

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
August 16, 2016

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
Steve Smith
Linda Mayfield
Pedro Pires
Mayor N. Warren Hess

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson
Burgess Robert Burns
Burgess Rocky Vitale
Attorney Kevin McSherry

ALTERNATES:

Andy Barnes
John Alves

ABSENT:

Al Rollinson

Staff: 3
Press: 0
Public: 1

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 July 19, 2016.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burgess Rocky Vitale, 180 E. Waterbury Road, thanked Chief Edson for assisting in the replacement of speed signs that were missing from Prospect Street, Route 68.

Marion Sajdoski, 53 Conrad Street, expressed her disappointment with the Naugatuck Police Department. She asked to have the bicycle patrol return to the Conrad Street area.

6. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING LAND USE APPLICATION FOR A BETTER WAY AUTO, 49 RAYTKWICH ROAD:

Attorney Kevin McSherry spoke on behalf of A Better Way Auto explaining the move from Rubber Avenue/Arch Street to the Industrial Park. He said some improvements will be made and they will be bringing in fill.

A motion by S. Smith and seconded by L. Mayfield to approve the Land Use Application for A Better Way Auto, 49 Raytkwich Road.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Following the vote, Attorney McSherry commended the actions of Officer John Julian at the YMCA for a medical call. He said he was extremely pleased with the response time and the consideration of this department.

7. UNION BUSINESS:

Chairman Savoy received a letter from Union President Sergeant Colin McAllister regarding staffing shortages. A copy of the letter was distributed to all Commissioners. Sergeant McAllister and Detective Kevin Zainc spoke to the Commission to express their concerns on the amount of overtime worked by officers and the need to improve the hiring process. They discussed the large number of retirements that will most likely occur over the next two years and the number of vacancies it will create. Mayor Hess said he supports the decision made by the Borough to implement a defined contribution plan and that many other towns will follow this practice over the next few years. Chief Edson said there are two lateral candidates that need to be interviewed by the Commission. He continued by saying there should be a preliminary hiring process in order to give conditional offers. He realizes this will be subject to some additional costs. Mayor Hess suggested addressing this matter to the Board of Finance prior to budget time. S. Smith said he supports the cause and hopes the Borough Board will approve the money. Chief Edson stated that a headcount of 59 is not enough and should be raised to 63. Attrition and workers' compensation are significant factors in the reduction in manpower. An increase in staffing will help to reduce overtime. S. Smith noted the tremendous increase in overtime for July. Chief Edson said financial decisions have a human impact but the department is attempting to address the hiring issues. Mayor Hess questioned if any candidates are Naugatuck residents to which he found there are some.

8. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief Edson reported that lateral candidate Office McMasters was sworn in by Mayor Hess on Monday. He said there are two more lateral candidates that need to be interviewed. The Commissioners agreed to hold a Special Meeting on Friday, August 19th at 6:00 p.m. for the interviews. Human Resource Director John Lawlor will be asked to provide questions. Chief Edson further stated that he met with NEDC Director Ron Pugliese along with Deputy Chief Bernegger and Union President Colin McAllister for discussion of a Safe Ride Initiative. The restaurant/bar 66 Church Street started an Uber account to offer patrons a safe ride home at the end of the evening. The goal is to create a corporate Uber account Borough-wide providing safe rides from all drinking establishments in the event someone is not equipped to safely operate a motor vehicle. Funding for this will hopefully be procured through grants, donations and from the business owners as well.

A motion by P.Pires and seconded by S. Smith to accept the Chief's monthly reports.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

9. CORRESPONDENCE: NONE
10. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE
11. OPEN ITEMS: NONE
12. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES: NONE
13. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

S. Smith reported that Naugatuck High School will be holding Retail 101 this weekend to benefit Grad Night.

A. Barnes asked for assistance in removing a car parked for several days at the Portuguese Club. Chief Edson said it is private property and the club could have the vehicle towed but he will send an officer there on Wednesday to assist. A. Barnes told Mayor Hess he will be leaving his position on the Police Commission when his term expires on October 1st after serving for 12 years.

Mayor Hess said he acknowledges the Union's concerns but any increases in manpower has to occur gradually over time.

P. Pires thanked Mayor Hess for choosing him to be a member of the Police Commission.

Chairman Savoy welcomed P. Pires as a member of the Commission.

14. A motion by L. Mayfield and seconded by R. Roper at 7:46 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at the Naugatuck Police Department.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Stephanie Savoy, Chairman
Naugatuck Police Commission

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