

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2010

1. Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:01 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

Mayor Robert Mezzo
S. Smith
R. Roper
L. Mayfield
J. San Angelo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
J. Deschesnes, Personnel Director
Atty. Michael McVerry

ALTERNATES:

A. Barnes
D. Branco
W. Bertotti

ABSENT:

R. Whitaker
C. Ford

Public: 2
Staff: 7
Press: 1

(R. Roper arrived @ 7:02 p.m.)

2. Chairman Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
3. **ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:**
Chairman Smith appointed A. Barnes as a voting member in the absence of R. Whitaker.
4. A motion by A. Barnes and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 20, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous
5. A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on August 3, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous
6. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by J. San Angelo to delay Item #6 until Mayor Mezzo arrives.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kathleen Pannoza of 208 Maple Street, Naugatuck requested that the Commission consider putting a street sign at lower Maple Street or Maple Terrace to deter tractor trailer trucks from going through this area as it is a hazard. Chairman Smith said her request will be referred to the Street Sub-Committee and we should have an answer next month.

Attorney Michael McVerry and Mr. Paul Benevitts, Professional Engineer, from Land Data of Waterbury addressed the Commission on behalf of Fulling Mills Development regarding a revised proposal for a 21-acre commercial Industrial Park on Prospect Street. Commissioner Bertotti will review same with Land Use and will report back to the Commission with recommendations.

8. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

9. Discussion/possible action regarding grievance #2010-01.

It was decided that this item be tabled until the next Regular Meeting in September.

10. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief Edson reported that we presently have one person out on Workman's Compensation. Chief Edson also said that he is expecting a few resumes from potential lateral transfers to fill vacancies and will report back to the Commission with suitable candidates.

A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the Chief's Monthly Reports.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

11. Mayor Mezzo arrived at 7:27 p.m.

12. Discussion/possible action regarding the recommendation by the Executive Search Committee for the position of Deputy Chief of Police.

Chairman S. Smith informed the Commission that the scores of the three candidates were reaffirmed by Bruce Davey Associates. Mayor Mezzo credited the Commission, Chief Edson and Jeannette Deschesnes, H.R. Director, regarding the hiring process of the position of Deputy Chief. Mayor Mezzo informed the Commission that the highest ranking candidate for the Deputy Chief's position was Joshua Bernegger, and he scored the highest at 83.83%. Chairman Smith reported that the Executive Search Committee reviewed the process, discussed the scores, and following the process it was decided to offer the position to the top-scoring candidate, Joshua Bernegger.

A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by R. Roper to offer a conditional offer of employment for the position of Deputy Chief to candidate, Joshua Bernegger.

Discussion: J. San Angelo said it was disrespect to the Commission that the newspapers were notified of the decision prior to Commissioners knowing there was a recommendation by the Committee.

Mayor Mezzo stated that the overall process done by the Commission and the H.R. Department was very fair, and we had three great candidates. Mayor Mezzo congratulated Joshua Bernegger, and commended Bob Harrison and Greg Dean for going through this process. Chairman S. Smith also congratulated Josh Bernegger.

J. San Angelo agreed that this was a fair process, but felt that all of the scores should be released.

Vote: Unanimous

Joshua Bernegger stated that he humbly accepted the conditional offer, and stated that the process was fair and challenging for all candidates. Josh also stated that he ran against two very qualified candidates and appreciated their professionalism over the past week. Also, Joshua said he looks forward to working closely with Chief Edson and leading this Department as the best Police Department in the State.

(Mayor Mezzo and J. Deschesnes left the Meeting at 7:37 p.m.)

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

W. Bertotti read a letter from Wayne Zirolli, Engineer of the Borough of Naugatuck, regarding a concern that was brought to his attention regarding the abundant amount of tractor trailer traffic on Maple Street. Neighborhood residents informed him that a "No Thru Truck" sign was formerly posted at the base of Maple Street, but is no longer there. Mr. Zirolli requested that the sign be replaced, and also a "No Trucks Beyond This Point, Right Turn Only" sign be placed on Carroll Street as he believes this area presents a safety hazard to both the residents and the commercial vehicles. A copy of this letter will be mailed to Mr. Bertotti for his review.

J. San Angelo read a thank you from the family of Art Dessureau, former retired 20-year Police Officer who passed away on August 3, 2010. The family expressed their gratitude for the police escort during the funeral services. A Letter to the Editor was also read regarding Mr. Dessureau.

R. Roper read an invitation from the Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut regarding their Annual Picnic and Clambake which will take place on August 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Anthony's Ocean View, 450 Lighthouse Way, New Haven.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

15. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

16. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Chief Edson inquired if the changes to the intersection of Rubber Avenue & Gunntown Road were reviewed. Chief Edson said his concerns were the traffic pattern at that intersection, and a traffic pattern would have to be created whereby traffic coming from South Street, Middlebury would have to take a right controlled by a stop sign and then go left at the median. Eastbound traffic coming off Gunntown Road would have to bear right, and all the westbound traffic coming

from South Street would have to bear left. Traffic coming from south wanting to go to Rubber Avenue Ext. would be controlled by another stop sign to avoid head-on collisions.

Chairman Smith reported that C. Ford submitted proposed changes to the Alarm Ordinance, and the changes were brought to the Fire Department, but he has not heard from the Fire Commissioner as of yet. Chairman Smith stated that the Ordinance includes both the Police and Fire Commissions. Chief Edson said perhaps this should be discussed when the rest of the Commission is present.

17. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

Each Commissioner present individually congratulated Joshua Bernegger.

A. Barnes informed the Commissioners that San Paio will be in September again, and they need a lot of volunteers this year. Also, he will need permission for the parade route.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to allow the San Paio parade route to take place on September 4, 2010 as routed in the past.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Chairman Smith thanked the Commission on their hard work with the hiring process.

18. A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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