

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 19, 2013

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
Mayor Mezzo
Bruce Whitaker
Linda Mayfield

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Joshua Bernegger
Burgess Laurie Jackson

ALTERNATES:

Walter Bertotti
Stephanie Savoy

ABSENT:

Ralph Roper
James San Angelo
Domingos Branco
Andy Barnes

Public: 0

Staff: 0

Press: 0

Mayor Mezzo arrived at 7:06 p.m.; Burgess Jackson arrived at 7:10 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 S. Savoy as voting members in the absence of R. Roper and J. San Angelo respectively.

4. A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by S. Savoy to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on January 15, 2013.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE**

6. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION FOR THE PROPOSAL OF A HANDICAPPED PARKING APPLICATION PROCESS:**

Deputy Chief Bernegger presented a recommended handicapped parking process to be implemented by the Naugatuck Police Department and Police Commission. He explained the importance of taking a systematic approach in the decision making regarding the installation of handicapped parking spaces. He credited Lieutenant Bryan Cammarata for his work on this project.

A motion by Mayor Mezzo and seconded by S. Savoy to accept the handicapped parking process submitted by Deputy Chief Bernegger with the appropriate changes.

Discussion: It was decided that applications will be accepted from April 1st through June 30th. There are thirteen sites in Naugatuck that will be considered “grandfathered” exceptions. The Police Department will submit their findings to the Police Commission in July for review and to vote on sign placement.

Vote: Unanimous

The documents presented by Deputy Chief Bernegger will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

7. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

8. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF’S MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by Mayor Mezzo to accept the Chief’s monthly reports.

Discussion: Chief Edson said he would be attending the March meeting of the Board of Mayor and Burgesses to request a transfer from the Contingency Account to cover the cost of overtime for this fiscal year due to the early retirements. He further stated the written test for police candidates will take place February 23rd with both a morning and afternoon session to accommodate for those taking the Bristol exam. The new hires will enter the police academy in July. Full staffing for the department will not be realized until 2014. Chairman Smith asked about Officer Julian and Chief Edson said he had returned to work after his slight injury during the blizzard.

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

Daniel Starziski thanked Lieutenant Steven Hunt for his actions on January 19, 2013 at the Y.M.C.A. during an incident with an unruly person.

A certificate of appreciation was given to Lieutenant Steven Hunt from the Bridgeport Police Academy.

Acting Chief Richard Wildman, Middlebury Police Department, thanked the department for their assistance in the apprehension of a burglar on January 7, 2013.

T.H. Fitzgerald, Parade Chairman, Naugatuck Veterans Council, requested restricted parking on May 27, 2013 for the annual Memorial Day Parade.

A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield to prohibit parking on both sides of Church Street from the intersection of Rubber Avenue to Maple Street, immediately prior to and during the Memorial Parade on May 27, 2013.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Jean Dobbin thanked Officer Matthew Sulek for his assistance and return of I.D. cards after her purse was stolen.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burgess Jackson, 204 Margaret Circle, thanked the department for allowing officers to visit elementary schools. Chief Edson explained that it's part of a new initiative "Adopt a School" in which officers visit schools, with the approval of the principals, to interact with the students. This is a sustainable method to provide a police presence at the schools.

11. OPEN ITEMS:

a. Installation of "No Parking" sign 17 Gus Street: Chief Edson and Deputy Bernegger explained that the recommendation made at the last meeting for the installation of signs should have waited until the traffic study was completed. It has since been learned through a canvass of the neighborhood that installation of "No Parking" signs would not be feasible. Deputy Chief Bernegger stressed it was best to proceed with due diligence. He will work with the Subcommittee for Traffic and report on this matter at the next meeting.

12. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Chairman Smith questioned the implementation of alarm violations but Chief Edson said that computer issues were still pending.

13. A motion by W. Bertotti and seconded by L. Mayfield to **add to the Agenda Item 12a. "Set Dates for Police Candidates Interviews."**

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

14. SET DATES FOR POLICE CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS:

Deputy Chief Bernegger said the police candidates will be ready to be interviewed by the Commission in the beginning of April. The following was decided for Police Commission interviews:

April 3, 2013 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to interview three candidates.

April 4, 2013 meeting at 6:30 p.m. to interview four candidates.

April 5, 2013 meeting at 7:00 p.m. to interview three candidates.

H.R. Associate Carmella Rinaldi and Detective Paul Markette will be in attendance at the interviews.

It was suggested to meet with H.R. Associate Rinaldi previous to the meetings to discuss interview questions. The Regular Meeting on March 19, 2013 will have an agenda item "Executive Session for the discussion of candidate interview questions". Ms. Rinaldi will be invited to the meeting and into executive session.

15. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

L. Mayfield was happy to have Officer Danielle Parady back at the department. When asked about her return, Chief Edson reported there had been a minor setback earlier in the day.

B. Whitaker commended Mayor Mezzo for handling the recent snow storm so well.

Chairman Smith was also happy to see the return of Officer Parady. He congratulated Officer Andre Moutela for being named the Exchange Club's Officer of the Year". Chief Edson said the awards dinner will be held on March 12, 2013. Chairman Smith said he heard much positive feedback during the storm for Mayor Mezzo.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING OFFICER ROBERT BYRNE:

A motion by Mayor Mezzo and seconded by W. Bertotti to enter into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. inviting in Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

THE REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 7:51 P.M.

17. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by W. Bertotti at 7:52 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at the Naugatuck Police Department.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

S. Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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