

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
July 19, 2011

1. Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:02 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

Steve Smith
Ralph Roper
Linda Mayfield
James San Angelo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger
Burgess Laurie Jackson
Attorney John Knuff

ALTERNATES:

Walter Bertotti
Chris Ford

ABSENT:

Mayor Mezzo
Bruce Whitaker
Andy Barnes
Domingos Branco

Public: 1
Staff: 0
Press: 0

(R. Roper entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.)

2. Chairman Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. **ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:**

Chairman Smith appointed W. Bertotti and C. Ford as voting members in the absence of Mayor Mezzo and B. Whitaker respectively.

4. A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by C. Ford to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on June 21, 2011.

Discussion: Chairman Smith noted there was an error in the minutes. Item #11 noted D. Branco being included in a Roll Call vote when in fact he had not been appointed as a voting member of the Commission at the meeting.

The motion was rescinded.

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by C. Ford to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on June 21, 2011 as amended.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burgess Laurie Jackson, 204 Margaret Circle, addressed a Commissioner's comment from the last meeting regarding his displeasure with the D.A.R.E. program. She discussed the positive aspects she has witnessed from the program and strongly recommended the continuation of D.A.R.E. It was agreed that the Commissioners, Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger are all in favor of the program.

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE APPLICATION BY WALMART FOR 24 HOUR OPERATION:

Attorney John Knuff appeared on behalf of Walmart to explain the particulars of the request. He noted that it was the Zoning Commission who had final approval; however, the Zoning Commission wanted a recommendation from the Police Commission before proceeding.

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by J. San Angelo to allow Walmart to conduct a 24 hour operation.

Discussion: Chief Edson reminded the Commission that the Zoning Commission has the final say in this proposal and are looking to this Commission for its support of the application.

The motion was amended to the following:

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by J. San Angelo to send a letter to the Zoning Commission in support of Walmart's proposal for a 24 hour operation. The letter will be sent by the Secretary of the Commission and further state there are no objections to the application.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

8. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

Discussion: Chief Edson reported the fiscal year ended with a budget surplus of \$330,000. The Overtime Account had a surplus of \$178,000 which represented the largest surplus in four years. He stated the department had been close to fully staffed most of the year which helped to limit the amount of overtime needed. He has also made improvements in certain department operations which at one time created significant overtime. Chief Edson was commended by the Commissioners for an outstanding end to his fiscal year. They applauded his efforts in making significant changes to the department while improving the overall image and morale. Chief Edson explained the new fiscal year could present some extensive challenges if an early retirement proposal is put into motion. It will have a great impact on staffing in the department. Various suggestions were discussed by C. Ford and J. San Angelo and the status of the current hiring process. Chief Edson explained that Mayor Mezzo's plan to change the current pension is aimed at long term savings for the Borough and assured the Commission he will manage through it. Chief Edson introduced Christina Dias who was seated in the audience. She was an intern at the department and a current police candidate. She expressed her pleasure with her internship and wanted to experience the workings of a Police Commission meeting.

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

11. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

a. Traffic Subcommittee: Discussion/possible action regarding requests for handicapped parking sign at 15 Bradley Street and 21 Pond Street.

It was agreed to leave this matter as an open item for the next Regular Meeting in order for Deputy Chief Bernegger and W. Bertotti to create a form letter to be used for these requests. Deputy Chief Bernegger cited State Statute 14-253-A regarding the placement of handicapped signs in public areas. He also reported that Officer Favale is near completion in his inventory of installed traffic signs in Naugatuck which will lead to an examination of all handicapped signs.

12. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

J. San Angelo discussed unpaid towing bills for town vehicles with Chief Edson.

Chairman Smith recruited L. Mayfield as the new Chairman of the Subcommittee for Alarms due to the resignation of C. Ford.

C. Ford extended his thanks to all members of the Commission, Chief Edson and staff and expressed the positive experience he enjoyed while serving on the Police Commission. He was wished well by everyone.

Chairman Smith decided to add an addendum to the current format of the agenda. He asked for the placement of a sentence which makes a request to Commissioners to notify the recording clerk in the event they cannot attend a meeting. He said he is copying the wording as it appears on the agenda of the Board of Finance and will give advanced notice in the event there will not be a quorum. He congratulated J. San Angelo on his re-appointment by Mayor Mezzo.

Deputy Chief Bernegger reported that Beacon Brook Health Care Center held a Public Safety hero recognition day on June 22nd. Officers Bryan Coney and Tom Grant were presented with a plaque and commendations from various officials for saving the life of a man on Horton Hill Road in December. Their quick actions enabled the man to survive. The Commissioners congratulated the officers.

13. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by J. San Angelo at 8:00 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote:

FOR:

Chairman Smith
J. San Angelo
L. Mayfield
R. Roper
W. Bertotti

OPPOSED:

C. Ford

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission