

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
August 26, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joseph F. D'Errico, Commissioners Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, and Walt Spader, Chief Thomas McLoughlin, Deputy Chief Jon Mulhern

Absent: Commissioner David Monz

Others Present: Third Selectman Sally Jean Buemi

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the July 22, 2014 Regular and Executive Session and the approval of the minutes from the July 30, 2014 Special Meeting.

Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore.

Discussion:

Chairman D'Errico asked Commissioner Spader to review the second paragraph on page 9 of the minutes from the Special Meeting of July 30, 2014. Mr. D'Errico asked if the sentence that reads, "Commissioner Spader made the motion to accept the legal agreement to extend the regional Traffic and SWAT teams to include the towns of Branford, Guilford and Madison" should also include East Haven, North Branford, and North Haven. Commissioner Spader said that extended means there already is an agreement, but he said for the purpose of clarification it would not hurt to have the minutes read that it is an agreement with all the towns. Commissioner Lazaroff withdrew his motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Calafiore withdrew his second to accept the minutes.

Commissioner Lazaroff made a motion to amend the minutes and make corrections so that last months motion includes the towns of East Haven, North Branford and North Haven. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor to approve the minutes with the corrections, with the exception of Commissioner Walt Spader who abstained from the approval of the July 22, 2014 minutes because he was not present at that meeting.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for July 2014. A motion to approve the reports for July 2014 was made by Commissioner Lazaroff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

Correspondence

Chief McLoughlin received a letter from Governor Malloy asking him and others within the Department to participate in a blood drive being held by the American Red Cross.

A letter was received thanking Sergeant Mike Mahon and Officer Alan Cantele for a recent tour of the Police Department.

Chairman's Report

Old Business: Chairman D'Errico had nothing to report

New Business:

Chairman D'Errico stated that he would like to remind the viewing public that the Board of Police Commissioners is the sole traffic authority for the Town of North Haven. Mr. D'Errico asked that any requests that residents may have in the future regarding traffic, be sent directly to the Chief of Police. Chief McLoughlin will provide the information to the Board of Police Commissioner for the final say.

Chairman D'Errico moved ahead of the agenda to follow up with Chief McLoughlin on recent traffic issues.

1. Ridge Road at Mt. Carmel Avenue request for a third stop sign.

Chairman D'Errico stated that he went to this intersection on two occasions to make observations. Mr. D'Errico stated that during his observations he saw very little traffic flow coming on to Mt. Carmel Avenue from Ridge Road.

Chairman D'Errico also stated that on Mt. Carmel Avenue traveling from East to West he noticed a somewhat blind curve, with a drop then a rise in the road. He was concerned about adding another stop sign as it may cause more accidents by having vehicles stopped in queue. Further Mr. D'Errico stated that there have been no accidents at this intersection in 20 -25 years with the exception of one which was a one car accident involving a tree. Chairman D'Errico also mentioned with water, leaves, and snow in the winter, having an additional stop sign would make it hard for vehicles to stop for cars in front of them causing more of a hazard.

Chief McLoughlin stated the accident numbers that Chairman D'Errico mentioned may be somewhat skewed as there has always been a boundary issue with Hamden and North Haven. Chief stated that this intersection belongs to North Haven but he believes that Hamden probably has some accident history on Mt. Carmel Avenue.

Chief also stated that Mt. Carmel Avenue has always been a country road, but now it is a connector for two Quinnipiac University campuses. Chief McLoughlin also stated that he does not want to disregard our resident's safety to satisfy the University students. Chief also had concerns about the blind curve, and how it would affect winter driving.

Chairman D'Errico stated that he felt making this intersection a three way stop would cause more of a hazard.

Chief said it is up to the Board to make the final decision.

Commissioner Spader stated that he also observed this intersection and agreed that traffic flow has certainly grown in the last few years. Commissioner Spader asked Chief McLoughlin if this investigation began

because of resident complaints in the area. Chairman D'Errico stated one resident made a request to have an additional stop sign added.

Commissioner Spader stated that he feels no action should be taken at this time and recommended that the Board decline the request. Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to vote on the request.

Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to decline the request for a third stop sign at this present time. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

2. Clark and Moulthrop Intersection.

Chairman D'Errico stated that he would like to table this until next months meeting so that he can have time to review the accident history at this location.

Mr. D'Errico stated that Montowese Avenue, from Universal Drive to Quinnipiac Avenue is a state road and asked what route number this road is. Chief said he would advise him the route number as soon as he could confirm the number. Chairman D'Errico said he learned that this being a state route only recently when he reached out to the Public Works department because the island that leads to Universal Drive was full of overgrown brush, and garbage. He said that the state came in and cleaned it up and it looks very nice now. Mr. D'Errico said that this location is the gateway to Universal Drive, and it should look proper and neat.

3. Pool Road at Laydon Avenue

A resident had notified the state about the cycling of the traffic light causing a back up on Laydon Avenue. Chief McLoughlin suggested moving the line-painting stop bar forward two feet so cars will stop on the trip for the light eliminating long wait times. Chief McLoughlin asked the Board if they would allow some type of "stop here on red sign" this would enable vehicles to pull forward far enough to trip the light.

Commissioner Calafiore said this is a reasonable request. Commissioner Spader also observed this location and he agreed with Mr. Calafiore.

Chief McLoughlin said he would reach out to the State DOT to see if they need to assist in the placement, just to cover all the bases.

Commissioner Walt Spader made the motion to put a "stop here on red" sign. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. All were in favor

Chairman D'Errico asked about the status of the business cards that he requested for the board members. Chief stated he sent a memo on Chairman D'Erricos behalf to the finance department with the Boards request, but has not heard back from them. Chief suggested that it could be delayed, as there were also some other expense requests by the Board. Chairman D'Errico said he would send a memo to the finance department.

Chiefs Report:

Chief McLoughlin wanted to remind residents that school opens tomorrow. He asked everyone to please drive carefully, be aware of students on or near the road, sidewalks and corners. He asked everyone to be extra careful in the morning hours while it is darker out. Chief stated "Please drive careful with the children in mind."

Chief announced that the 7th annual PBA car show is set for this Sunday, August 31 at the North Haven High School.

Chairman D'Errico asked Chief if he could get the Bailey Road crosswalk painted immediately as the current one is obliterated.

Chief explained to the board that the street line painting is usually completed in September, due to paving and milling projects being done in the summer. It is more cost effective to paint once and at night. Line painting is scheduled to begin soon.

Chief McLoughlin stated that three crosswalks belonging to the Board of Education will be painted by us as the BOE provided to us an in kind service, so we will cover the painting of three crosswalks that are at the high school in the parking lot.

Chairman D'Errico said he noticed that a vehicle had driven through the practice field at the high school and tore it up. Chief said the Officers do frequent patrol through the area of the schools but he will certainly increase the patrol to help prevent this type of incident in the future.

Chief reported that in the West side of town, specifically the Whitney Ridge area, vehicles are still being entered at night. Chief said there was no forced entry at any of these incidents; anything that was entered had been left unlocked. Chief urged residents to be diligent and lock their vehicle doors in the evening.

Regarding the budget, Chief said the in the first month there were significant expenditures, such as traffic lights. One traffic light at Upper State Street and Hartford Turnpike has now been added to that list. This light has aged and has damage to the wiring from rodents. Chief said he does not know the cost yet for repairs. This is the third traffic light needing repair so far this year. Chief stated that one of the damaged lights was due to a motor vehicle accident in which the Department will receive some insurance reimbursement for it. Chief said that this is one of the fourteen traffic lights owned by the town.

Chairman D'Errico asked Chief if the traffic light on Maple Avenue fronting the old high school would be put back up. Chief said that it would, and stated this is the light he spoke of that was damaged due to a motor vehicle accident.

Chief said that the fuel master installation has been completed on the whole fleet. Chief said that this new fuel system at the highway garage, which is a town wide initiative, that will provide the department better reporting of its fuel consumption and will help to better project expenses down the road. As of this date, the Police Department is the only department that is ready to utilize the Fuel master System. The town still needs to switch the current system over to the new system.

Chairman D'Errico inquired about the large gas bills from last winter after the department was converted from oil to gas and asked Chief if he would get someone from the gas company to come look at the system. Chief said he would certainly have someone come in and look at it. Chief reminded the Board that even with the gas heat expense, the Department still came in under budget last year for heating the building. Chief said part of the energy problem is the building is 50 years old, and when we are able to get the new windows installed, hopefully it will button up the building a little tighter.

In addition, Chief said regarding the heating system, the 30-year-old boiler was retrofitted from oil heat to a gas conversion and it is not as efficient as it would have been if we just installed a new boiler.

Chief had no sickness or accidents to report.

Chief said there was one minor grievance from a civilian, regarding a three-hour overtime assignment, which has been resolved.

Walter Berniere Scholarships:

One request from Lt. Kevin Glenn for one graduate course. Chief said this is his final class and Lt. Glenn has completed his Masters Degree. Commissioner Spader made the motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. All were in favor.

Traffic:

Chief said the Department has just received a grant from the State DOT for Distracted Driving Enforcement. This extra enforcement will run for the first three weeks of September. The concentration will be on cell phone use and distracted driving. The plan will be to put an unmarked car out on the streets as to assist with the enforcement.

Commissioner Spader commented that the statistics are three times higher now for hand held devices than this time last year.

Regarding the street line painting, Chief said the budget line calls for \$20,000 and he has earmarked \$19,970 for the painting. There will be a heavy emphasis on painting the stop bars and crosswalks. These areas need attention and it is important for people to conform to stop bars and crosswalks. Chief also mentioned that the painting could not start too soon because there is still paving and milling underway in town. It is expected that the line painting should start within the next week or two.

Chief said the bridge repair on Spring Road was supposed to have started this week, but there has been a delay due to the steel being on backorder. The bridge construction will take about 4 months. Chief said the Department of Public Works has notified the Board of Education, the bus companies and the Fire Department.

Training:

Training is minimal due to summer vacations.

Chief said both recruits are doing well at the Academy and Marcus Artaiz is due to graduate On September 17th.

Chief said the SWAT team participated in a three-day SWAT challenge event last week. The team placed number one in the state for the physical challenge component. Chief explained that the physical challenge is the most grueling challenge at this event, and for the team to have won first place on a better part of three minutes over all the other participating teams, is outstanding.

Mr. D'Errico asked where the team ended overall and Chief said the team finished in the middle of the pack. Mr. D'Errico asked if the team went in as North Haven SWAT. Deputy Mulhern said the team went in as the South Central Regional SWAT team.

Support Services / Patrol / Investigative Services:

The patrol service calls continue to increase.
Investigative Services has been very busy with criminal investigations.

Chief had nothing for executive session as far as personnel matters.

Prior to Adjournment, Third Selectman Sally Buemi wanted to speak to the board as a citizen of the town regarding a topic that was brought up at the July 22, 2014 Police Commission meeting.

Ms. Buemi said that some things that were discussed at the July 22 Police Commission meeting concerned her as a taxpayer as well as a citizen who cared deeply for this town regarding the economic development in this town. She mentioned that the meeting minutes discussed how the Police Department was caught by surprise by the traffic and size of the Food Truck event at the Fairgrounds in July. She said she felt the suggestion made to find another venue, should the event return next year, was premature and it should be reconsidered. Ms. Buemi felt that the Police Board without much discussion accepted that the fairgrounds were too small, and to say we do not want it anymore is too much of an extreme reaction. She said she believed that North Haven should take any opportunity to improve the town's economic development.

Chief acknowledged Ms. Buemi and said that those comments from the last meeting were his, and that she has a valid point and her comments were a fair assessment.

Chairman D'Errico asked for motion to move into executive session to discuss personnel matters. The motion to move to executive session was made by Commissioner Spader. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. All were in favor.
The time was 8:15 pm

At 8:40 p.m. The Board of Police Commission reconvened for the purpose of voting.

Commissioner Spader made a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Police Commission to execute the labor agreement between the Town of North Haven and Deputy Chief of Police Jonathan R. Mulhern and to make changes in the agreement that are agreed to between the two parties.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. All were in favor.

The time was 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Larry Lazaroff, Secretary

Minutes by M. Clafin

Board of Police Commission
Executive Session
August 26, 2014

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 8:20 p.m.

Present: Chairman Joseph F. D'Errico, Commissioners Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, and Walt Spader, Chief Thomas McLoughlin, Deputy Chief Jon Mulhern

Absent: Commissioner David Monz

Personnel matters were discussed.

Commissioner Spader made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session and return to Regular Session for the purposes of voting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

The time was 8:40 p.m.

Executive Session Minutes by:
Thomas J. McLoughlin
Chief of Police