

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 20, 2010

1. Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

Mayor Robert Mezzo
S. Smith
B. Whitaker
J. San Angelo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson

ALTERNATES:

W. Bertotti
C. Ford
D. Branco

ABSENT:

L. Mayfield
R. Roper, Jr.
A. Barnes

Public: 1
Staff: 1
Press: 0

(B. Whitaker arrived at 7:14 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, D. Branco and B. W. Bertotti as voting members in the absence of R. Roper, L. Mayfield and B. Whitaker respectively.

4. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by W. Bertotti to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 15, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by D. Branco to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on June 26, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Anthony Akinduro, 165 Inwood Drive addressed the Commission regarding his letter sent to the Police Commission requesting a stop sign and “Children Playing” sign to be placed on Inwood Drive and Larkspur Road. Chief Edson informed Mr. Akinduro that the Police Department reviewed his request and we will be placing stop signs and a “Children Playing” sign in the area once it is voted on. Chief Edson also informed Mr. Akinduro that the signs would have to be ordered which will take a few weeks.

7. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

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

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

9. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF’S MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief Edson said he has dispositions on several requests for signs that could be voted on the sub-committee portion.

Chief Edson informed the Commission that there was approximately \$202,000 left from last fiscal year.

(Bruce Whitaker arrived at 7:14 p.m.)

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the Chief’s monthly reports.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

J. San Angelo read a letter from Captain Scully to Chief Edson regarding how successful the 10-week Citizen Police Academy was. In his letter, Captain Scully asked that the Police Commission recognize the officers involved for their hard work regarding the success of the program and that a copy of his letter be placed in their personnel files. Said officers are outlined in the letter. Commissioners inquired if this program will run again next year. Chief Edson said that if a grant is not available next year for this program that we may have to work within our budget to sponsor same. J. San Angelo also read letters from Peggy Rossi and Amy Drzwecki regarding their rewarding experiences being a part of the Citizen’s Police Academy.

D. Branco read a card from Mr. Ed Reardon to Officer Bosco thanking him for helping his wife while waiting for the ambulance to arrive during a medical call at his home. S. Smith asked that a copy of the card be placed in Officer Bosco’s file.

C. Ford received an alarm appeal and will refer same to the sub-committee.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

12. OPEN ITEMS:

a. Request for placement of handicapped sign adjacent to driveway on Fairchild Street.

Per Chief Edson, this request was investigated by Lt. Bernegger, and there does not appear to be a need for a dedicated handicapped parking space on Fairchild Street as there is plenty of driveway parking available for residents and sufficient parking on both sides of the street. Recommendation would be not to place a handicapped sign in the area.

b. Request for placement of a stop sign at Inwood Drive/Larkspur Road and a “Children Playing” sign.

Also investigated by Lt. Bernegger, we are going to honor the request to place a stop sign and “Children Playing” sign in the area of Inwood Drive/Larkspur Road.

c. Traffic study regarding line of sight at Tomo 68 Restaurant, Prospect Street.

Regarding a traffic study at Tomo 68 Restaurant, Prospect Street, Chief Edson said that the State would have to address this as it is a State road.

d. Parking concerns on Fairview Avenue.

Chief Edson reviewed Officer DaSilva’s actions with regards to Mr. King’s complaint. There was a written report done and he was interviewed by supervisors. Lt. Bernegger investigated same, a review of the street was done, and the decision was to place a “No Parking” sign in front of Mr. King’s home only and to leave the rest of the street alone. The Traffic Study Committee agreed.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by C. Ford to not place a handicapped sign adjacent to driveway on Fairchild Street.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by J. San Angelo to erect stop signs as needed on Inwood Drive/Larkspur Road as well as a “Children Playing” sign.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Regarding a traffic study at Tomo 68 Restaurant, Prospect Street, the recommendation is that it does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Police Commission or the Police Department as it is a State road. Chief Edson will call the Borough Engineer regarding same.

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by J. San Angelo to put a “No Parking” sign in front of 126 Fairview Avenue based on the recommendation of Chief Edson.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

13. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

W. Bertotti regarding proposed Industrial Park across from Great Hill Road, there are no line of sight problems and parking seems adequate. W. Bertotti will draft a letter to Attorney McVerry asking the State to do a traffic study.

W. Bertotti addressed the Commission regarding Gunntown Road site and recommended that shrubs and trees be removed and a sign be put up well in advance warning drivers to slow down.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by Mayor Mezzo to approve the Park Commission's plans for Gunntown Road with the conditions that shrubbery and trees are removed to create adequate line sight distance and also to install warning signs prior to the site. This was also being recommended by the Traffic Study Committee.

Discussion: None

FOR:
Mayor Mezzo
S. Smith
B. Whitaker
J. San Angelo
C. Ford

OPPOSED:
D. Branco

ABSTAIN:
None

J. San Angelo inquired as to a situation with the Police Department truck going up Route 68 with lights on by a civilian driver. Chief Edson reported that this situation was addressed and said he had pulled over to put cones up, drove away and never deactivated the lights.

A discussion was held regarding the Towing Policy. Mayor Mezzo will talk with the Town Attorney to see if this should go out to bid. Mayor Mezzo said that the Purchasing Policy of the Borough is that everything goes out to bid. S. Smith asked that a copy of the Towing Policy be sent to the Mayor.

C. Ford received a copy of the proposed Alarm Ordinance, and has some revisions that he will give to the sub-committee for the August meeting as he will not be in attendance. The other members of the sub-committee will make the presentation regarding the time frame for the appeal process. C. Ford will touch base with the Chairman of the Fire Commission to discuss the recommended changes to the Ordinance.

14. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

J. San Angelo commented regarding the salaries of the Chief and Deputy whereby they are underpaid compared to other towns in the area and good candidates were lost for the Deputy Chief's position because of this reason. Mayor Mezzo said that during the Budget process is when these recommendations should be made.

C. Ford said he heard that the Deputy Chief's position was being eliminated through someone. He feels that the Joint Boards should have notified the Police Commission of this. Mayor Mezzo said the Department Head was notified of the Joint Boards Meeting, and he went before the Joint Boards and justified why he felt the Deputy Chief's position was needed.

W. Bertotti addressed the Commission regarding the DMV's decision to have no date registration stickers on vehicles effective August 1, 2010. A tear-off piece will be available to put in the glove box, and a check would have to be mailed in for the renewal.

S. Smith said that July 26, 2010 will be the oral boards for the Deputy Chief position, and the Police Commission will be interviewing on August 3, 2010.

Also, S. Smith said we need to look at compiling a new hiring list since the one we have is over a year old. S. Smith said we need to look at the hiring policy after the interviews are done to make things run more efficiently.

Chief Edson said we will discuss new hires in Executive Session.

15. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by J. San Angelo to move to Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. for discussion of personnel matters regarding Officer Derek Vostinak.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

16. A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by B. Whitaker to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

REVISED