

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 15, 2016

1. Vice 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  
Linda Mayfield  
Pedro Pires

DEPT. HEADS AND OTHERS:

Chief Christopher Edson  
Deputy Chief Joshua Bernegger  
Burgess Rocky Vitale

ALTERNATES:

Al Rollinson

ABSENT:

Mayor N. Warren Hess  
Stephanie Savoy  
John Alves

Staff: 0  
Public: 2  
Press: 0

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

Al Rollinson was appointed as a voting member in the absence of Chairman Savoy.

4. A motion by A. Rollinson and seconded by P. Pires to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held on October 18, 2016.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

5. A motion by A. Rollinson and seconded by P. Pires to *add to the agenda Item 4a. Acceptance of minutes for the Special Meetings held on November 7, 2016 and November 8, 2016.*

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

6. A motion by A. Rollinson and seconded by P. Pires to accept the minutes of the Special Meetings held on November 7, 2016 and November 8, 2016.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kayla LaPage, 30 Linden Street, Director for non-profit New Beginnings, asked to conduct a 5K road race through Naugatuck on June 24, 2017. This will be the same as last year which she received the Commission's approval. Deputy Chief Bernegger obtained the race information and said he would be in contact with her as the event draws near.

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by A. Rollinson to allow New Beginnings to conduct a 5K road race in Naugatuck on June 24, 2017.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

8. UNION BUSINESS: NONE

9. PRESENTATION OF CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief Edson said he appreciated the Commissioners holding interviews for new police candidates. The Meriden Police Academy has a seat for our department in the December class so he's hopeful to have it filled to replace Officer Taylor Field who transferred to another department. The certified officer from Bridgeport with a conditional offer of hire has not yet started. The western area regional command vehicle has arrived and will be used at the Mayor's holiday event downtown on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. He invited everyone to see it after the meeting. S. Smith commented on the large amount of overtime expended in October. He said that more than 50% of the funds were used to replace officers on shift. He hopes the Board of Mayor and Burgesses and Board of Finance will give serious consideration to hiring additional officers in order to reduce overtime. Chief Edson said that workers' compensation injuries and transfers also add to the problem. R. Roper asked how many officers it would take to fully staff the department in order to diminish the overtime costs. Chief Edson and Deputy Chief Bernegger stated that their research has determined a department of 62-65 officers would be an ideal number. P. Pires asked if any overtime payments can

be offset by a third party. Grants from CTDOT and reimbursements from Homeland Security do offset some costs. Chief Edson said historically the high costs of fringe benefits have prevented the town from hiring additional officers, however with the introduction of the defined contribution plan and the HDHP health insurance, the costs for new hires has decreased.

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by P. Pires to close the current hiring list originated in March 2015.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

A motion by P. Pires and seconded by A. Rollinson to authorize Chief Edson to begin a new hiring list.

Discussion: Chief Edson said he will contact Human Resource Director John Lawlor.

Vote: Unanimous

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

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

The Cook family thanked the Police Department for their caring and consideration upon the loss of their mother. The responding officers were Sergeant Bart Deeley and Officer Hannah Turci.

Reverend Jules Jodko, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, thanked the department for their support of the Turkey Run by the FBSC on November 6, 2016.

Carlos Valente, 60 Scott Street, requested the installation of a one hour parking sign in front of his house. Vice Chairman Smith asked Chief Edson to look into this request and report his findings at the next meeting.

Harvey Frydman, Naugatuck Senior Center, thanked Officer Michael Favale, Officer Robert O'Donnell, Detective Ronald Pugliese and Sergeant Colin McAllister for providing safety information throughout bingo games they organized and for providing prizes and refreshments.

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

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Burgess Rocky Vitale, 180 E. Waterbury Road, said he is aware of the toll excessive overtime takes on our officers but the fiscal responsibilities facing the town in 2017 may not permit hiring additional officers.

12. OPEN ITEMS:

A. PARKING CONDITIONS ON HIGH STREET:

Deputy Chief Bernegger presented his findings for High Street. "No Parking" signs will be replaced on the east side of High Street from South Main Street to Homestead Avenue. The centerline has been offset to permit parking on the west side of the street. People should not be parking on the sidewalks but do to the age of the curbing; there has been substantial erosion which allows drivers to easily pull onto the sidewalk. New curbing should be installed but he realizes this would create a great cost to the borough.

A motion by R. Roper and seconded by L. Mayfield to accept the traffic proposal submitted by Deputy Chief Bernegger and place "No Parking" signs on the east side of High Street.

Discussion: Deputy Chief Bernegger confirmed there is off street parking when asked by A. Rollinson.

Vote: Unanimous

13. REPORTS FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

Vice Chairman Smith asked the Commissioners to consider the subcommittees they would like to serve on.

14. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

A. Rollinson noted that today is Chairman Savoy's birthday and wished her well.

R. Roper questioned Chief Edson about admittance into the FBI academy.

P. Pires complimented the officers working in traffic assignments on the bridges under construction.

Vice Chairman Smith wished Chairman Savoy a happy birthday with Mickey Mouse in Florida. He noted that Chief Edson will be working with the same slate of officers again this year.

15. A motion by R. Roper and seconded by P. Pires at 7:43 p.m. to adjourn to the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at the Naugatuck Police Department.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

ATTEST:

Steve Smith, Vice Chairman  
Naugatuck Police Commission

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