

Preliminary Draft

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
July 22, 2014

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman D'Errico, Commissioners, Monz, Lazaroff, Calafiore. Also present was Town Attorney William Ryan and Town Finance Director Edward Swinkoski.

Absent: Commissioner Spader

Commissioner Lazaroff made a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and he invited the Town Attorney, Mr. Ryan, and the Town Director of Finance, Edward Swinkoski, to join this Executive Session.

A second was made by Commissioner Calafiore and all were in favor. The time was 6:32 p.m.

At 7:21 p.m., the Commission returned to the Regular Session.

Present: Chairman D'Errico, Commissioners, Monz, Lazaroff, Calafiore. Also present was Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Mulhern.

Absent: Commissioner Spader

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes for the June 24, 2014 Regular Meeting and Executive Session. A motion to accept the June 22, 2014 minutes was made by Commissioner Lazaroff, second by Commissioner Monz. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

The next order of business was for the approval of the monthly reports for June 2014. A motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Calafiore, second by Commissioner Monz. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Michael Geary, Associate Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Criminal Justice Program from Albertus Magnus College, thanking Deputy Chief Mulhern, Lieutenant Glenn, Officer Alan Cantele, and Officer Ted Stockmon for their participation in a criminal justice camp program that was held recently at the campus.

A letter was received from Nick Adams of Target Stores Loss Prevention, thanking the men and women of the North Haven Police Department for their hard work, dedication and quick response in assisting the store security with several incidents that have occurred at Target.

A letter of introduction was received from Colonel Brian F. Meraviglia announcing his recent appointment to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Commanding Officer for the State Police.

A letter was received from a resident, thanking Officer Frank Castiglione, and Officer Lou Petrillo for their “efficient, helpful, and kind assistance” to her when she was involved in a motor vehicle accident recently.

Chairmans Report:

Old Business: Chairman D’Errico reported there was no old business.

Chairman D’Errico did state that he had one question for Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Mulhern and asked them to please explain the meaning of a training session that Detective Falcon recently attended titled: “Social Media for LE” which was held at the Norwalk Police Department.

Chief McLoughlin explained that this training was for Law Enforcement Officers and it focused on Social Media and its components, such as Face book, Twitter and other social media websites of similar nature. Chief McLoughlin explained that Detective Falcon is the “go to guy” for all social media incidents that are reported to the Police Department. Chief suggested that perhaps he would bring Detective Falcon in for a demonstration at a meeting in the future.

Chairman D’Errico inquired about the traffic issues during the previous weekend near the fairgrounds on Washington Avenue.

Chief McLoughlin explained that there was a Food Truck Festival scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Promoters indicated that they were expecting 4000 people to attend, when in turn; the attendance was in excess of ten thousand people.

Chief said that the Police Department was notified of the event, and on Saturday, officers from the Hamden Police Department worked the traffic duty. On Sunday, the department invoked the parking plan that is utilized during the North Haven Fair.

The Chief explained that the Traffic Maintenance employee came in at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning and posted “no parking” signs on Pool Road and surrounding side streets. The North Haven Fair association was also contacted and asked if the auxiliary parking lot on Pool Road could be opened and utilized. The sand blockade was removed early Sunday morning to allow access the Pool Road parking lot.

Chief stated that most everyone was caught by surprise, as no one expected attendance to be as large.

Commissioner Calafiore asked if this event involved overtime pay for the Department. Chief stated that indeed it was overtime, but assured the Commission that the sponsors of the event will cover all overtime expenses.

Chief further mentioned that the State Police were also positioned at the on and off ramps of I-91, at exit #12, to assist with traffic. Chief also stated that officers working on site identified vehicles from as far away as Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey and New Jersey.

Chief stated that the Hartford Courant reached out to him regarding this festival and Chief stated that in his opinion, the event has outgrown the fairgrounds, and should the promoter hold another festival next year, that perhaps it should be held at another venue.

Chairman D’Errico asked Chief if there was anything new on the traffic light at St. John and Washington Avenue. Chief explained the work is being done in steps, and that it is supposed to be completed by the end of the summer.

Commissioner Lazaroff asked about the traffic on Buell Street. Chief explained he recently met with Selectman Freda and a few residents who had concerns about the traffic volume and vehicle speeds on Buell Street.

The residents are concerned about the volume of traffic because the road is used as a cut through to Whitney Avenue. Chief said a new portable radar unit was currently deployed on Buell Street and it will remain there for one week, with the hope that we can get an accurate vehicle count and slow some of the traffic. Additionally, the residents would like to continue to have the crosswalks, as this area has a lot of pedestrian traffic; however, they no longer want the line painting in the streets. The residents believe the center line in the roadway may be attracting traffic.

The Chief said he will have the crosswalks repainted and he is also contemplating the installation of “the slender lime color green crosswalk warning” for the street. This would be similar to what is out on Church Street in front of Town Hall, yet it would be more tailored for a residential roadway.

Berniere Scholarships Requests

There were not requests this month.

Grievances:

There were no new grievances this month.

Budget:

Chief stated that at the end of the fiscal year on June 30 and the Department finished 2% under budget, meaning that approximately \$100,000.00 was returned to the town.

Chief further explained that the new fiscal year is off to a rough start due to some large traffic ticket items.

Traffic:

Chief explained that the traffic light at Skiff Street and Hartford Turnpike was recently struck and damaged by a truck. It was temporarily repaired, but the wires and hangers are so fragile that this light is hanging lower than it should be. This light is vintage 1973-1974 and new wiring and lighting accessories are necessary. The price for these replacement parts are \$14,000, and the department will not receive reimbursement. Chief stated that the traffic maintenance budget line item is \$12,000.00 and this one incident has depleted this line.

Chief said the second traffic light issue involves a car striking a utility pole fronting 222 Maple Avenue (fronting the old high school). The light itself is not damaged, but the wires and housing are damaged will need replacement.

Chief McLoughlin said this repair will require some money out of pocket, but a claim will be turned over to insurance for reimbursement.

Chief also explained that AT & T informed him that the telephone pole on the corner of Bailey Road and Elm Street needs to be replaced. AT & T said the pole is aged and weak. This pole currently supports the traffic light and the Chief said that the department would have to cover the cost of moving the overhead support wires and cables to the new pole.

Chief said the Department has submitted a letter of interest for an application from the State Of Connecticut DOT for a grant for "Distracted Driving". This enforcement grant is set to run for the first three weeks of September. The state will reimburse the Department 80% of any overtime cost, and he is waiting to receive the application.

Chief said there was a serious motor vehicle traffic accident last week on Route 17 (Middletown Ave.) involving a pedestrian, in which the operator of the vehicle was charged with DUI. Since then, the pedestrian has passed away and the Chief is certain that the court will elevate the charges against the driver involved.

Chief said the new portable traffic radar unit was placed on Bassett Road and the department received good results from it.

Chief has asked Captain Merrithew to review the intersection of Ridge Road and Mt. Carmel Avenue, as there has been another request for a three way stop sign at this intersection. Chief suggested to the Board that they take a ride out the and look at the intersection, as this is a tough spot and it may be time to establish a 3-way stop.

Chief said he is still waiting to hear from State Representative Yaccarino regarding the placement of the Howard Luppi Way Street Sign. Chief said he recently spoke with Mr. Yaccarino and was advised by him that he is awaiting a response from the Luppi family. Chief said he would like to get this sign in place soon.

Regarding training, the Chief reported that the schedule is fairly light due to summer vacations and officer time off.

Chief said that during the past month, the Patrol Division had two incidents with children being left alone in hot cars. Both incidents resulted in arrests.

Chief reported that the Investigative Services had been very busy the past month as indicated by the extensive monthly report from Lieutenant Kevin Glenn.

Miscellaneous:

Chief informed the board that the payment for their yearly dues to PCAC, is being processed and to ignore any late notices they may receive

Chief asked Chairman D'Errico if he would like to speak about the Police Retirement Board meeting last week regarding the movement of funds.

Chairman D'Errico said that he did not attend the meeting; therefore, he did have any information.

Chief explained that the Police Retirement Board recently voted to split the pension fund investments 50/50 between the existing investment company and a new investment group. Chief said the new firm is one that is more actively involved in the investments. Chairman D'Errico stated that it is a good retirement pension and a good solid fund.

Chief McLoughlin explained that a few weeks ago, the Department assisted the New Haven Police Department, and the DEA, with search warrants in New Haven. The detail went well and there were no incidents or injuries. Three different locations were searched which resulted in the seizure of one firearm, four thousand dollars cash and 300 bags of heroin.

Chief stated that the Department was fortunate to recently receive three CODIS hits for DNA back from the State Laboratory. Each was from previous burglaries that occurred in 2011, 2013, and one in 2014. Chief stated that in the past, the State Laboratory has been behind and backed up with cases, but recently they instituted some changes and test results are getting back to departments in a much quicker amount of time.

Chief said that recently the new FuelMaster System was installed at the Public Works facility. Chief said this system is a town wide initiative to replace the 30-year-old gas pump system that is used for fueling town vehicles. The new Fuelmaster System provides real time fuel consumption and will be able to better track how much fuel is being used by each department.

Chief said recently that several officers assisted the Madison Police Department as a mutual aid request for assistance during a book signing by Hillary Clinton. Madison Police Department asked North Haven Police Officers to stand by should there be any problems with crowds or protesters. There were no incidents reported.

Chief said the search has begun for three part time dispatchers. The department is accepting applications through July 25th for three individuals that are state certified tele-communicators. Chief stated that the department has already received many qualified applications.

Chief said that the department has received \$25,000 from the School Board for the in kind service of the School Resource Officer.

Chairman D'Errico questioned this dollar amount, stating that the School Board originally agreed years ago to give the Police Department \$50,000 for each school calendar year. Mr. D'Errico stated that he would go back through previous meeting minutes to confirm this.

Chief explained that the Department does not get paid in the summer because there is no officer present at the schools. Chief explained that the only time the department charges the BOE is when is the Department has to hire an Officer for patrol to replace the SRO.

Chief said recruit Marcus Artaiz is doing well at the academy and is scheduled to graduate in September.

The department's newest recruit, Jonathan Dahlstrom started at the Police Academy July 3rd and will be there until sometime in December.

Commissioner Calafiore asked Chief how long will the recruit be at the academy and Chief said it is a 22-week program.

Chief stated that any other issues he had to discuss would be for executive session.

Chairman D'Errico then asked about the fleet and inquired if all cars are working and on the road.

Chief said that the Department has recently put out a bid request for two new Ford Utility Interceptors, and stated that all cars are working and on the road. Further, all but two of the new Watch Guard camera systems have been installed.

Chairman D'Errico asked Chief and Deputy if they were getting any feedback from the officers regarding the new Interceptors and the new camera systems. Chief said he has received very positive feedback from officers.

Chairman D'Errico stated that he heard the Ford Interceptor is supposed to be top of the line, and asked Chief and Deputy if they could monitor one Interceptor for a month, as he would like to see the gas mileage results.

Chairman D'Errico said he had nothing more to discuss at this time.

Chief asked Chairman D'Errico if there was a need to publicly vote on anything from the earlier Executive Session. Mr. D'Errico stated he had nothing to discuss.

With no further business, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lazaroff, second by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

The time was 8:17 p.m.