

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 19, 2010

1. Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:03 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

S. Smith
R. Roper
J. San Angelo
L. Mayfield

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson

ALTERNATES:

C. Ford
A. Barnes
W. Bertotti

ABSENT:

B. Whitaker
D. Branco
Mayor Mezzo

Public: 2

Staff: 3

Press: 0

(L. Mayfield entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

2. Chairman Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. **ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:**

Chairman Smith appointed C. Ford, A. Barnes and W. Bertotti as voting members in the absence of Mayor Mezzo, B. Whitaker and L. Mayfield respectively.

4. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on December 15, 2009.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by A. Barnes to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 7, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. A motion by A. Barnes and seconded by R. Roper to defer acceptance of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on January 14, 2010 until the next Regular Meeting on February 16, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Carol Ravenscroft, 27 Hillside Avenue, discussed the traffic problem on Hillside Avenue at the intersection of Meadow Street. The number of parked cars, proper signage, speeding and increased enforcement was discussed. It was noted that Mayor's Aide Ed Carter had offered to Mrs. Ravenscroft that he would print and distribute flyers to local businesses in the area to notify them of the traffic problem. This matter was referred to Chief Edson who stated he would contact the Mayor's office regarding the flyers and conduct a traffic study.

8. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHIEF EDSON'S REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AID COMPACT WITH SURROUNDING TOWNS:

Chief Edson informed the Commission that as part of the accreditation process the department is required to have a Mutual Aid Compact with surrounding towns. It is for incidents that are not a town wide emergency. Legal counsel advised Chief Edson per Special Act 321 that he needed a motion from the Commission to authorize Mayor Mezzo to enter into a memorandum of agreement regarding the Western Area Regional Chiefs of Police Mutual Aid Compact. The towns involved are Naugatuck, Watertown, Middlebury, Waterbury, Wolcott, Cheshire, Thomaston, Torrington, Southington, New Milford, Plymouth and Winsted.

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by L. Mayfield to authorize Mayor Mezzo to enter into a memorandum of agreement regarding the Western Area Regional Chiefs of Police Mutual Aid Compact.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SECOND ROUND QUESTIONS FOR POLICE CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS.

Chairman Smith discussed the vacancy in the department and the need to hire a police officer. Two Special Meetings were held which resulted in a decision to re-interview three candidates from the hiring list. The Commission decided to create a list of questions with advice from the HR Director regarding uniformity.

11. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to *add to the agenda Executive Session for the discussion of interview questions.*

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

12. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to enter into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. inviting in Chief Edson.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

13. The meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m.

14. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to accept the interview questions as submitted.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

15. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CHIEF EDSON'S ANNUAL REPORT:

C. Ford asked Chief Edson to update the Commission on the status of certain goals that were addressed in the Annual Report. Discussion of COPS grant, recertification, handguns, Training Room improvements, and a sexual assault awareness program took place. C. Ford assured Chief Edson that he could rely on the support of the Commission for all endeavors. Chief Edson invited the Commissioners to attend his 2010/2011 presentation of the budget on January 25th. He explained the difficult financial climate the town is currently in, however, a town wide communication upgrade is being mandated by the Federal Communications Commission and he must present this information in his capital budget. He invited the Commissioners to attend the presentation of the department's operational budget on January 25, 2010. J. San Angelo asked Chief Edson if other items were pending. Chief Edson replied that he has not yet

reached optimum staffing but will put this item on hold until the economy improves.

16. DISCUSSION REGARDING MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Smith presented a list of Police Commission meetings and which Commissioners were in attendance. He reminded the Commission that they took an oath when they were appointed to act in the best interest of the community. He noted that it is imperative to have a quorum for meetings and has been substituting the Alternates in place of the missing regular Commissioners.

17. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC OF POLICE COMMISSION DECISIONS:

Chairman Smith presented a draft of a letter to be used when responding to the public regarding decisions it makes such as Land Use issues, Traffic studies, etc. It was suggested to send a copy of Police Commission minutes with the letter to ensure the decision is made clear.

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to accept the letter of response submitted by Chairman Smith.

Discussion: L. Mayfield suggested sending an initial letter for notification of the beginning of the study or project. It was decided to further explore this issue and to place it under "Open Items" for discussion at the next Regular Meeting. C. Ford and R. Roper withdrew their motions.

18. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to accept the Chief's monthly reports.

Discussion: Chief Edson will email a copy of the 2010/2011 budget to the Commissioners. He commented about a recent series of vandalism incidents in town and said the department is trying to solve the case. He further stated that officers have increased workloads and can't be everywhere. Officer Derek Vostinak spoke to the Commission regarding a typical night for an officer on second shift. Chief Edson assured the Commission that Naugatuck is a well-policed community. He further mentioned that the Assessors from the state of Connecticut will be at the department from January 26th through January 28th for Tiers 1, 2, and 3 of the accreditation process. He invited the Commissioners to stop in during the assessment.

Vote: Unanimous

19. CORRESPONDENCE:

Sergeant Laura Harrison and Officer Ronald Pugliese submitted letters to the Commission of their intent to enroll in college classes per union contract.

Sergeant Brian Newman thanked Chief Edson for providing vehicles to department members during the Christmas toy drives held on the town Green and at Walmart.

Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Connolly wrote a note thanks to Sergeant Mark Pettinichi and Officer Ian Kosky who came to their home for medical assistance with their son.

Ionut Anton, M.D. submitted a letter on behalf of his patient Theresa Orszulak who had been denied the installation of a Handicapped sign in front of her home. W. Bertotti said he would send her a letter of rejection with the minutes from the meeting attached. This will be an Open Item for the February Regular Meeting.

20. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

21. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

22. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

W. Bertotti asked Chief Edson if any action was taken as a result of correspondence received in November from the Firefighters Union regarding traffic issues. Chief Edson reported that funding for a traffic signal at Maple Street and Old Firehouse Road was not approved by the town. Fire Chief Doback is speaking to his officers regarding traffic safety.

23. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

C. Ford commended the officers pursuing their education.

A. Barnes expressed his displeasure with Chairman Smith's report regarding Commissioners' attendance at meetings. He stated that since it is an unpaid position, they should not be chastised for their absences. He said the Alternates are most often the majority of those who attend.

J. San Angelo wanted to know which Commissioners made the complaint of non-attendance. There were no responses.

Chairman Smith noted that invitations had been sent out for the awards ceremony on February 10, 2010.

C. Ford asked when police interviews would be scheduled. Chairman Smith said he would contact the HR Director so that she could schedule the candidates. It was decided to choose either February 2nd or February 9th.

24. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by C. Ford at 8:30 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous.

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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