

Board of Police Commission
Special Meeting
Chairman Paul D. Abercrombie Police Commission
And Training Room 2nd Floor
May 18, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairman David Monz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Vice Chairman David Monz, Commissioners, Larry Lazaroff, Marc Calafiore, and Walt Spader, Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Jonathan Mulhern

Absent: Chairman Joseph D'Errico

Others present: Retired North Haven Police Captain Mark Genovese, Caren Genovese

Vice Chairman Monz expressed well wishes on behalf of the entire Board of Police Commission to Chairman Joseph D'Errico who is recovering from knee surgery. Monz wished him a complete and prompt recovery.

The first order of business was the approval of the minutes from the April 26, 2016 meeting both Regular and Executive sessions.

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

Vice-Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for April 2016.

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

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Charles Sherwood of the South Central Criminal Justice Administration thanking Chief McLoughlin for allowing Officer Keri Maciogo to participate in a recent police candidate oral board testing.

Chairman's Report:

Vice Chairman Monz explained that as scheduled at the April 26, 2016 Police Commission meeting, Attorney Jennifer Coppola would not be attending tonight's meeting. He explained that the project she is proposing is still in process. Mr. Monz explained that he anticipates Attorney Coppola will be at the next Police Commission meeting scheduled on June 26, 2016.

Vice Chairman Monz asked Commissioner Lazaroff to update the Board regarding the DARE successor program at the middle school. Commissioner Lazaroff explained that a meeting was held on May 9th with Assistant Principal Phil Piazza and Sergeant Matt Falcon. Sgt. Falcon has secured a speaker to make a presentation next week to the eighth grade students. Further, he said that program is moving forward and they will continue to meet in the summer to finalize a five speaker program for the next school calendar year. This program will deal with drug and alcohol abuse, social media, and other issues that today's youth are facing.

Vice Chairman Monz asked the Chief if the “No Parking” signs have been installed on the west side of Frontage Road as voted in last month’s meeting. Chief confirmed the signs have been installed and he has had no negative feedback since they were installed.

Vice Chairman Monz also asked the Chief about the status of the traffic study conducted last year in the Buell Street area. Chief McLoughlin explained that the State Department of Transportation funded the study which was conducted by VN Engineering. Chief explained that he has not received the study results yet and he has no explanation as to the delay.

Commissioner Lazaroff inquired about traffic issues at the intersection of State Street and Dixwell fronting the new Cumberland Farms. Chief explained that this is a very heavily traveled state road but reported that there have been no significant traffic accidents there.

Chief explained that he recently corresponded with the CSX Railroad regarding the bridge on Sackett Point Road that was hit twice last month by oversized vehicles. Chief explained that he suggested to them that perhaps they paint their logo on the bridge to make it more visible to tractor trailers and larger vehicles. CSX will send his request to the proper channels and he hopes to hear back from them soon.

Vice Chairman Monz informed those present that Commissioner Larry Lazaroff has requested the privilege of swearing in Mark Genovese as a Supernumerary. At 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Lazaroff read Mark Genovese the Oath.

Chiefs Report:

The annual Memorial Day Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 28th which will start at 10:30 a.m. The middle school parking lot at 55 Bailey Road will be closed to vehicle traffic; therefore Chief advised the Board that if they plan on marching, he will arrange for a patrol unit to transport them to the starting point.

Chief McLoughlin presented the Board with tentative dates for the 2017 Board of Police Commission meetings. He explained that the meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with the exception of November and December which will be held on the third Tuesday due to the holidays. Vice Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the dates. The motion was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin explained that he is confident the Police Department will be under budget at the end of this fiscal year.

Traffic:

The recent Distracted Driving grant resulted in 90 hand held device (cell phone) violations.

Memorial Day weekend starts the Nationwide “Click it or Ticket” enforcement. Chief advises that there will be extra traffic enforcement for seatbelt violations starting May 23 through June 5th. Chief asks for compliance from everyone stating that not only is wearing seat belts a law, but a safety belt which prevents injury and death.

Chief reports another serious ATV accident on Valley Service Road. The driver was not wearing a helmet, was driving an unregistered off road vehicle, and trespassing on private property. The driver sustained very serious injuries. Chief cannot stress enough to everyone that it is illegal to trespass on private property. He encourages those that do have permission to ride on private property always wear a helmet.

Chief proposed that the Board approve "No Parking" signs to be placed on Valley Service Road. Chief explained that most of the off road vehicle riders are coming from out of town and parking their vehicles for hours at a time. Patrol officers cannot wait for hours for the riders to come out of the woods. Having these no parking signs in place will allow for tagging and towing of illegally parked vehicles.

Chief explained that another area in town affected by excessive illegal ATV use is the Wharton Brook Industrial Park area. The Board approved the placement of "No Parking" signs on three cul-de-sacs in this industrial park at last month's Police Commission meeting.

Commissioner Spader made a motion to place "No Parking" signs on Valley Service Road. Commissioner Lazaroff seconded. With no further discussion, all were in favor.

Professional Standards/Training:

Currently the department is continuing with Officer Recertification. Chief McLoughlin explained to those watching who may frequently hear him say officers are recertifying, that the POSTC standards require all Police Officers to be recertified every three years. He explained the department is split in to three certification groups. So each year, 1/3 of the department will get recertified. It is basically a three year training cycle. In essence, the department is always training.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

There were no scholarship requests this month.

Miscellaneous

- Officer Stockmon recently participated in Career Day at Aces School.
- Office Cantele and his K-9 Partner Koda participated in three Girl Scout troop demonstrations.
- The MADD (Mothers against Drunk Driving) Tri Town walk was held on April 30 and was very well attended.
- The recent prescription take back held at Fire Headquarters was very successful.

The Police Department recently purchased a drop box for residents to discard unwanted drugs and controlled substances. The Collection box will be placed in the lobby at Police Headquarters and anyone can walk in and dispose of unwanted / unused drugs with no questions asked. This is a safe way to properly dispose of any unwanted medication.

Commissioner Lazaroff asked about the lighting project fronting headquarters. Chief explained the vendor is still working on the repairs and advised the Board that the lights are still not functioning at this time.

Chief McLoughlin stated he has nothing for Executive session. Before adjourning, Commissioner Lazaroff wanted to remind the viewing audience that with the warmer weather now here, to be alert of children on bicycles. He also encouraged parents to enforce bicycle safety with their children.

With no further discussion, Vice-Chairman Monz asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Spader and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Lazaroff, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claflin