

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2009

1. Commissioner Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:04 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

COMMISSIONERS:

Andrew Bottinick (Arrived @ 7:07 p.m.)
Ralph Roper, Jr.
James San Angelo
Linda Mayfield
Steven Smith
Mayor Michael Bronko

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson

OTHERS:

Public: 4
Staff: 0
Press: 0

ALTERNATES:

Walter Bertotti
Domingos Branco
Andy Barnes

2. Commissioner Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:

Commissioner Smith appointed W. Bertotti as a voting member in the absence of Chairman Bottinick.

4. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by J. SanAngelo to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 17, 2009.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by J. SanAngelo and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 31, 2009.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Clayton Reynolds, 5 Michelle Lane, addressed the Commission regarding his alarm problems at his place of business, Union Street Station, and was disputing the alarm violations. Chairman Bottinick explained to Mr. Reynolds that the Commission can only affirm or deny the alarm appeals. Commissioner Bottinick asked the Mayor's Office to grant authority to the Police Commission to review/amend the alarm fines. It was agreed to table this item until the May Regular Meeting and to freeze the fines until said time as we need to pull the police blotter for these alarms.

Joe DaSilva, 14 Hemlock Road, discussed his problems with a neighbor parking on his street in the cul-de-sac. Chairman suggested Mr. DaSilva contact Deputy Fire Chief Hanks to see if a fire truck would be able to turn around in the cul-de-sac. Chief Edson will look into the law regarding this situation. This item will be addressed again at the May Regular Meeting. L. Mayfield agreed that the Fire Department should be called, and she feels when developments were built, they didn't expect there would be numerous vehicles.

Margie Paul-Gaston, 33 West Hill Terrace, addressed the Commission regarding her alarm violations since January, 2007. Mayor Bronko informed the Commission that the Board of Mayor and Burgesses sent a letter asking the Commission to look at Margie Paul Gaston's appeal as if it was a new case. Commissioner Smith stressed that we still have to deny the appeal for \$725.00 and remove the penalty fee. Mrs. Paul-Gaston agreed to pay the \$725.00 fine.

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by J. SanAngelo to remove the penalty fee of \$800 from the alarm violations dated May 16, 2008 at 33 West Hill Terrace pursuant to the authority granted to the Police Commission by the Board of Mayor & Burgesses.

Discussion: Chief Edson asked Mrs. Paul-Gaston to send the \$725.00 fine to the Naugatuck Police Department.

Vote: Unanimous

7. UNION BUSINESS: None

Mayor Bronko left at 7:49 p.m.

8. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the Chiefs Monthly Reports.

Discussion: Chief Edson reported that Officer O'Bar's position would not be filled until after July 1, 2009. There were 300 applicants, and the physical agility test was held at Naugatuck High School this past Saturday and Sunday whereby 174 of the 300 appeared for the test and 111 passed. The written exam will be held late May, and we should have an active list by the end of June. Also, there will be a possible retirement in July. The issue of Sgt. Savoy is still being worked on. If we receive positions from the Stimulus, we may take several officers off this list.

D. Branco inquired as to why March had more Criminal arrests, and noted March of 2008 was similar.

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chairman Bottinick read a letter to Chief Edson from Simsbury High School thanking him for allowing Patrolman Derek Poundstone to present a motivational talk to their students, and stated that they were inspired by the "world's strongest man" in a police uniform.

Chairman Bottinick read an Inter-Departmental Message from Lt. Robert Harrison to all personnel regarding false alarms. Lt. Harrison reminded all personnel to advise Dispatch if there is any evidence of forced entry/burglary when responding to alarm calls.

D. Branco read a letter to Chief Edson from Lee Radke, Harvest Moon Festival Chairperson, requesting permission that Division Street be closed September 18 and 19, 2009, and would appreciate the assistance of the Explorers if they would be willing.

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by L. Mayfield to direct Chief Edson or his designee to approve the request from Lee Radke, Harvest Moon Festival Chairperson to close Division Street Street September 18 and 19, 2009.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

S. Smith read a letter from Greg Flaherty, Director Naugatuck Firefighters Soap Box Derby requesting permission that Maple Street from Water Street to Church Street be closed on Sunday, May 31, 2009 for approximately five hours starting at 12:00 p.m. for the 15th Annual All-American Soap Box Derby.

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by R. Roper to allow Chief Edson or his designee to approve the request from Greg Flaherty, Director of Naugatuck

Firefighters Soap Box Derby, to close Maple Street from Water Street to Church Street on Sunday, May 31, 2009 starting at 12:00 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

R. Roper read a letter from Janice LaCharity on behalf of the Chiefs of Police Secretaries Association (C.O.P.S.A.) thanking him for allowing her to host the March 18th meeting at the department. Janice also thanked Officer Derek Poundstone for his presentation which kept the ladies very attentive. Also, Janice thanked Lt. Bernegger for his PowerPoint presentation created by Officer Jay Pugliese outlining various programs the department offers to our senior citizens in Naugatuck.

J. SanAngelo read a postcard from Jennifer Dewitt of the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Committee (CNVRAC) thanking Officer Jay Pugliese for taking part in the Strategic Plan this year.

W. Bertotti read a card from Vickie Rodriguez of 71 Osborn Road #2C to Officer Jay Pugliese telling him to keep up the good work and that he is one of the finest. Chief Edson reported that Jay is now Acting Detective.

10. OPEN ITEMS:

a. Municipal Ticket Program

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by S. Smith to authorize Chief Edson or his designee to endorse Chief Edson's recommendation that Naugatuck participate in the Municipal Ticket Program as outlined in CT General Statutes 14-33-1, etc. and that Chief Edson take necessary actions to implement said program in Naugatuck.

Discussion: Per Chief Edson, under this program, the State allows municipalities to submit unpaid parking tickets to the DMV.

Vote: Unanimous

11. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

J. SanAngelo addressed the Commission regarding a towing issue whereby a tow was cancelled after it was dispatched, and one of the towers was upset as they were not getting paid after responding to the scene. Chief Edson stated that it is the position of the Department of Motor Vehicles that if a vehicle does not get hooked, the tower does not get paid. Chief Edson will make minor adjustments to

clarify this issue within the Towing Regulations at next month's meeting, and when the legal notice goes out, we will bring the towers in and explain same.

S. Smith, Alarm Violations Subcommittee, reported on the decisions of the appeals. Said package will be turned over to Chief Edson to have Captain Scully process same. In addition, two appeals were received from Clayton Reynolds for Union Street Station and Safe Home Security for 79 June Street. It was requested that Chief Edson have Captain Scully provide additional information for 79 June Street and 23 Union Street.

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by R. Roper to accept the recommendations of the False Alarms Committee on the appeals process.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

S. Smith informed the Commission that Chief Edson is working with the Police Chief's Association putting together a statewide false alarm ordinance. Chief Edson will provide a copy in next month's packages.

R. Roper inquired as to how Officer Cegielski was doing after he was involved in an auto accident while on duty. Chief Edson said he should be back at the end of April.

J. SanAngelo inquired as to the No Parking sign missing on Union Street.

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by J. SanAngelo to empower Chief Edson to repair or replace the No Parking sign on Union Street south of the food establishment.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

S. Smith reported that he will be attending a "Conducting Effective Meeting" seminar and will report back next month regarding same.

Commissioner Bottinick reported that he found an article on the internet from the Supreme Court regarding an Arizona case whereby an individual was arrested for a minor traffic violation, and they searched his vehicle. It was decided that the search was unreasonable.

12. A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by S. Smith to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Andrew Bottinick, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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