

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2003 7:00 P.M.  
TRAINING ROOM, MILFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Acting Chrmn. Bergami called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Sam Bergami, Bill Bevan, Alberta Jagoe, John Mager, Sharon Marrone, David Rubenstein

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee, Capt. DelMonte, Lt. Holder, D. Candido, Secty.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS** – none

**CITIZENS COMMENTS** - none

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Marrone to approve the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting of June 12, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION OF CHIEF ON MATTERS OF ADMNIISTRATION**

- A. Auction proceeds from annual Police Auction \$2,952.00 – Chief Mello recommended the proceeds from the annual Police Auction in the amount of \$2,952.00 be placed in the Officer's Sick & Relief Fund.

Comm. Rubenstein and Comm. Jagoe made and seconded a motion to approve Chief Mello's recommendation that the proceeds from the annual Police Auction in the amount of \$2,952.00 be placed in the Officer's Sick & Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Unclaimed Money from Evidence \$127.16 - Chief Mello recommended the Unclaimed Money from Evidence in the amount of \$127.16 be placed in the Officer's Sick & Relief Fund.

Comm. Mager and Comm. Jagoe made and seconded a motion to approve Chief Mello's recommendation that the Unclaimed Money from Evidence in the amount of \$127.16 be placed in the Officer's Sick & Relief Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Chief's General Comments – Chief Mello noted there is a Police Academy currently in session and doing well. He explained the additional openings brought about by Worker's Comp, Long-term Worker's Comp and the expectation of possible 2 of those officers out on comp will be retiring. Further he noted that Sgt. Parks and Officer Knablin resigned during the summer. Chief Mello also reported that Det. Warrick and Det. Catino will be retiring shortly adding both were excellent officers and will be missed. Chief Mello stated there are currently 17 openings.

He added a 2<sup>nd</sup> Academy class is planned but he did not have confirmation of the dates for that class. Chief Mello explained he is not opposed to lateral appointments but he added this Department's pay s not competitive enough and now 25 years is required for vesting so an officer would not be coming to Milford for that long-term vesting.

Comm. Bevan asked how many potential officers are in the current class and he was told 8.

Chief Mello noted the Department is constantly conducting testing for potential officers as well as physical fitness tests and background checks but the pool of officers is very small; those being tested are having difficulty passing physical agility as well as a higher rate of failure on PolyGram.

Comm. Mager questioned the Department's 401-K or qualified program and Chief Mello explained the pension contract will expire next year and that area will be focused on. He added he has asked the City Attorney to look at financial advantages of 401-K vs pay defined benefit.

Comm. Mager noted it is doable if the union is willing to go forward with it.

## **REPORT ON PLANNING AND ZONING REQUESTS**

- a. Special Permit for 20 Dwelling Unit Residential Complex – 242 Buckingham Ave – Comm. Mager stated he reviewed the plan which is not adding any further burden and he did not see a site line issue.

Comm. Mager and Comm. Rubenstein made and seconded a motion to approve the Traffic Division recommendation regarding Special Permit for 20 Dwelling Unit Residential Complex – 242 Buckingham Ave. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Boys and Girls Village Renovation - 534 Wheelers Farms Rd – Comm. Mager and Comm. Rubenstein made and seconded a motion to approve the Traffic Division recommendation regarding Boys and Girls Village Renovation - 534 Wheelers Farms Rd. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. 20 Unit Apartment Building with Affordable Housing Units – 25 Shell Ave. – Comm. Mager and Comm. Rubenstein made and seconded a motion to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding 20 Unit Apartment Building with Affordable Housing Units – 25 Shell Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. Multi-family Dwelling – 62 W. Main St. – Comm. Mager and Comm. Rubenstein made and seconded a motion to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Multi-family Dwelling – 62 W. Main St. Motion carried unanimously.
- e. Auto Repair Facility – 695 West Ave. – Comm. Mager and Comm. Marrone made and seconded a motion to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Auto Repair Facility – 695 West Ave. Motion carried unanimously.
- f. Site Plan Review – Metro on Broad Phase II – 147-155 Broad St. – Comm. Bevan and Comm. Rubenstein made and seconded a motion to approve Traffic Division recommendation regarding Site Plan Review – Metro on Broad Phase II – 147-155 Broad St,

Comm. Mager noted it seems to be a departure from the original plans for this development. He expressed his concern on the impact on traffic.

Chief Mello explained during the construction phase they will be using spots on Darina Place for equipment and will close the sidewalk on River Street. He added discussion from the Mayor and the developer regarding a covered walkway on River Street in the event there was falling debris but the developer said there was no reason to build that covered walkway and it was recommended the sidewalk be closed at 58 River Street.

Comm. Mager noted the fence is close to the sidewalk and he expressed his concern regarding pedestrians having to walk in the road.

Chief Mello noted he only had the recommendation of the traffic engineer, further noting they will be bringing the work closer to the sidewalk.

Comm. Mager it would be good for the developer to be able to navigate in front of the building but he strongly felt it would be creating a hazard to the pedestrian for the benefit of the developer and he felt they need to rethink this and provide protective scaffolding with a cover over the top. He added it is the charge of this body to serve the citizens of Milford.

Chief Mello explained he had to make a decision based on the recommendation of the traffic engineer and if this Commission wants to see this changed, he would be happy to bring forward a revised recommendation.

Based on the concerns noted, the motion failed.

Comm. Mager and Comm. Rubenstein made and seconded a motion to reject the recommendation of Traffic Division and refer the Site Plan Review back to the contractor with the recommendation to allow safer egress to pedestrians and as well to consider providing protective scaffolding over the top of the walkway.

Comm. Bevan noted they have brought the fencing all the way down to the street and he added if they had correctly done the sidewalk right along River Street it would be a different matter.

Chief Mello noted the traffic engineer stated they were going to need that space for safety reasons.

Comm. Mager noted the fence is presently on the curb and will cause pedestrians to walk in the roadway. He added by going along with this we have created a defect and the city will be responsible. He asked why are we placating a contractor.

Chief Mello explained the disadvantage we are in is we do not have a traffic engineer in our city. He stated he understands the concerns expressed and he raised the same concerns with the contractor. Further he expressed his concern that he did not know if we can stop the work at this point.

Comm. Mager stated we can let them now they can proceed at their own risk.

Chief Mello stated he will talk to the City Attorney and express our concerns and hoping to get this situation corrected in a timely fashion, perhaps two weeks and this Commission may have to have a special meeting to consider the new recommendation.

Motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS –Special Investigations Unit Report**

- a. Detective Bureau Report
- b. Crime Prevention Unit Report
- c. Traffic Division and Licensing Unit Report

Motion made by Comm. Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to accept reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - none.

**NEW BUSINESS** – none

**COMMENDATIONS** – none

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Consideration of Report of Chief of Police on matters concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of department employee.

It was moved by Acting Vice Chair Rubenstein and seconded by Comm. Mager to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:23 p.m. regarding the following.

- a. Consideration of the performance of one (1) employee

Motion carried unanimously (Commissioners present, Chief Mello, Deputy Chief Rojee, remained for Executive Session.)

It was moved by Comm. Jagoe and seconded by Comm. Mager to reconvene in public session at 7:52 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Being no further business to discuss, it was moved by Comm. Mager and seconded by Comm. Rubenstein to adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Recorded by Diane Candido

**Submitted to City Clerk:** \_\_\_\_\_