

Board of Police Commission
Regular Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
January 26, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner David Monz

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the December 15, 2015 meeting both Regular and Executive sessions.

Commissioner Lazaroff made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Calafiore seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for December 2015.

The motion to approve the monthly reports was made by Commissioner Spader; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from high school athletic director; Todd Petronio, thanking Sergeant Bob DePalma and the whole department for their assistance with parking, traffic and security during sports functions at the high school.

A letter was received from Attorney Charles Charlesworth thanking Officer Anthony Pacileo for his professionalism and assistance during a recent motor vehicle accident that he was involved in.

A letter was received from Larry Lazaroff, owner of Arnolds Jewelers, thanking Detective Harton, Sergeant Woznyk, Officers Spose, Millman, Battick and Esterby for their assistance with a recent theft from his store.

Selectman Michael Freda sent a Thank you letter to the department for their participation in the inaugural ceremony held in November.

Chairman's Report:

Old business: Chairman had nothing to report for old business.

New business: Chairman reported that he has been in contact with State Representative Dave Yaccarino and advised the Board that Yaccarino is working to find grant money that may be available for the range remediation.

Chairman talked about traffic enforcement and how it helps keep crime rates down. He commented that motor vehicle stops and traffic enforcement is working very well right now.

Chairman reminds residents to lock their vehicle doors at night and keep valuables out of sight.

Commissioner Lazaroff added a request for residents who are out running or walking in the early morning hours to wear appropriate, high visibility reflective clothing.

Chiefs Report:

Chief reported that the budget is trending under 3 percent right now.

The budget workshop for the fiscal year 2016-2017 is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb 17th at 8:00 p.m.

There were no unforeseen expenditures this month with the exception of one cruiser being involved in a motor vehicle accident with a deer causing significant damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported. Due to a very large insurance deductible, the repair costs will have to be paid from the vehicle maintenance line.

Support Services/Traffic:

Sergeant Bob DePalma has been assigned to Support Services for the calendar year. Officer Ralph Rienzo has also been assigned to traffic. Rienzo is a certified Accident Reconstructionist.

Chief reported that recently there was an off road fatal accident involving an ATV vs. a tree on private property in the Wharton Brook Industrial Park. He stated here is a lot of open space in that area which attracts off road vehicles and added that it is illegal to trespass on these properties. Chief strongly encourages citizens not to ride recreational vehicles in this area.

Lt. Andrew Stavrides has been assigned to the Information Services Division and is doing a great job.

The two recent Police Academy graduates, Michael Altieri and Brandon Esterby, have completed half of the required field training and should be patrolling on their own by the last week of February.

Chief reports the department is fully staffed at this point.

Recently Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Mulhern participated in an active shooter tabletop exercise at Quinnipiac University. Members of the FBI, Homeland Security, the Connecticut State Police as well as several other local Police and Fire Departments were also in attendance. Chief explained that should this type of emergency situation arise, there is an operational plan in place which can be used at any business or school in town.

Investigative Services Division:

Captain Ed Remington has been assigned as the Commander of Uniformed Services and Patrol. Captain Kevin Glenn will remain as Commander of the Investigative Services Division. Detectives have been very busy.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

Officer Richard Hannon has requested reimbursement consideration for one class.

Building update:

Several months ago there was a pre bid walkthrough at Police Headquarters for the lead remediation project of the firing range. Unfortunately the bids were well above the available funding; therefore the project is on hold for now.

Chief said he is waiting for a needs assessment report on the building which will address several building needs such as, replacing the windows, ramp, broken curbing, sidewalks, ADA compliance issues, and addressing the lack of interior space as the amount of members in the department has almost doubled since the building was constructed in 1965. Chief said these items have been put into a five year capital plan, but these repairs may exceed any capital expenditure and may have to be put in to a bond package.

The town wide radio system is due for an upgrade. Chief McLoughlin and Deputy Mulhern recently met with the Departments radio vendor as well as a representative from Motorola to discuss a new town wide radio system. Chief explained the project will cost near 3.5 million dollars. Further, the current radio system was installed in 1994 with a life expectancy of only 15 to 20 years and it has exceeded that. There are five major components of the current radio system that will no longer be available after the year 2018. Chief said this is not something the Department wants; it is something necessary for public safety. This project will also be part of a capital expenditure. Chief expects this project may also roll into a bond package.

Chairman D'Errico asked Chief McLoughlin to contact Washington Concrete and schedule a meeting with them to assess the front steps at Police Headquarters and determine if they can be repaired or replaced. Mr. D'Errico said he does not want to delay the repairs any longer.

Regarding the body cameras, there have been a few software problems with the current unit. Several cameras had to be exchanged and the purchase of more has been put on temporary hold. Chief explained that the DPS (Department of Public Safety) and POSTC (Police Officer Safety and Training Council) have recently devised a body camera policy which is very restrictive. Chief stated that until the software issues are resolved it is best to put the use of the cameras on temporary hold.

Public Comment

Resident Robert Nappe of 20 Eaton Street asked the Board about the status of the Supernumerary program. Chairman D'Errico said the Board cannot give particulars at this time as they are still in the process of putting together a policy.

Resident Al Warren of 11 Charles Court voiced his concerns regarding ATV and off road vehicle activity in his neighborhood, as well as on the Wharton Brook Industrial Park property. Mr. Warren also asked for patrol units during the evening hours at Sinoway Pond, and expressed his concerns about the absence of thin ice warning signs.

With no further discussion, Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn to move in to Executive session to discuss personnel matters.

The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Lazaroff. All were in favor.

The time was 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Lazaroff
Secretary

Board of Police Commission
Executive Session
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January 26, 2016

Chairman D'Errico called the meeting to order at 7:32 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.

Chairman D'Errico asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lazaroff. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Spader. All were in favor.

The time was 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. McLoughlin
Chief of Police