

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2013

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
Ralph Roper
Bruce Whitaker
James San Angelo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Deputy Chief Joshua Bernegger

ALTERNATES:

Walter Bertotti
Andy Barnes
Stephanie Savoy

ABSENT:

Mayor Mezzo
Linda Mayfield
Domingos Branco

Public: 7

Staff: 3

Press: 0

2. Chairman Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:

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

4. A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on November 20, 2012.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jim Goggin, 87 Moonlight Circle, asked the Commission to once again approve his request to conduct two 5K road races as they have done in past years. One race will take place on March 9, 2013 in the Union City area and the second will take place on May 12, 2013 in the downtown area.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to allow the two 5K races to take place with the direction of the Chief of Police and/or the Deputy Chief.

Discussion: Jim Goggin said he will make all of the appropriate arrangements with the CTDOT and asked that all private duty mandated be billed at the civic rate. Deputy Chief Bernegger said he would be contacting him to discuss the planning of these two events.

Vote: Unanimous

Gilbert Sidella, 17 Gus Street, discussed his problem of backing out of his garage as he had at the November meeting.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by A. Barnes to move Agenda Item 12A to Agenda Item 5A.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. INSTALLATION OF “NO PARKING” SIGNS AT 17 GUS STREET:

Deputy Chief Bernegger reported that a study of the area indicated a problem with parking which resulted in a recommendation for the installation of signage “No Parking from Here to Corner”. He asked the Traffic Subcommittee to consider approval of this traffic study.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to allow the Police Department to create a no parking zone of sufficient space to allow Mr. Sidella to egress his garage safely.

Discussion: Clarification of the exact location in question was discussed.

Vote: Unanimous

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CHEMTURA CORPORATION, 280 ELM STREET, SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION:

Alan Benevides, Woodard & Curran and Chris Clark, Nexamp, presented plans for the solar panel project proposed for the Chemtura Corporation.

A motion by A. Barnes and seconded by J. San Angelo to accept the Land Use application for a site plan and a special permit for the Naugatuck Solar PV Project.

Discussion: Safety issues, gravel delivery, hours of work and traffic flow were discussed. The proposed traffic route suggested was not satisfactory regarding Scott Street. Deputy Chief Bernegger and the Commission said that a right turn on Scott Street would not be permissible. Mr. Benevides was told to inform the truck drivers to use Elm Street as their primary route. J. San Angelo reiterated this following the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

7. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ALX VENTURES, LLC, SUBDIVISION 68 ARCH STREET:

Attorney Michael McVerry provided information on behalf of his client ALX Ventures, LLC for a subdivision of six proposed lots, including one interior lot at 68 Arch Street. He is seeking approval for a special permit application and a subdivision.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by S. Savoy to accept the plans as presented and to approve both the application for a six lot subdivision and the special permit for an interior lot.

Discussion: Discussion took place regarding the project and the traffic flow in the area.

Vote: Unanimous

8. UNION BUSINESS:

Detective Paul Markette introduced himself to the Commission as the new union president. He further stated that Patrolman Dan Norck is vice president, Patrolman Colin McAllister is secretary, Lieutenant Bryan Cammarata is treasurer and Sergeant Pete Bosco is chief steward.

9. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to accept the Chief's monthly reports.

Discussion: Chief Edson discussed school security and the initiatives he is implementing in the Naugatuck school system. He is going to request a permanent School Resource Officer at City Hill Middle School as well as an additional sergeant for patrol. Deputy Chief Bernegger reported that applications are still being accepted through policeapp.com. There are currently 302 applicants for the open patrolmen positions. The written test will be administered on February 23, 2013 by the South Central Criminal Justice Administration with the oral boards following two weeks later. The sergeant's promotional exam will take place on

March 5, 2013 also administered by SCCJA. Chairman Smith requested an item be added to the February agenda to set dates for the Commission's oral board for police candidates.

Vote: Unanimous

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Alice Nolan thanked Officer Luis Martinez for his assistance during a motor vehicle accident on August 29, 2012.

Patricia Natowich thanked Chief Edson and the department for their kindness and professionalism.

Janice Saam, Principal, Naugatuck High School, thanked Officer Kevin Zainc and K-9 Pete for their professional and efficient behavior during the locker search on November 16, 2012.

Deputy Chief Chris Lyddy, Fairfield Police Department, thanked Officers Michael Favale and Marcus Jacoboski for their assistance at the funeral of Noah Pozner on December 17, 2012.

Matthew Romeo thanked Officers Andre Moutela and Ian Kosky for their diligence and concern at an incident on November 25, 2012.

William Offord, Special Agent in Charge, Boston Field Office, Department of the Treasury, commended Detectives Paul Markette and Sean Simpson for their lifesaving efforts at an incident on June 5, 2012.

Kim Eyre, Recreation Direction, Public Works, thanked the department for its participation at the 9th Annual Holiday Kickoff Celebration on the Green.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

12. OPEN ITEMS:

a. Installation of "No Parking" sign 17 Gus Street: This is issue was addressed earlier in the meeting.

b. Installation of "Handicapped Parking" sign 21 Maple Street: Deputy Chief Bernegger reported that given the slight grade on Maple Street, a study by the Police Department determined a handicapped parking space would be more feasible on Church Street. It would be placed as the last parking space at the intersection of Church and Maple Streets. W. Bertotti discussed his conversation with the owner of Diversified Financial and felt there was a need for a handicapped parking space in front of 21 Maple Street.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to install a handicapped parking sign at 21 Maple Street.

Discussion: Alternate suggestions were discussed and the recent placement of one hour parking signs.

Vote:	FOR:	AGAINST:	ABSTAIN:
		J. San Angelo	S. Smith
		R. Roper	
		B. Whitaker	
		A. Barnes	
		S. Savoy	

THE MOTION FAILED.

No further action or discussion took place regarding this item.

c. State Parking Ticket Program: J. San Angelo discussed his research of this proposal and found that mostly larger cities work the DMV regarding unpaid parking tickets. Chief Edson reminded the Commission that this concept had already been referred to the Board of Mayor and Burgesses and was not accepted. It was decided to not pursue this matter further but to re-visit the topic in the future.

13. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES: NONE

14. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2012-02:

Officer Carl Schaaf and union president Detective Paul Markette addressed the Commission regarding grievance #2012-02. Discussion of Animal Control policies, progressive discipline and chain of command took place.

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper to uphold the Chief's decision to deny grievance #2012-02.

Discussion: It was agreed that Officer Schaaf had good intentions however the end result proved to be unfavorable for the department.

Vote: Unanimous

Chief Edson left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

15. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

W. Bertotti discussed an incident on the evening of December 16, 2012 in which he was concerned for an officer's safety during a seatbelt checkpoint. He commented on the ability to see the officer standing on the road in the darkness. Deputy Chief Bernegger agreed with him and recommended the department purchase wand lights to attach to the officers' flashlights. He said all officers have been issued green neon gloves. He will speak to Captain Todd Brouillette regarding this issue.

B. Whitaker commented on the excellent job all officers performed when working in Sandy Hook following the school tragedy.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL MATTERS REGARDING OFFICER ROBERT O'DONNELL:

A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by B. Whitaker to enter into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. inviting in Deputy Chief Bernegger.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

THE REGULAR MEETING RESUMED AT 9:00 P.M.

17. A motion by J. San Angelo and seconded by R. Roper at 9:01 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 19 at the Naugatuck Police Department.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

S. Smith, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission