

## **BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners began at the Southington Police Department Community Room and moved to Chief's Conference Room on September 9, 2010.

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

Present: Chief John Daly, Captain Greg Simone,  
Captain William Palmieri  
Attorney Lou Martocchio

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Della Vecchia

Commissioner Verderame requested that all present stand for a moment of silence for fallen State Trooper, Ken Hall

Commissioner Verderame called for a motion to approve the August 12, 2010 minutes.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2010 seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, All in favor. Motion passed.**

Commissioner David Della Vecchia then made the following motion:

**MOTION made by Commissioner Della Vecchia to add subsection 4(a) to the agenda under 4. Open Session – Grievance Hearing on GR. 2010-03 and to take action on subsection 4(a), seconded by Commissioner Bedard, all in favor, motion passed.**

Chairman Verderame called for a motion to approve billings as presented under the monthly Munis Report to the Commissioners.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Pestillo to approve the monthly Munis Report as submitted for period August 12, 2010 to September 9, 2010 seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, All in favor, motion passed.**

Chairman Verderame stated next item on Agenda, Grievance Hearing on Grievance 2010-03. Attorney Lou Martocchio addressed the Commissioners and all individuals in the audience by commenting that this was a public hearing, open to the public and several individuals named in Grievance 2010-03 are minors and I have advised the Commissioners prior to this meeting and he so stated again that there would be “zero” tolerance policy absolutely concerning the mentioning of the victim or the victim’s family. Attorney Martocchio requested that the word “victim” being used in reference to the minor or the minor’s family. Attorney Martocchio also warned that this is an open forum and any mention of the victim by name will immediately suspend the meeting

Chairman Verderame called upon Chief Daly. Chief Daly indicated that the reason all were present for this Grievance was because Det. Santarsiero requested that the hearing be held in open session.

Chief Daly gave a synopsis of the events that took place concerning Grievance 2010-03. Chief Daly commented that the Department had received a written letter of complaint from a Southington resident concerning an investigation of a fight amongst two students at SHS that occurred in January of 2010. The complainant alleged that the SRO had interviewed the complainant’s 16 year old child without a parent being present. The Department initiated an internal investigation and at the conclusion of the investigation which was conducted by Lt. Edward Pocock. Seven individual charges concluded as followed: One charge was exonerated, three charges were unfounded, two charges were not sustained and one charge was sustained.

The charge sustained against Det. William Santarsiero was that he had conducted an interview with the 16-year old student without a parent present. A Letter of Counseling was issued to Det. Santarsiero for violations of the Department’s Rules and Regulations, Section 9.2. Also, Section 9.9, General

Conduct and the SPD Operational Directive 2010-01 concerning Statements from Juveniles and/or detention of Juveniles.

Det. Santarsiero subsequently filed a grievance concerning his Letter of Counseling, which was denied (by Chief Daly). A letter from Det. Santarsiero appealing the denial (by Chief Daly) of his grievance followed and Det. Santarsiero then requested that the Board of Police Commissioners overturn the decision which was submitted to the Board for action.

Chairman Verderame asks if there are any comments or questions from the audience and/or the commissioners. There were none.

At 6:10 p.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2010, it was then commented that Det. William Santarsiero WAS NOT PRESENT at said Grievance Hearing. Chairman Verderame asked for direction from Attorney Martocchio. Attorney Martocchio directed Commissioners to note the time as cited above and indicated all had been properly documented including Chief Daly commenting that Det. Santarsiero had been duly notified and had indicated that he did want an open hearing on Grievance 2010-03. Attorney Martocchio instructed Chairman Verderame that the vote on the grievance could move forward. Chairman Verderame called for a motion.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Pestillo to deny Grievance 2010-03, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, all in favor, motion passed.**

### **Report by Chief Daly**

Chief Daly informed Commissioners of upcoming events:

PBA Golf Tournament on September 16, 2010

Apple Festival Parade on October 3, 2010, inviting Commissioners to walk with police personnel

Awards Night on September 30, 2010

Elks Public Safety Night on October 21, 2010

POD exercise on Saturday, September 11, 2010 (Capt. Palmieri would discuss further). Chief Daly then commended both Capt. Palmieri and Capt. Simone for all of their efforts and their ability to work well with the other town agencies involved in the POD exercise.

Chief Daly also commented that Supernumerary Kizilski would be graduating from the Meriden Police Academy on September 22, 2010. Supernumerary Armack and Officer Steven Cifone started with the Department on August 27, 2010, both currently in the Academy.

Chief Daly turned meeting over to Capt. Palmieri. Capt. Palmieri indicated that there had been 31 tags issued as related to the parking enforcement in the center of town of which 27 were overtime parking. He commented on the Center Street violations and indicated that two written warnings were issued for wrong way travel, both were issued on third shift and both operators were from out of town.

Capt. Palmieri informed Commissioners that an Operational Directive was sent out on September 7, 2010 by Lt. Edward Slodzinski, Jr. The Directive created an Infraction Enforcement action only (mail in fine) for an operator traveling the wrong way on Center Street.

The issue of Riccio Way traffic concerns was also addressed by Capt. Palmieri. He indicated that Officer Frank Bavaro had spoken with Director Frank Bonilla of Branford Hall Career Institute and advised him of the traffic complainants. Officer Bavaro was informed by Mr. Bonilla that he would advise the student body and send flyers out if necessary. He also stated he had been in contact with the Dept. of Transportation to see about lengthening the traffic light cycle so that more vehicles could exit Riccio Way. Capt. Palmieri further indicated that we have an officer on patrol in the center of town and if need be that officer could work the light.

Captain Palmieri informed Commissioners there were eleven drug arrests during the month of August, five on warrants and six on site. He further informed Commissioners concerning the NIBRS report, comparing August, 2009 to August, 2010 there was a 15% overall increase. As to monthly activity report for the officers as presented, Chairman Verderame questioned if the officers' activity was up or down. Captain Palmieri responded that the activity fluctuates. He continued the Department has a standard where we have one contact per day on work days and the officer has the discretion as to why type of action or contact is taken, i.e. verbal, issued warning or ticket. The activity of each officer is reviewed by the supervisors and if there is a problem it is addressed.

Captain Palmieri then spoke on the upcoming POD (Point of Distribution)

event that will be taking place on Saturday, September 11, 2010, at St. Thomas Parking Lot. He indicated there would be a service at the school cafeteria at 8:30 a.m. remembering the ninth year anniversary of the Tragedy of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The POD event will run from 9 to 12 and Captain explained that the group is attempting to simulate that the Town was hit by a hurricane and it is now a week or two later and we will try to get food, water and ice to the community. The supplies will be brought down Bristol Street and off loaded into cars for distribution. The drill will be a testing of communications and will incorporate the police, fire, public health, highway and the CERT group. Captain Palmieri further indicated that Bozzutos was generous enough to donate 50 cases of water and a tractor trailer truck to also test the route.

Captain Palmieri then brought the Commissioners up to speed concerning the Emergency Medical Dispatch. He indicated that the Department has hired two new dispatchers, Jason Marquez and Brenden Bohan. He indicated that both dispatchers just completed State of Conn. Collect training. On September 28, 2010 they will attend 911 phone system training and November 15 to 23, 2010 they will attend the State of Connecticut Telecommunicator training. He indicated orientation for the new dispatchers would begin on September 10<sup>th</sup> and the EMD dispatch training would take place when the EMD vendor was determined.

As far as training the two new dispatchers would be shadowing two current dispatchers who will cover all the procedures and operations within the Dispatch Center. Shortly thereafter Marquez and Bohan will begin to demonstrate their ability to carry out the core functions of the Dispatching Center. As the core functions are completed the current dispatchers will sign off on the newly hired dispatchers. The training of the new dispatchers will continue until October 26, 2010 and their performance will be reviewed by their trainers and a decision will be made as to their ability to dispatch without assistance.

Captain Palmieri discussed three quotes that he had received which were, Priority Dispatch at \$123,600; APCO Institute at \$39,870 and Power Phone at \$41,766. He explained that these quotes relate to the software to be used to assist the dispatchers during an emergency and will also assist with a medical, fire call and police calls. He pointed out that Power Phone included a cost of \$3,500 for an interface (which was not included in any other quote); therefore, if you take the \$3,500 off of the \$41,766 we drop down to \$38,266.

Captain Palmieri's recommendation was to use Power Phone. He indicated

that Power Phone is the current vendor for EMD training. Nine of the twelve dispatchers currently employed are Power Phone certified. Central Dispatch also uses Power Phone for EMD recertification. Power Phone is Connecticut based and provides several specialty dispatching training classes in the state. Captain Palmieri further stated it would be wise to continue to use Power Phone because of the consistency in overall operations (no need to learn a new system), the employees are familiar with the EMD system, three employees to train versus all twelve employees and Power Phone is the low quote.

Captain Palmieri, with the support of Chief Daly, requested that a letter be sent to the Town Council asking that the bid of Power Phone be accepted without the “going out to bid process” having to be completed. Chairman Verderame questioned how many dispatchers were trained. Response from Captain Palmieri was nine trained, three to be trained between October 13 to 15, 2010 if we go with Power Phone, then all will be certified. Captain Palmieri further indicated that EMD would go live on Monday, November 1, 2010.

Captain Palmieri indicated that the Town would be receive approximately \$270,000 in E911 subsidy monies once EMD commenced which included \$176,000 in back money and approximately \$94,530 forward. Capt. Palmieri also commented that there was the possibility of grant monies available for possible future capital improvements.

Voice consensus taken, all Commissioners agreed to the Power Phone quote and for a letter to be sent to the Town Council for their consideration to waive the bidding process. Commissioners all thanked Captain Palmieri for his efforts.

Upcoming Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 6:30 at the Southington High School Auditorium. Lt. Edward Pocock III gave an updated presentation to the Commissioners. He indicated that he had a meeting that afternoon with Commissioner Bedard and Officer Tillotson.

Lt. Pocock requested that the commissioners consider a motion be made General Order 100-26.3 concerning the Perfect Attendance Award. Lt. Pocock also explained the additional changes concerning Rifleman’s Badges.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Nevelos to accept the change to General Order 100-26.3 as recommended by Lt. Edward Pocock seconded by Commissioner**

**Pestillo, all in favor, motion passed.**

Lt. Pocock spoke on the awards submission indicating there were a commendation and three excellent police work to be approved via a motion.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Pestillo to accept the accept recommendations made by Lt. Pocock and the members of the Awards Committee, cited as (a) to (d) as documented by Lt. Edward Pocock seconded by Commissioner Bedard, all in favor, motion passed.**

Chief Daly spoke on the Annual Fiscal Report and noted that approximately 32% of the overtime account has been spent.

**There were no commissioner communications.**

**There were no public communications.**

**Old Business.**

Chief Daly commented on the hiring of the Department's two new dispatchers, Jason Marquez and Brenden Bohan. Chief Daly explained that a new process was used in the testing process and wanted to thank publicly all the individuals who insured that the dispatcher hiring process ran smoothly, professionally and accurately. Those individuals involved in the total process were Lt. Edward Pocock, Sgt. Michael Gallo, Officers Jason Watson and Michael Kahn, Dispatcher Jill Bouchard from the Southington Police Department. Also, Lt. Jim Paul from the Fire Department and a civilian, George Pohorilak.

Chairman Verderame called for a motion to ratify a voice vote.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Nevelos to ratify the voice vote taken to hire Jason Marquez and Brenden Bohan prior to this Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia, all in favor, motion passed.**

**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 Pestillo. All in favor. Motion passed at 6:31 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri  
Recording Secretary

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
Executive Session

Sept. 9, 2010

Chairman Verderame called the Executive Session to order at 6:31 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 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri  
Recording Secretary

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting after Executive Session

Sept. 9, 2010

Chairman Verderame called the Regular Meeting after Executive Session to order at 6:45 p.m.

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

No other business to come before the meeting.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Della Vecchia  
to adjourn the meeting, seconded by  
Commissioner Bedard, all in favor.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri  
Recording Secretary





