

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 18, 2014

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  
Linda Mayfield  
Ralph Roper

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson  
Deputy Chief Joshua Bernegger  
Burgess Rocky Vitale

ALTERNATES:

Stephanie Savoy  
Andy Barnes

ABSENT:

Mayor Mezzo  
Bruce Whitaker  
James San Angelo  
Ronald Blanchard

Staff: 4  
Press: 0  
Public: 0

2. Chairman Smith led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

3. ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS:

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

4. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on February 18, 2014.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on February 27, 2014.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by A. Barnes to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on February 28, 2014.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

8. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

9. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2013-09:

It was agreed to hold this item until later in the meeting.

10. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

Discussion: Deputy Chief Bernegger discussed the initiative he introduced to the department for the assessment of leadership development. He explained that as the capstone for earning his M.B.A. degree through Post University he created a proposal for his current employer. The goal is to enhance the effectiveness of the department through public service and strong leadership skills. His professor visited the department to present the results of a survey Deputy Chief Bernegger administered in which each person had the ability to evaluate their supervisors and management positions. Deputy Chief Bernegger admitted there is room for improvement and clearer goals need to be set. He is hopeful that a measurable increase in public interaction and satisfaction can be realized within the next few years. The Commissioners applauded his efforts. Chief Edson discussed his budget presentation for 2014/2015 and the request for two additional officers, a dispatcher and a part-time evidence clerk. He said that after the first round of budget meetings the positions had not been eliminated but was cautiously optimistic realizing finances are limited and this will be a tough budget year. Deputy Chief Bernegger reported that the borough of Naugatuck and Naugatuck Ambulance, Inc. had an on-going issue which has led the department to taking responsibility for the purchase and maintenance of its oxygen usage and medical waste disposal. The gas pump at the Police Department will no longer be available to the ambulance company as part of this change. Discussion took place regarding two candidates completing their background checks, two officers completing their FTO rotation and one officer graduating from the police academy on Monday.

Vote: Unanimous

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chief Karen Krasicky, Plymouth Police Department, commended Sergeant Derek Poundstone for the excellent job he did in interviewing police candidates.

Correspondence will be placed into the officer's personnel file.

12. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

13. OPEN ITEMS:

a. Installation of handicapped signs at 206 Lewis Street and 12 Greenwood Street.

Chief Edson read a traffic study compiled by Lieutenant Cammarata and Officer Favale in which they found the request for a handicapped parking sign was warranted at 12 Greenwood Street, however, after a study of the area, a sign at 206 Lewis Street should not be installed.

A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the traffic study as submitted and deny the installation of a handicapped sign at 206 Lewis Street and approve the installation of a handicapped sign at 12 Greenwood Street.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

14. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING GRIEVANCE #2013-09:

Officers Daniel Norck, Colin McAllister, Americo Tavares and Carl Schaaf appeared before the Commission to present Grievance #2013-09 and the issue of minimum staffing. School Resource Officers, contract language, officer safety and budget issues were discussed.

A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by R. Roper to uphold the Chief's decision to deny Grievance #2013-09.

Discussion: All parties agreed there are areas that need improvement and the suggestion of the union negotiating with the Board of Mayor and Burgesses to remedy the problem was made.

Vote: Unanimous

15. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Chairman Smith asked recording secretary J. LaCharity to send the Commissioners a list of active subcommittees and their members.

16. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

A. Barnes had received a complaint regarding parking on Rubber Avenue near Better Way Auto. Chief Edson said he will look into the problem. A. Barnes also stated that CITGO gas station on Rubber Avenue has issues with intoxicated people loitering on the property. Deputy Chief Bernegger advised him to encourage the CITGO employees to call the department if this happens again.

Chairman Smith thanked the Commissioners for a fine 2013 and said he enjoyed working with everyone. He hoped it would be a good 2014. Chairman Smith also congratulated Officer Americo Tavares for being honored as Officer of the Year. He was very impressed with the presentation Deputy Chief Bernegger shared this evening.

17. A motion by S. Savoy and seconded by L. Mayfield at 8:16 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at the Naugatuck Police Department.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steve Smith, Chairman  
Naugatuck Police Commission