

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 20, 2009

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

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

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

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson

ALTERNATES:

W. Bertotti  
D. Branco  
F. Barnes

ABSENT:

Mayor Bronko

Public: 0

Staff: 2

Press: 0

2. Chairman Bottinick led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. Chairman Bottinick welcomed back Ralph Roper from his deployment to Germany.

4. ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:

Chairman Bottinick appointed F. Barnes as a voting member in the absence of Mayor Bronko.

5. A motion by F. Barnes and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on November 18, 2008.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR LESS-LETHAL TECHNOLOGY:

Chief Edson distributed a report to explain the particulars of introducing tasers into the department. It was noted a similar request was voted down a few years back. Past subcommittee chair for tasers, L. Mayfield recounted the events which led to the final decision. Chief Edson was asked to produce various data to the Commission after which a subcommittee meeting will be held. This will remain an "Open Item" on the next agenda.

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING POTENTIAL LATERAL TRANSFER DUSTIN LEVI:

Chief Edson asked to table this item until the next Regular Meeting.

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE POSITION OF POLICE MATRON:

Chief Edson reported that in order to be compliant with state statute, it will be necessary to implement the hiring of police matrons for female prisoners. He explained the protocol that will be followed to place matrons into service. He has already received the approval of Controller McAllister and the Joint Boards.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by L. Mayfield to direct Chief Edson to implement a policy for the hiring of police matrons.

Discussion: Questions involving salary, eligible candidates and union issues were addressed.

Vote: Unanimous

10. UNION BUSINESS:

Sgt. Cammaratta introduced himself to the newer members of the Commission and asked everyone to give special consideration to the need for tasers. He expressed the fact that smaller communities are not exempt from violence.

11. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by R. Roper to accept the Chief's Monthly Reports.

Discussion: Overtime, training, gasoline and uncollected revenue from parking tickets were discussed. Chief Edson informed the Commission of the need and reason to purchase new handguns. He further explained the town-wide

communication project which will begin in 2011 and the findings of the project consultant.

Vote: Unanimous

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

Lt. Joshua Bernegger commended Officer Carmine Fidanza regarding an incident on January 12, 2009.

T.H. Fitzgerald, Jr., Parade Chairman, Naugatuck Veterans Council, notified the Commission of the annual Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 25, 2009.

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by L. Mayfield to authorize Chief Edson to cooperate with the parade committee for traffic and parking as in past years.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Margie Paul-Gaston wrote a letter to the Commission requesting to be absolved of payment for her alarm violations. It was agreed to notify Ms. Paul-Gaston to advise her that this matter needs be addressed to the Board of Mayor and Burgesses.

Lt. Todd Brouillette, Sgt. Ronald Hunt and Ptlm. Amanda Devan each notified the Commission of their intent to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice and will seek reimbursement per union contract.

A meeting notice for January 28, 2009 was received from the Police Commissioners Association.

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by R. Roper to place all correspondence into each officer's personnel folder.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

14. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

15. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

J. San Angelo, Towing Subcommittee, reported that Avenue Auto Body may join the towing list in 2009.

S. Smith, False Alarm Subcommittee, received a sample of the new door hang tags the department is now using for false alarms.

It was agreed to switch Agenda Items #15 and #16

16. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

F. Barnes discussed a parking problem brought to his attention by an acquaintance.

J. San Angelo expressed his concerns regarding the removal of some stop signs in town. He questioned Chief Edson's decision to do so. Chairman Bottinick informed Chief Edson that the Police Commission has the authority for traffic issues in Naugatuck and evaluations or judgments of such must be presented to them. The Traffic Subcommittee was formed to perform this task.

R. Roper asked if the possibility might exist to place a School Resource Officer at the Middle Schools. Chief Edson stated that he could not afford it and would require approval from the Board of Education.

L. Mayfield discussed the opportunity to hold a basketball game between officers and area students. Chief Edson suggested a partnership with the Waterbury Police Department in their Police Athletic League. This will be explored in the future.

D. Branco questioned the inclusion of Alternates when Executive Session is called. Chairman Bottinick replied that they would be allowed into this evening's session.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING AMANDA DEVAN:

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by R. Roper to enter into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. inviting in Chief Edson.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

The Regular Meeting resumed at 9:04 p.m.

18. A motion by F. Barnes and seconded by S. Smith at 9:05 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at Town Hall, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous.

ATTEST:

Andrew Bottinick, Chairman  
Naugatuck Police Commission

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