

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2012

1. Chairman Smith called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:03 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

Steve Smith
Bruce Whitaker
Linda Mayfield
Ralph Roper
Mayor Robert Mezzo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Josh Bernegger
Burgess Laurie Jackson

ALTERNATES:

Stephanie Savoy
Walter Bertotti

ABSENT:

Domingos Branco
James San Angelo
Andy Barnes

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 W. Bertotti and S. Savoy as voting members in the absence of Mayor Mezzo and J. San Angelo respectively.

4. A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on December 20, 2011.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roland Allen, 27 Neagle Street, thanked the Commission for resolving the problem he brought to them at the December meeting.

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE UNION CITY 5K AND MICHAEL LITWINKA LUNG ASSOCIATION 5K ROAD RACES:

Jim Goggin asked permission to conduct the second annual Union City 5 K road race on March 20, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. It is sponsored by the Parent Faculty group and the school foundation with all proceeds benefitting Naugatuck schools. The race will maintain the same route as it did in 2011 commencing on North Main Street.

A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield to permit the Union City 5K road race to take place on March 10, 2012.

Discussion: It was agreed that police will be implemented where necessary.

Vote: Unanimous

Jim Goggin presented plans for the Michael Litwinka Lung Association 5K road race to be held on May 20, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. The race will begin near Cook's Café on Firehouse Road.

Discussion: Chief Edson noted the Whittemore Bridge may be under construction at that time and police officers will most likely be needed for safety purposes. Mr. Goggin agreed to meet with Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger prior to the race to determine the safest strategy for the road race.

Vote: Unanimous

7. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

8. 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 two police candidates will be entering the academy on January 27, 2012. He expressed concern that many candidates were eliminated from the hiring process upon completion of their background checks. Chairman Smith noted that he and L. Mayfield have been sorting through various questions to be used during the Commission interviews for police candidates. Chief Edson informed the Commission that the retirement of Detective Francis Cavanaugh took place in January being followed by Lieutenant Robert Allen leaving at the end of the month and Detective Ray Walsh in March. He stated that promotional exams cannot take place until there is an actual opening.

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

Lieutenant Todd Brouillette, Sergeant Bart Deeley, Sergeant Randy Ireland and Detective Thomas Conway informed the Commission of their intent to enroll in college in 2012 to earn degrees in Criminal Justice.

(Mayor Mezzo entered the meeting at 7:23 p.m.; W. Bertotti was no longer a voting member)

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burgess Jackson reported that some senior citizens are having difficulty navigating through the new telephone menu when calling into the Police Department. Chief Edson explained it is a pilot program implemented to relieve the heavy call volume faced by dispatchers in order to promote efficiency. He gave her instructions for ease of calling which she can pass on to those concerned.

Fred Fulcher, 66 Marshall Road, Liaison for NAACP, commended Chief Edson for bringing minorities into the work force of the department. He questioned a decision made by Chief Edson in which Officer Bryan Coney was refused the opportunity to become the new School Resource Officer. Chief Edson explained that Officer Coney recently applied for a position in the Youth Division along with other officers but had not been selected. There had not been a solicitation for the position of School Resource Officer within the department. 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. He reported that of the two new recruits entering the academy this month one of them is of Hispanic descent. Mr. Fulcher said a department's personnel should reflect the make-up of the community. He said this is not true of the Fire Department and the Board of Education. Mayor Mezzo explained the dynamics of the Fire Department and noted that the first female in the organization was hired as Deputy Chief. Chairman Smith suggested Mr. Fulcher attend the Fire Commission's meetings in order to voice his concerns.

11. OPEN ITEMS: NONE

12. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Hiring Subcommittee: L. Mayfield reported she and Chairman Smith had received recommendations from Deputy Chief Bernegger in compiling a variety of interview questions. She distributed sample questions which incorporated thirteen different competencies. H.R. Director Deschesnes had submitted questions for review prior to her resignation from the borough. It was agreed to hold a Special Meeting of the Hiring Subcommittee on January 31, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Chief's Conference Room in order to establish a well-balanced selection of questions. Further discussion took place regarding interviews, number of

candidates needed, possible dates and time slots. It was agreed to conduct police candidate interviews for twenty applicants commencing on February 7, 2012 through February 10, 2012. Five candidates will be interviewed each evening in half-hour increments. The Human Resource department will handle the scheduling of the interviews with the candidates.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING SERGEANT MARK PETTINICCHI:

It was agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting.

14. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

All of the Commissioners extended congratulations to Mayor Mezzo upon the birth of his son Jack.

Chairman Smith produced a letter from the Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut, Inc. which named Chief Edson as one of three Distinguished Chiefs recognized for his accomplishments and dedication to duty to his department and to the citizens he serves. He will be honored at an awards dinner meeting on May 30, 2012. Everyone applauded Chief Edson for this achievement.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING SERGEANT MARK PETTINICCHI:

A motion by Mayor Mezzo and seconded by R. Roper to enter into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. inviting in Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

16. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by B. Whitaker at 8:02 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the Naugatuck Police Department, Naugatuck, CT.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steven Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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