Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Sgt. Kranyak, Ald. Vetro, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**1a. REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD**

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Marrone and Comm. Jagoe to nominate Comm. Smith to serve another term as Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no other nominations, motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to nominate Comm. Bergami to serve another term as Vice Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners.

Being no other nominations, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Smith thanked the Commission members for their continued faith in the combined leadership of he and Vice Chair Bergami.

**2. CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** - none

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

* Ald. Vetro took the opportunity to congratulate Chairman Smith and Vice Chair Bergami and also wished Chief Mello and the entire staff the best in the New Year.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting as presented. Comm. Mager abstained from voting as he was not present at the November meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

* Joe & Betty Vidnansky – residents of Milford for 20 years and recently retired postal carriers in Fairfield extended their gratitude and thanks for our police force.
* Meghan Altomare, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club – thanked the Department for their participation and support of the annual Pumpkin on the Piers event.
* Donna Shea, Program Director, CT Training and Technical Assistance Center, UCONN – recognized Officer Hemperly for completing the CT Safety Academy Program noting this as a great achievement for Officer Hemperly.

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

a. Informational: Off Duty Weapon authorizations for Officers C. Murray, K. Zbikowski, Alfred Mauro and Sgt. Christopher Doyle.

Chairman Smith inquired as to the status of gun permit applications noting at one time there was a back log of the applications.

Chief Mello stated that had been caught up with.

 b. Informational: Unclaimed cash turned over to Police Department from Court in the amounts

 of $32.38 and $58.00.

 c. Informational: Safe Driving Awards to: Off. M. Moreno, Off. R. Pisani, Sgt. T. Wardowski.

d. **Previously noted**. Off Duty Weapon Request Authorization – Off. Chris Murray, Off. K. Zbikowski, Off. A. Mauro, Sgt. Chris Doyle.

e. Chief’s General comments

* Chief Mello stated the 2020-2021 Budget has been completed and sent to the Mayor and he will keep the Commission informed as that budget moves through the annual process. Chief stated of particular note is the increase of patrol cars which are now up to approximately $40,000 and he saw that as matter that would be taking a huge bite out of budget adding with the cost being so high, it will not be possible to purchase as many vehicles as anticipated. He stated the budget is not much different than in the past and he would be happy to share the budget documents with Commission members upon request.
* Chief Mello noted that Det. Broderick has retired his K-9 Cedar noting Cedar had been credited with assisting in many contraband and drug related arrests. Cedar had been retired to Det. Broderick.
* Chief explained Public Works has started to do some work on the current police headquarters, specifically ice barriers on the roof, asphalt work and replacement stair treads. As well it has become necessary to take part of the existing gym in the building and convert that area to a locker room for female officers. Chief added that locker room space will be needed by February 2021 for new officers.

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

**8. ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS**

It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm Rubenstein 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**

1. Request to remove traffic control device – Bridgeport Ave/Concord Ave – D.O.T. - It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to uphold Traffic Division recommendation not to remove traffic control device at Bridgeport/Concord Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Walnut Beach/East Broadway Parking – it was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the recommended revisions to Walnut Beach/East Broadway Parking. Sgt. Kranyak explained the city had come back with a request to look at the parking recommendations again specifically with regard to backing into a parking space and angle parking and with regard to the bike lanes. He stated the concerns were with the visibility issue of backing into a space.

Comm. Bevan realized the safety factor of the pedestrian is increased by backing in.

Chair Smith noted it is not a popular choice for people to back into spaces and it was felt that backing in would be more dangerous.

Comm. Bevan noted after reviewing the area and the plan he was not as happy with pulling into a space as he was with backing in.

Comm. Mager added the widening of the road and the isolated bike lanes mitigates the other changes.

Chief Mello stated he had not been comfortable with backing into a parking spot and after review of the recommendations it was realized the need to change what had been originally planned and move the bike lanes forward.

Motion carried with Comm. Bevan voting against the motion.

**11. COMMENDATIONS**

Deputy Chief Rojee presented the following:

1. Unit Citation for Officers Dominic Bailey, Sean Owens, Christopher Park, James Preto, Jose Rivera and Sgt. Gary Todice – Report #4897-19, incident occurring on 9/22/19 at approximately 11:30 p.m. when officers responded to a call from the Devon Motel at what was thought to be a medical call. When officers arrived at the motel they were met by a woman who had been assaulted by her boyfriend who had since fled into the woods where he lived in a tent. Officers approached the wooded area with K-9 where the man had fled and found him in a tent in possession of a machete. Suspect was subsequently charged with assault and arrested.
2. Letter of recognition – Officers Chris Lennon and Aaron Norowski – case #5951-19, incident occurring on 11/19/19 at approximately 11:30 p.m. when officers responded to a call in the Broadway area for man who was unresponsive. Individual was found to be completely unresponsive and it was obvious it was a matter of a drug overdose. Officers administered Narcan and administered CPR to him and he survived the incident.
3. Certificate of Commendation – Det. Broderick, Det. Ken Catino – case #5290-18 and 5332-18 regarding robberies in downtown Milford at Peoples Bank and local Chinese restaurant. Detectives Broderick and Catino were commended for hours of work put into investigating and reviewing history of surveillance and footages and subsequently brought the suspect in and he confessed and arrest was made.

**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. Rubenstein to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. regarding the following:

1. Consideration of the performance of 3 Officers.
2. 1st quarter probationary review for 6 Officers.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to reconvene in public session at 7:50 p.m.

1. It was moved by Vice Chair Bergami and seconded by Comm. Jagoe to uphold Chief Mello’s recommendation regarding performance of 3 officers.
2. 1st quarter probationary review for 6 officers. No action.

Being no further business, it was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Marrone to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Recorded by Diane Candido

Submitted to City Clerk January 14, 2020