off. A. Narowski and Off. Sean Owens.

e. Unclaimed money turned over from the Court (6 cases) - $659.69 – Chief Mello recommended the $659.69 unclaimed money from the Court be applied to the DARE account.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to accept the recommendation of Chief Mello and apply the $659.69 unclaimed money turned over to the Court to the DARE account. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Chief’s General comments – Chief Mello explained there is a bill in legislation that will allow local traffic authorities to determine speed limits. He explained this bill is being heavily lobbied and he wanted to keep the commissioners apprised. He added if any commissioner wanted to discuss this further to reach out to the Chief and comments are most welcome.

**7. REPORT ON PLANNING & ZONING REQUESTS** - none

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chair 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 -** none

**11. COMMENDATIONS**

Deputy Chief Rojee presented the following:

a. Letter of Recognition – Off. A. Vakos- case #6615-19 – incident occurring 12/28/19 when Officer Vakos responded to a call for a residence on Summit Avenue and found a male unresponsive related to heroin overdose. Male had been administered one dose of Narcan before officer arrived and a subsequent dose was administered by Officer Vakos. CPR continued until emergency response arrived and the person was revived.

b. Letter of Recognition – Off. James Preto, case #546-20 – Officer Preto responded to a call at a local motel regarding a 16 year old female found unresponsive from heroin overdose. Officer started CPR and administered Narcan and female was revived.

c. Letter of Recognition – Off. Paul Studdard, case #640-20 – Officer Studdard responded to home on Collingsdale Drive regarding a female who had overdosed by antibiotics. The resident was found with no vital signs and Officer Studdard tried to illicit a response and when the female responded, CPR was administered and the individual eventually recovered.

d. Certificate of Commendation – Det. Richard Mahoney, cases #345, 346, 347-20 – In a 6 day period of time Det. Mahoney went from zero evidence to locating surveillance and pursuing leads which eventually lead him to locate the suspect and investigation was closed.

e. Civilian Letter of Recognition- for Terry Ann McDonald, case #546-20

Chief Mello reminded the commissioners that the Police Department is not considered 1st responders for Narcan administration but since the police are usually on the scene first, followed by the Fire Dept., a decision was made that the two departments partner in such instances and it has worked out well for the departments as well as our citizens.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the Appointment,**

**Employment, Performance, Evaluation, Health, or Dismissal of Department**

**Employees.**

Motion was made by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:32 p.m. regarding the following:

1. 2nd Quarter probationary review for five (5) Officers.
2. Consideration of the performance of one (1) Officer.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chef Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee and commissioners present remained for Executive Session.

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 8:05 p.m.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk March 10, 2020