

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
December 20, 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
Ralph Roper
Mayor Robert Mezzo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger
Burgess Laurie Jackson

ALTERNATES:

Andy Barnes
Stephanie Savoy
Walter Bertotti

ABSENT:

Domingos Branco

Public: 3
Staff: 0
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 as a voting member in the absence of Mayor Mezzo.

4. A motion by A. Barnes and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on November 15, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

(Mayor Mezzo entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.; W. Bertotti entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.)

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roland and Anita Allen, 27 Neagle Street, had issues with a “No Parking” sign near their property and asked the reason for its installation. They also reported they had concerns with two separate incidents involving the Police Department. Deputy Chief Bernegger said he would look into each matter and report his findings to them.

Burgess Laurie Jackson, 204 Margaret Circle, presented a check for \$1681 to Deputy Chief Bernegger from the Pop Warner football league tee shirt sale for the benefit of Officer Danielle Parady. She said the league conducted the sale to assist Officer Parady during her illness and member Mary Shock played an instrumental role in the fundraiser. Burgess Jackson further stated that Officers Chip Schofield and Dan Norck did an excellent job with D.A.R.E. graduation. She asked Chief Edson if there are any similar programs available for 7th and 8th grade students. He said he would investigate possible educational opportunities. She continued with a request for school children to donate their services to working with Animal Control. Chief Edson suggested she contact Captain Scully who oversees this division. Mayor Mezzo explained the liability issues regarding non-employees working at town-owned facilities.

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SUBDIVISION ON 380 NORTH MAIN STREET:

L. Mayfield reported that she had reviewed the plans submitted by Peter Chrzanowski for land he purchased from the town to be used as a parking lot. She said she had no issues with the request. Chief Edson also reviewed the plans and agreed with her.

A motion by L. Mayfield seconded by Mayor Mezzo to approve the subdivision plans submitted by Peter Chrzanowksi located at 380-384 North Main Street.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

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

Chairman Smith received correspondence from the union indicating there is a tentative agreement with the borough for the resolution of the education discrepancy therefore the grievance can be removed from the agenda.

9. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF’S MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

Discussion: Chief Edson reported that the State of Connecticut released its crime stats for the year and Naugatuck had a 45% reduction in crime. He said the number is being examined to determine if it is an accurate reporting. He further stated that two of the seven police candidates selected by the Commission will be entering the Police Academy in January. The remainder did not have satisfactory background checks. Discussion took place regarding the Police Commission interviews and the input from Human Resources. Chairman Smith, L. Mayfield, Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger will meet to compile a revised packet of questions for interview purposes. It was also agreed to reduce the number of candidates brought in per evening. A Special Meeting will take place on January 3, 2012 to allow the Commissioners to review the new packets and decide when the next round of interviews will take place. J. San Angelo and L. Mayfield expressed their concerns to Mayor Mezzo regarding the weekly payment of overtime to the officer assigning overtime and asked to have it addressed during union negotiations. Mayor Mezzo explained there are numerous reasons why specific items have been negotiated into union contracts many which were done several years prior. He stated that he is attempting to correct some poor decisions made by past administrations in their negotiations and to concentrate on healthcare and pension costs.

Vote: Unanimous

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Sergeant Brian Dickerson, Bridgeport Police Training Academy, thanked Chief Edson for allowing Officer Matthew DaSilva to serve as an instructor at the academy. He commended Officer DaSilva's performance.

Kamber Bulica, former police intern, thanked Chief Edson for allowing students to have an internship at the department. He also thanked the numerous officers who provided advice and support to him.

Detective Ronald Pugliese informed the Commission of his intent to attend law school in 2012/2013.

Sergeant Bryan Cammarata informed the Commission of his intent to enroll in college in 2012 to earn his Associates Degree.

Jennifer Boland, 236 Bluebird Drive, wrote to Chief Edson to discuss a very positive encounter she and her son had with Officer Ryan Burns. Officer Burns went above and beyond what was expected and made a significant impact on her child. He exemplified the qualities of an outstanding police officer.

T.H. Fitzgerald, Parade Chairman, Naugatuck Veterans Council, requested that parking be prohibited on both sides of Church Street from the intersection of Rubber Avenue to Maple Street immediately prior to and during the Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 28, 2012.

A motion by A. Barnes and seconded by R. Roper to provide all of the services requested by the Naugatuck Veterans Council.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

(Mayor Mezzo exited the meeting at 7:45 p.m.; A. Barnes resumed his appointment as a voting member)

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burgess Jackson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and asked Chairman Smith for the letter he was supposed to give her regarding Chief Edson.

Fred Fulcher, 66 Marshall Road, Liaison for NAACP, commended Chief Edson for bringing minorities into the work force of the department. He requested Officer Bryan Coney be returned to his assignment at Naugatuck High School. Chief Edson explained there had been some disciplinary issues with Officer Coney and the rotation of the school assignment is for a one year term. He will give it consideration for the next school year. Mr. Fulcher asked if additional minority officers are being considered for hire. Chief Edson said every attempt is made to encourage minorities to apply for positions. Deputy Chief Bernegger stated that recruitment has expanded into various colleges. Mr. Fulcher said the department's personnel should reflect the make-up of the community. He also asked to have annual diversity training. Chief Edson said he will make the request in his budget and hopefully it will be approved.

12. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

13. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Deputy Chief Bernegger provided a traffic study compiled by Sergeant Bryan Cammarata regarding the intersection of Field Street and Mill Street near Baummer's Pond and Lantern Park. The configuration of the roadway is such that an "All Way Stop" is needed to help prevent future accidents.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by L. Mayfield to approve the recommendation of the traffic study provided by Deputy Chief Bernegger and install a stop sign on Field Street.

Discussion: Deputy Chief Bernegger also recommended the placement of a “Stop Ahead” sign on Field Street to forewarn drivers of the newly placed stop sign.

Vote: Unanimous

Chief Edson gave J. San Angelo copies of both Policies & Procedures and the Rules & Regulations.

14. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

All of the Commissioners wished everyone Happy Holidays.

W. Bertotti said there was going to be a segment on the local news concerning the State Emissions where he works.

R. Roper thanked Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger for their outstanding work and appreciated the increase of minorities in the department.

J. San Angelo suggested to Chief Edson that future surpluses in the budget should not be returned to the town but retained within the department, especially for use by the Detective Division.

Chairman Smith also commended Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger for their outstanding efforts. He notified the Commission that he will forward a letter to the Board of Mayor and Burgesses to support Chief Edson with his contract renewal. He requested input for the content of the letter. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday and thanked the Commissioners for a great year.

15. A motion by A. Barnes and seconded by B. Whitaker at 8:20 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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