

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
December 15, 2015

1. Chairman Savoy called the Regular Meeting of the Naugatuck Police Commission to order at 7:00 p.m.

Those in attendance were:

POLICE COMMISSION:

Stephanie Savoy
Ralph Roper
Steven Smith
Linda Mayfield
Jim San Angelo

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Deputy Chief Joshua Bernegger
Burgess Rocky Vitale
Burgess Robert Burns

ALTERNATES:

Andy Barnes

ABSENT:

Mayor N. Warren Hess III

Staff: 0
Press: 0
Public: 0

(Burgesses Vitale and Burns arrived at 7:19 p.m.)

2. Chairman Savoy led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.
3. ALTERNATES APPOINTED AS VOTING MEMBERS: NONE
4. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by S. Smith to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on November 17, 2015.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous
5. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE
6. UNION BUSINESS: NONE
7. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

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

Discussion: Deputy Chief Bernegger reported that Chief Edson was absent due to a family illness. During a meeting attended by Deputy Chief Bernegger regarding new LED street lights, it was determined hi-def cameras could be installed into the lights. This will provide security measures for more widely traveled areas of Naugatuck.

Vote: Unanimous

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

Erich Bachman sent an email requesting new traffic signage at the base of City Hill and Union Streets. Deputy Chief Bernegger will conduct a traffic study of the area.

Rocky Vitale, 180 E. Waterbury Road, commended Sergeant Derek Poundstone, Officers Ryan Burns and Michael Deely and Animal Control Officer Andrew Evancho for their actions during an incident on November 23, 2015.

Daryl Masone, 20 Autumn Ridge, commended Officer Shane Pucci for his professional and caring manner during an incident on November 17, 2015.

T.H. Fitzgerald, Jr., Parade Chairman, Naugatuck Veterans Council, notified the Commission of the 2016 Memorial Day Parade to be held on May 30th. As in the past, a request was made to prohibit parking on both sides of Church Street from the intersection of Rubber Avenue to Maple Street.

Lieutenant Ronald Hunt notified the Commission of his intent to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice at Post University. He included estimates for the cost of his education.

Detective Ronald Pugliese notified the Commission of his intent to continue his education in the pursuit of a Law Degree.

Chairman Savoy notified the Commission of phone calls that both she and Deputy Chief Bernegger received regarding the removal of the stop sign at High Street and Lines Court. Deputy Chief Bernegger stated that in order to be in compliance with traffic control regulations the stop sign had to be removed. He is aware this is a difficult area for vehicles to enter High Street from Lines Court therefore a traffic mirror will be installed on High Street to assist the residents in entering the main road.

All correspondence will be placed into the personnel files of the above-mentioned officers.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE
10. OPEN ITEMS: NONE
11. ADD TO THE AGENDA ITEM 10A LAND USE APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED ATHLETIC FIELD ON OSBORN ROAD:

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by L. Mayfield **to add to the agenda Item 10a. Land Use Application for proposed athletic field on Osborn Road.**

12. LAND USE APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED ATHLETIC FIELD ON OSBORN ROAD:

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the Land Use application for the proposed athletic field on Osborn Road.

Discussion: This was an agreement the builder of the subdivision made with the town. The town will maintain the field.

Vote: Unanimous

13. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES: NONE
14. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

A. Barnes wished everyone holiday greetings.

J. SanAngelo wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He asked what happened to the idea of using speed bumps in Naugatuck. He said he has seen them in several towns. Deputy Chief Bernegger explained that after extensive research traffic experts do not support the use of speed bumps. They are also a liability and can cause damage.

L. Mayfield said she has received two separate complaints regarding the aggressive manner in which the Naugatuck police officers pursue drinking establishments and their patrons. She said the owners of 66 Church felt intimidated when two officers entered the premises for no reason and stared at the customers. She is concerned the department is being unfair in their treatment of bars/restaurants in the downtown area. Deputy Chief Bernegger assured her there is no specific strategy by the department to single out certain bars or restaurants for violations. The officers are performing their duties as trained. When there is an officer on foot patrol in the downtown area, he/she is encouraged to step into businesses to acquaint themselves with the owners/managers. He said he is proud of the number of DUI arrests made by the Naugatuck Police Department and of the officers who are diligent in keeping Naugatuck safe from drunk drivers. Deputy Chief Bernegger said the department will be launching a public relations

campaign to work with bars to encourage a better understanding of alcohol related laws and issues. J. San Angelo questioned the use of body cameras during DUI arrests. Deputy Chief Bernegger said the cameras film every moment of the incident and he personally reviews every tape. L. Mayfield believes that Naugatuck has an extremely high number of DUI arrests. Deputy Chief Bernegger said Naugatuck leads in the number of DUI's in the area. The department is proud of this fact and knows they are protecting the citizens of Naugatuck by doing so. Thousands of dollars of grant funds for enforcement have been received due to the DUI statistics.

Chairman Savoy, S. Smith and R. Roper wished everyone happy holidays.

15. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by S. Smith at 7:35 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2015 at the Naugatuck Police Department.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Stephanie Savoy, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission