

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2010

1. Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:08 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

Mayor Mezzo
Steve Smith

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Acting Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger

ALTERNATES:

Andy Barnes
Walter Bertotti
Chris Ford

ABSENT:

Linda Mayfield
Ralph Roper
James San Angelo
Bruce Whitaker
Domingos Branco

Public: 1
Staff: 5
Press: 0

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

Chairman Smith appointed C. Ford, W. Bertotti and A. Barnes 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 of the Board of Police Commissioners held on August 17, 2010.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by C. Ford to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 14, 2010.

Discussion: C. Ford noted his name was left off of the meeting roll call. Chairman Smith explained his reasons for a second interview with the lateral transfer.

Vote: Unanimous

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kathleen Pannoza, 208 Maple Street, appeared again before the Commission to follow up on her request from the August meeting regarding truck traffic in the vicinity of Maple Terrace and Maple Street. Chief Edson confirmed there has been a long standing problem with tractor trailers in this area and said he needed more time to review the problem.

7. UNION BUSINESS, DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2010-01 AND GRIEVANCE #2010-02:

It was agreed to postpone these agenda items until later in the meeting pending the arrival of Union president Sgt. Cammarata.

8. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

Discussion: Chief Edson informed the Commission he is re-introducing the use of a patrol dog within the department. He explained the importance of timing in cases with missing and endangered people and not having to wait for other departments to respond with their canines. Chief Edson stated he will use Asset Forfeiture money in order to spare the borough the expense assumed with this venture. Sgt. Bart Deeley presented his report concerning the costs associated with obtaining a police patrol dog. (See attached) Mayor Mezzo asked Chief Edson to keep Controller McAllister aware of the proposal. The officer chosen to be the handler will attend the police academy for training with his dog. The newly hired lateral transfer can fill the void. C. Ford questioned the large expenditures in Educational Increment and Clothing/Cleaning Allowance. Chief Edson explained these are budgetary items expended once per year as deemed by the union contract. It was noted that Detective Ray Walsh and Patrolman Ian Kosky had succeeded in winning 1st place in the annual sniper challenge held in Gastonia, NC. Chief Edson reported the website developed by the Police Department was launched this week and is available to the public. It was suggested to contact the newspaper for a public notice.

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

Ann Lanteri sent a letter of thanks to Officer Michael Wawrzyniak for his assistance during a medical call on September 8, 2010.

Sarah Wentworth, Resident Director Post University, thanked Officer Kevin Zainc and his police dog Pete and Detective Sean Simpson for their presentation on September 3, 2010 to the Residence Life staff at Post University.

Notice of two donations from the Naugatuck Elks Lodge which totaled \$350.00.

Lt. Greg Dean notified the Commission of his intention to attend Post University to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Waterbury Chief of Police Michael Gugliotti thanked Chief Edson for allowing Officer Mark Pettinichi to participate in the Waterbury Crime Stoppers Annual Motorcycle Ride.

Joe Perrelli, Regional Planner Council of Governments and Sheila Baummer, Naugatuck Recycling & Solid Waste Coordinator thanked Officer Ronald Pugliese for assisting in the medication collection on July 24, 2010. They also sent a letter of thanks to Chief Edson for the department's assistance and cooperation at the same event.

Sherlee Plawecki, Connecticut State Association of Emblem Clubs Corresponding Secretary sent a letter to thank Lt. Robert Harrison and Officer Ronald Pugliese for their presentation on "Safe Tips for Seniors".

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

11. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

12. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

C. Ford, Alarm Subcommittee, denied an appeal for an alarm violation due to the request being received past the deadline.

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by W. Bertotti to deny the alarm violation appeal from A. Perella & Associates, 173 Meadow Street, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: C. Ford will prepare a letter indicating the denial and deliver it to Janice LaCharity for mailing purposes. It was noted there is a new alarm ordinance being proposed which will be presented at the next Regular Meeting on October 19, 2010. Upon approval by the Commission, it will be forwarded to the Board of Mayor and Burgesses for their acceptance. C. Ford will email a copy of the ordinance to all Commissioners.

Vote: Unanimous

W. Bertotti, Traffic Subcommittee, and L. Mayfield had reviewed the plans for a traffic circle at Rubber Avenue Extension and South Street and thought it was a

great idea. He also discussed the need for a state permit for the Fulling Mills development.

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by C. Ford to make a recommendation to move forward with the plan for a traffic circle at Rubber Avenue Extension and South Street.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

13. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

A. Barnes discussed the widening of the areas of Crofut Road and Rubber Avenue Extension. Chief Edson stated that any road improvements must be approved by the Engineering Department.

W. Bertotti commended the Police Department for doing excellent work and congratulated Acting Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger on his promotion. Acting D/C Bernegger said contract negotiations are still underway but is happy with the progress thus far.

Chairman Smith also congratulated Acting D/C Bernegger.

Mayor Mezzo said he is still in negotiations with Acting D/C Bernegger and are working in good faith with each other.

C. Ford congratulated Acting D/C Bernegger on his promotion and Detective Walsh and Officer Kosky for their success at the Sniper Contest.

14. Sgt. Cammarata arrived at 7:50 p.m.

15. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

16. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION OF GRIEVANCE #2010-01:

Mayor Mezzo and Sgt. Cammarata agreed to table this item until the next Regular Meeting due to pending negotiations.

17. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2010-02:

Officer Peter Bosco informed the Commission he had received a “verbal warning” for failing to complete police reports prior to his workers’ compensation surgery and requested it be changed to “verbal counseling” for future promotional exams. Chief Edson explained that “verbal counseling” is used for deficient

behavior, not discipline. He was satisfied with the use of a “verbal warning” because it is the first step in disciplinary action.

A motion by C. Ford and seconded by W. Bertotti to uphold the Chief’s decision to deny grievance #2010-02.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

18. A motion by Mayor Mezzo and seconded by C. Ford at 8:10 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous.

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission