

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2011

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:

Steve Smith
Bruce Whitaker
Linda Mayfield
James San Angelo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger

ALTERNATES:

Andy Barnes
Stephanie Savoy

ABSENT:

Mayor Mezzo
Ralph Roper
Domingos Branco
Walter Bertotti

Public: 1
Staff: 2
Press: 0

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

3. ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:

Chairman Smith appointed A. Barnes and S. Savoy as voting members in the absence of Mayor Mezzo and Ralph Roper respectively.

4. A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on October 18, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 27, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 1, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by A. Barnes to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting held on November 3, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Paul Bunevich, Land-Data Engineers, spoke to the Commission about plans he dropped off earlier in the day for the expansion of the building at 15 East Waterbury Road located in the Industrial Park which was owned by Donham Craft. He is the engineer for Unimetal Surface Finishing who will be moving from Thomaston to Naugatuck in order to expand their operations. He further explained that he needs the approval of the Police Commission before proceeding to the Zoning Board.

A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the proposal for the expansion of Donham Craft for Unimetal Surface Finishing subject to the approval of the Zoning Board and other Commissions.

Discussion: The Commissioners agreed that since there weren't any traffic issues with this proposal there was no reason to hold up the land use application. A new company moving to Naugatuck for expansion purposes is good for the town.

Vote: Unanimous

9. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

10. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2011-03:

Sergeant Bryan Cammarata and Detective Sean Simpson presented grievance #2011-03 to the Commission. They explained their interpretation of contract language regarding the Education Increment and Detective Simpson's quest to have his Bachelor's Degree recognized by the department. Chief Edson explained his reason for denying the grievance which centered on the fact that he didn't want to open the contract or broaden the language as it stands. He said he knows

that Mayor Mezzo is an advocate of higher education but would not presume to speak on his behalf. He strongly urges the Union to approach this subject during its negotiations in January.

A motion by J. San Angelo to uphold the Chief's decision to deny the grievance was rescinded. Sergeant Cammarata asked to have time to present a packet to the Commissioners with information relevant to Detective Simpson's education and curriculum.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by S. Savoy to table grievance #2011-03 until the next Regular Meeting in December.

Discussion: Chairman Smith suggested the Mayor's input be solicited. B. Whitaker asked how the initial payment was decided upon. J. San Angelo said that mistakes made in the past need to be corrected. Sergeant Cammarata asked the Commissioners not to let the possibility of retroactive pay hinder their judgment. The question arose as to Detective Simpson's degree meeting the definitions of the current contract language.

Vote: Unanimous

11. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by B. Whitaker to accept the Chief's monthly reports.

Discussion: Chief Edson discussed the amount of overtime expended due to the snow storm and severe power outages. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of his employees to work so diligently despite their own personal ordeals. He said he was proud to be the Chief of such a good department.

Vote: Unanimous

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

Angeline Schultz, Weid Drive, thanked Officer Daniel Norck for transporting her to the Andrew Avenue shelter during the power outage.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

14. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

15. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

a. Traffic Subcommittee: Discussion/possible action regarding the request for the installation of a stop sign at the intersection of Applewood Lane and Skyview Drive:

Deputy Chief Bernegger presented a traffic study compiled by Sergeant Cammarata which displayed the need for a stop sign at the intersection of Applewood Lane and Skyview Drive. There are currently two top signs which can create confusion in a three-way intersection. The study also revealed a poor sight line in the area. There has been one motor vehicle accident in the vicinity.

A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by S. Savoy to accept the recommendation of the Police Department's traffic study and install a stop sign at the intersection of Applewood Lane and Skyview Drive making it a three-way stop.

Discussion: It was suggested to contact the resident who made the request with the outcome of the vote.

Vote: Unanimous

J. San Angelo gave Chief Edson a copy of the Rules & Regulations as compiled by the Police Commission in past years. Chief Edson commented that most of the data has already been made part of the Policies & Procedures of the department.

Chairman Smith asked the Commissioners to consider the subcommittees they would like to join. He said he will email a list of the current subcommittees to all members.

16. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

J. San Angelo expressed his displeasure with the centennial celebration held at the Old Corner Café on November 12, 2011. He has serious issues with how the event was conducted and feels there was a lack of honesty in bringing the event to fruition. The owner of the café did not follow procedure as defined by the Police Commission in the motion made at the October meeting. Inaccuracies in reporting and failure to contact proper authorities made the event suspicious in nature. He also had issues with the Police Department for their lack of supervision. He said he will be more specific for future events but may consider re-visiting the issues surrounding the Old Corner Café's centennial celebration.

Everyone wished S. Savoy a happy birthday.

17. A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by A. Barnes at 8:18 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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