

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 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

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger
Burgess Laurie Jackson

ALTERNATES:

Walter Bertotti
Chris Ford
Andy Barnes
Domingos Branco

ABSENT:

Mayor Mezzo
Bruce Whitaker
James San Angelo

Public: 1

Staff: 2

Press: 0

(D. Branco entered the meeting at 7:45 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, A. Barnes and C. Ford as voting members in the absence of Mayor Mezzo, B. Whitaker and J. San Angelo respectively.

4. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on May 17, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Smith invited Gary Capatonio of Borghesi Construction to speak during this portion instead of waiting for Agenda Item #12.

Gary Capatonio, Borghesi Construction, informed the Commission of the plans to expand the Electric Cable Compounds, Inc. facility by 20,000 sq. ft. located at 108 Rado Drive. All members of the Land Use Subcommittee had visited the area, reviewed the plans and had no issues with the proposal.

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by R. Roper to approve the building addition to Electric Cable Compounds, Inc. located at 108 Rado Drive.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Jim Kelly, 67 Gail Drive, made a complaint regarding a speeding car in his neighborhood. At the instruction of Deputy Chief Bernegger, Mr. Kelly was brought to an officer to formalize his complaint.

Union President Sergeant Cammarata left the meeting to escort Mr. Kelly. Chairman Smith tabled the next two Agenda Items pending his return to the meeting.

6. UNION BUSINESS: TABLED

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2011-01:
TABLED

8. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

Discussion: L. Mayfield questioned an overtime assignment.

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

T.H. Fitzgerald, Jr., Parade Chairman, Naugatuck Veterans Council, sent a letter of thanks to Chief Edson, Lieutenant Greg Dean and members of the department for their assistance with the Memorial Day Parade.

Mary Harris sent an email thanking Officers Ryan Burns and Andre Moutela for their professional assistance during an incident at her home on June 11, 2011.

Lisa Shappy, Executive Director, United Way of Naugatuck and Beacon Falls, requested the closing and/or limited use of Sheridan Drive and Great Hill Road on

July 10, 2011 7:00 a.m. through 1:30 p.m. Chief Edson said this has been an annual event and had no issues with the request.

The Police Commissioners Association sent notice of two events being held on June 29, 2011 and August 24, 2011.

10. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

11. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2011-01.

A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by W. Bertotti to uphold the Chief's decision to deny Grievance #2011-01.

Discussion: Two separate sections of the contract were discussed as well as "past practice". Current economic status and the detectives need for phones took place.

Vote:	<u>FOR:</u>	<u>AGAINST:</u>
	S. Smith	C. Ford
	L. Mayfield	
	R. Roper	
	W. Bertotti	
	A. Barnes	

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

13. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

Chief Edson departed the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

D. Branco entered the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

14. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

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

A discussion took place regarding the need for a plan of action in handling requests such as these. Deputy Chief Bernegger stated these are case by case decisions but also requires a one year follow-up process in order to re-evaluate. He also said he will contact CCM to determine how other communities handle these requests. Chairman Smith asked to table this item until the next Regular Meeting.

b. Land Use Subcommittee: Discussion/possible action regarding the expansion of Shep's Auto LLC, 868 New Haven Road.

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by R. Roper to approve the site plan for the expansion of Shep's Auto LLC located at 868 New Haven Road.

Discussion: Each member of the Land Use Subcommittee visited the area and did not have any issues with the proposal.

Vote: Unanimous

The proposal for a 24 hour operation of Walmart will take place at the next Regular Meeting.

15. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

D. Branco said he will be absent from the July meeting.

C. Ford reported he accepted a new position located in Pennsylvania and will be moving. His last meeting will be in July. He will send Mayor Mezzo his letter of resignation effective August 1st.

R. Roper discussed an incident at Hillside school which then prompted a further discussion regarding gang activity in Naugatuck. D. Branco joined R. Roper in his concern for combating gang activity. Deputy Chief Bernegger assured the Commissioners that the department has a zero tolerance for gang activity and is fully aware of gang presence. The discussion of community education, forming an Ad Hoc subcommittee and police interaction took place.

L. Mayfield questioned police practice of not hiring someone who is colorblind which was prompted by a family member's experience with another police department. It was explained to her why it is done.

A. Barnes welcomed new Burgess Laurie Jackson as a liaison to the Police Commission. He also commented on the positive reaction police officers received while marching in the Memorial Day Parade.

W. Bertotti asked about the formation of a P.A.L. program in Naugatuck for children. Deputy Chief Bernegger explained the difficulty due to the numerous programs already offered for the youth of the community. Financial limitations are also a factor.

Chairman Smith encouraged the Commissioners to attend the Police Commissioners clambake in August and invited both Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger.

Deputy Chief Bernegger discussed the study being compiled regarding the winter parking ban. During his meeting with Chairman Smith and W. Bertotti it was agreed that the language of the ordinance is clear but there is a need to re-design

the exemption list. Recommendations have been solicited from department heads as well as the general public. The town's website will be used to post the information. It was also noted that the new "No Parking" signs have been installed at May and High Streets without repercussions.

16. A motion by C. Ford and seconded by W. Bertotti at 8:40 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission