

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held at the Southington Police Department Community Room on March 11, 2010.

The meeting is called to order by Chairman Verderame at 6:00 p.m. Commissioners Nevelos, Della Vecchia, Pestillo and Bedard were present.

Chief John Daly was present
Officer John Mahon with K-9 Gaston

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Margaret Nevelos.

Chief Daly introduced Officer John Mahon and his K-9 Gaston. Chief Daly commented that K-9 Gaston had now retired from the Department and we had gotten him a few things to commemorate his retirement. Chief Daly introduced Edward Pocock III representing the Town Council. Mr. Pocock read a proclamation acknowledging that Gaston, the Department's first law enforcement K-9, worked with his handler, Officer John Mahon from January, 2001 to February, 2010 and had set the highest of standards for a department K-9. Chief Daly also read a plaque that was presented to K-9 Gaston and his handler Officer John Mahon. The highlight of the meeting was the presentation by Chief Daly to Gaston of a large rawhide bone which Gaston was delighted to receive. Photos were taken.

Officer Mahon commented that it was a honor to serve with Gaston. He indicated that he had done a lot of work with him and K-9s throughout the state and one of the best comments that he had heard was that he and his K-9 Gaston were one of the best around. Officer Mahon indicated that the Department had afforded them many hours of training and Gaston was one of the best trackers around finding many individuals, probably over 100 apprehensions. Also did a lot in the area of narcotics and seizures. He continued there wasn't a single day that Gaston did not want to go to work. Chief Daly chided in and now it is time for Gaston to retire and relax. Everyone once again clapped as Gaston was thrilled

with his bone.

Chairman Verderame called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2010. (Noted no February meeting)

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 14, 2010, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chief Daly presented the monthly Munis report concerning the expenses paid for the period February 1, 2010 to March 11, 2010.

Chairman Verderame called for a motion to approve billings presented to the Commissioners for payment.

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to approve the monthly Munis Report as submitted for period February 1, 2010 to March 11, 2010 seconded by Commissioner Nevelos. All in favor, motion passed.

Report to Commissioners by Chief Daly.

First Item – Contested Parking Tags. Chief Daly turned meeting over to Lt. Pocock who discussed the disputed tags. Commission members had reviewed copies of all disputed tag letters prior to the meeting including the recommendation of Lt. Edward Pocock as to the action suggested to be taken concerning the tag. The following action was taken by the Commission:

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to accept the recommendations of Lt. Pocock concerning the recently received contested parking tags, seconded by Commissioner Nevelos, all in favor Motion passed.

Letters will be sent to the individuals who had contested the issued tags.

Second Item – Award Program Discussion. Chief Daly turned discussion over to Lt. Pocock and Commissioner Bedard. Lt. Pocock first thanked Commissioner Bedard and Officer Tillotson for their input and effort. Lt. Pocock indicated the first meeting had taken place on February 16, 2010 with some

adjustments to be made to Awards General Orders.

Lt. Pocock indicated that the American Legion had approached the Department with regard to an Officer of the Year Award which has similarities to the Elks Program. Lt. Pocock explained the American Legion Program which also leads to the State Department and then a National Program. Lt. Pocock indicated he thought it was a robust program that the Department could participate in because he saw nothing negative in the program. Lt. Pocock requested that this be approved by the Commissioners so that it could become part of the Awards General Orders.

Lt. Pocock referred to the award submissions and also requested an approval by the Commissioners of those submissions. He further indicated that the next Awards Night is anticipated for September 30, 2010. The following action was taken:

MOTION to approve the recommended changes to the Awards General Orders made by Commissioner Pestillo, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, all in favor, Motion passed.

MOTION to approve the award submissions as recommended by the Award Committee, made by Commissioner Pestillo, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, all in favor, Motion passed.

Third Item – General Orders - Chief Daly directed Captain Simone to speak on the proposed changes to two General Orders. Captain Simone spoke on changes to General Order 100-90 (Confidential Informant) and General Order 100-17 Section 6 (Law Enforcement Canine). Captain Simone reviewed changes. Commissioner Pestillo had a question concerning Section J, item No. 5 which Chief Daly and Capt. Simone both explained related to the training of the K-9. Chief Daly further indicated that both Officers Salerno and Mahon both were involved in the drafting of this policy.

Captain Simone indicated that since the inception last year eight General Orders have been revised and he was hopeful before the next meeting two additional General Orders will be completed. It was noted that Attorney Sciota reviews and signs off on all revised General Orders. The following action was taken:

MOTION to approve the recommended changes to the General Order 100-17 Section 6, Law Enforcement Canine made by Commissioner Pestillo, seconded by Commissioner Bedard, all in favor, Motion passed.

MOTION to approve the recommended changes to the General Order 100-90, Confidential Informant made by Commissioner Della Vecchia, seconded by Commissioner Nevelos, all in favor, Motion passed.

Fourth Item – Activity Reports - Chief Daly called upon Capt. William Palmieri to give the Operation Division’s Activity Report. Captain Palmieri commented that on March 5, 2010, Sgt. Spratto once again did a supervisory check on the Park-Ride and Walk Program in the center of Southington. Sgt. Spratto received positive feedback and the following concerns were received from the business owners in the center area, which were, lack of parking for people working in the downtown area, vehicles traveling the wrong way on Center Street and vehicles parking directly in crosswalks. As cited previously, Sgt. Spratto’s report was forwarded to the Chairman of the Southington Parking Authority for informational purposes.

Capt. Palmieri indicated that parking enforcement for February resulted in a tag for one restricted area, two blocking crosswalks and 25 overtime parking. An infraction citation was given out for driving the wrong way down a one way street.

Traffic enforcement for speeding concerns were in the areas of Mulberry Street, Frost Street and Meriden Avenue.

Concerning drug arrests, there were five for the month. One officer and a supernumerary officer were recognized for these arrests. Two of the five offenders lived in Southington and three were from out of town.

Captain Palmieri commented that the Accident Investigation Unit was called out two times during the month of February for singular motor vehicle accidents in the area of Shuttle Meadow road and Kensington Road. Both accidents are under investigation.

Chief Daly informed Commissioners that Sgt. Michael Baribault, who is the AIT leader recently put out a notice requesting interested officers to become a part of the Unit. This was done in an effort to increase the number of people in the Unit so the same people do not have to go out each and every time. Three individuals responded. Sgt. Baribault also had attended a Supervisory First Line Training Session and he applied some of what he had learned to the job in direct correlation to securing three additional officers who he believed would be an asset to the Unit.

Fifth Item – Presentation by Sergeant Lowell DePalma – Crime Prevention Programs. Chief Daly called upon Sgt. DePalma who spoke on five programs.

The first was the prom promise program called “Promise”. Sgt. DePalma commented that the Department had been contacted by the Aqua Turf in January to curb problems that could occur as related to prom nights. This Program is related to safety education and information was handed out to parents and children as guidelines for insure a safe prom. Sgt. DePalma commented the Program would continue at the high school and also in conjunction with the Southington Drug Task Force.

The second program Sgt. DePalma spoke on was Play By the Rules. He indicated this program was actually designed by people in Alabama. He went on to say the theory behind the program is in every game there are rules. This Program is will be piloted in the Middle Schools through the School Resource Officer. Visitation will be to the two middle schools as well as ALTA on a Monday and Friday. It is hopeful that the Board of Education as well as Dr. Erardi will see the value to this Program. Chief Daly interjected that we as a Department were hoping for a consensus from the Board because the Department has to approach the Board of Education to formalize more of the duties of the DARE officer, i.e. that on Monday and Fridays our DARE officer, Officer Gallo, would actually teach the children a Program and this is the Program we want to teach. Commissioner Nevelos expressed one concern in that if the Program was not required, the good kids would buy into the Program and the kids who really needed the Program would not. All Commissioners approved the Program and expressed their avid approval to move the Program forward.

The third program discussed was the I-PROMISE pledge. This program relates to the texting on cell phones while driving. Sgt. DePalma indicated this Program was instituted through a joint effort of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, The Hartford Insurance Company and Channel 3. He stated that

Chief Daly attended the kick off ceremony and he returned with all the information to institute a Program. The timing for this Program is perfect Sgt. DePalma indicated because the SADD group and the Drug Task Force were looking for a way to promote the message that texting while driving is hazardous. Through this Program we will have Pledge forms to sign, educational materials and cd's available.

The fourth program discussed was the Police Explorer Program. Sgt. DePalma indicated that the Explorers on March 10th held a Pasta Dinner at the Calendar House which was very well received. St. DePalma indicated any monies raised would be used to offset the costs of sending kids to the Police Explorer Camp in the summer. He further indicated that a recruitment process for new members is currently underway. He indicated that most kids who become police explorers remain in the program until they no longer can be a member due to their age. The Police Explorers Program is open to young men and women ages 15 to 20.

The fifth program discussed was the Merchant Education Program. Sgt. DePalma told Commissioners that the Department is working closely with the Steps Program in an attempt to attribute assets in a child's life that will guide them to success. In conjunction with the Steps Program, a grant was made available to the Town of Southington and via the grant the Department was able to secure monies so that the Department can work with and education merchants in our Town. The education will inform merchants on how to look for and spot underage kids in an effort to reduce/stop the sale to these kids. Sgt. DePalma explained how the Program would work and was well received by the Commissioners.

Lastly Sgt. DePalma informed the Commissioners of the Department's ongoing 29 programs currently in place along with the 12 community related programs.

Sixth Item – Budget discussion - Chief Daly referred to the Town Manager's recommended budgets for next fiscal year. He reminded Commissioners the Department's budget workshop is Monday, March 15th at 7:30 at Town Hall Council Chambers. The actual public hearing will be April 5th at DePaolo Middle School. Chief Daly then deferred to Capt. Palmieri who gave a short presentation concerning the overtime account line for the Department. Capt. Palmieri further indicated that a month to month presentation would be given to keep the Commissioner abreast in the event additional funds were required due to

any unforeseen incidents.

Commissioner Communications. There were none

Public Communications. There were none

Old Business. There was none

Any other business. There was none

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to adjourn the regular meeting and go immediately into executive session, including Chief Daly, excluding the press and the public, for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual issues, seconded by Commissioner Nevelos. All in favor. Motion passed at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri
Recording Secretary

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Executive Session

March 11, 2010

Chairman Verderame called the Executive Session to order at 6:50 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Pestillo, Bedard, Nevelos, Della Vecchia
and Chief Daly

**MOTION made by Commissioner Nevelos
to adjourn the executive session and go back
into regular session. Seconded by Commissioner
Bedard. Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri
Recording Secretary

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting after Executive Session

March 11, 2010

Chairman Verderame called the Regular Meeting after Executive Session to order at 7:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Pestillo, Bedard, Nevelos and Della Vecchia
Chief Daly

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to appoint Kenneth J. Kizilski a supernumerary officer with the Department pending the successful completion of all physical, psychological and drug testing, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, all in favor, motion passed.

MOTION made by Commissioner Pestillo to approve the same procedure as had been done with prior officers on active military service, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, all in favor, motion passed.

No other business to come before the meeting.

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nevelos, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri
Recording Secretary

