

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners held at Southington Police Department Community Room, 69 Lazy Lane, Southington, CT. on November 12, 2009. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Verderame at 6:02 p.m.

Commissioners Triano, Bedard, Nevelos and Della Vecchia were present. Chief John Daly was present

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Bedard.

Chairman Verderame called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2009.

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 8, 2009 seconded by Commissioner Nevelos. All in favor, Motion passed.

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

Chief Daly explained the various requisitions requiring Commissioner's signatures for requisitions in excess of \$1,000. The requisition request for Perfectemp was discussed at length. Chief Daly reminded the Commissioners that a recent transfer of \$15,000 was approved and placed into the Equipment Maintenance account line. However, Chief Daly explained that due to the ongoing problems concerning the heating and air conditioning system the \$15,000 transfer may not be enough to complete this fiscal year. Chief Daly then informed the Commissioners of another unexpected cost that occurred this week which was the need to replace the boiler. Capt. Simone would be giving the Commissioners an updated report on the boiler issue later into the meeting. Chief Daly also presented the monthly Munis report concerning the expenses paid for the period October to November, 2009.

MOTION made by Commissioner DellaVecchia to approve the monthly Munis Report as submitted for period October to November, 2009 together with all requisitions presented for signature, seconded by Commissioner Nevelos. All in favor motion passed.

Report to Commissioners by Chief Daly.

Chief Daly informed Commissioners that the Department had received a check in the amount of \$2,520 from the Connecticut Light and Power Company. Said check was for participation in the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund Program. The check received was due to the retrofitting of several traffic signals throughout the Town of Southington with LED signals. Chief Daly stated that Capt. Simone had completed all of the paperwork necessary to receive the Energy Opportunities reimbursement. The funds would be turned over to the Town of Southington

Chief Daly called upon Capt. William Palmieri to give the Operation Division's Activity Report.

Parking Ride & Walk: The officers have continued to monitor the down town parking situation and interact with the community at large. Sgt. Nicholas Spratto on November 10, 2009 conducted a supervisory review and the following concerns were noted from the business owners:

Vehicles traveling the wrong way down Center Street. The patrol officers have been directed to monitor and enforce any violations. The signage in the area is to be reviewed. Two hour parking was requested to extend to Saturday until 5:00 p.m. Captain Palmieri stated that Mr. John Solury from the Parking Authority was already involved. Parking Enforcement to include Sundays. The patrols are to monitor/enforce the general parking violations. Two-hour restrictions do not apply on Sundays. Speeding vehicles and loud motorcycles traveling west on Center Street.

Sergeant Spratto's review consisted of speaking with nine different business owners. All owners were happy with the officers' efforts and the overall program. Capt. Palmieri further noted that there was other discussion which included a non-police related concern and this shows a buy in or a connection developing between

the business community and the police. He stated this is very important to the program's success and longevity.

Capt. Palmieri spoke on the Webster Bank, Queen Street robbery on October 22, 2009. He stated the getaway vehicle was found in Bristol along with the driver. The suspect, Edward Nowak was located in a hotel and arrested by the Southington Police Detectives with the assistance of the Waterbury Police Department.

Capt. Palmieri addressed the problems at Derynoski School and the lower lot enforcement which took place on October 9, 2009. He prefaced his comments by indicating that the Department had reached out to parents via the newspaper to alert parents that some of their children were not where they were telling their parents that they were, i.e. behind Derynoski School instead of somewhere else. The Patrol and Detective Division (Net Unit also) worked together which was the brain child of Officer Jim Armack, and a total of 15 arrests were made. The arrests entailed, four possession of tobacco by minor infractions, one juvenile summons arrest for possession of marijuana, failure to display headlights and operating motor vehicle without a license, four misdemeanor summons arrests or possession of marijuana, one summons for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, possession alcohol by a minor, improper attachment on plates, five infractions for possession of alcohol by a minor.

Next issue was the entry, vandalism, stolen and recovered vehicle crimes. the Detective Division has been working on numerous cases of vehicles being entered, vandalized and stolen since August, 2009 up to October, 2009. Two arrests have been made and the suspects are under the age of 18.

Next incident was an arrest of a murder suspect at a local hotel. The City of Bristol had a murder involving a firearm on November 1, 2009. The Bristol Police had a valid arrest warrant for Murder 1st Degree. The Central Region emergency Response Team was activated when it was found that the suspect was at the hotel. A plan was formulated and the accused was arrested outside the hotel without incident. Two other people with the accused were arrested for narcotics violations.

Capt. Palmieri informed the Commissioners that the Click it or Ticket Program, Wave 37 would take place from November 16th to November 29th, 21009. Five checkpoints will be set up with the Plainville Police. The monies for reimbursement for this Wave are paid for through a State Grant. Capt. Palmieri noted a pre-survey of 200 vehicles conducted on Meriden-Waterbury turnpike

showed 72% usage. He hoped that would increase after the Wave.

He further noted the Senior Housing Patrols will continue within the Senior Housing Communities and the holiday patrols would be starting up in the plazas and business areas of Southington.

Lastly Captain Palmieri spoke on the community interaction patrol which was formed as a result of complaints dealing with skateboarders, trespassing/loitering, drug use, underage drinking all within the Southington Center area which is defined as Main Street at Chestnut Street to North Main Street at Mill Street. Lt. Slodzinski is overseeing this project and Officer Jason Watson volunteered for the detail. Captain Palmieri described to the Commissioners the S.A. R. S. (Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment) application for achieving the desired results.

Chief Daly called upon Captain Greg Simone to explain the new sexual harassment policy. Capt. Simone indicated this policy was looked at as part of the Department's ongoing policy review. Over the past months all upper management, all the sergeants and a majority of the lieutenants have attended training classes sponsored by the law firm of Siegel, O'Connor. The class was entitled, "Sexual Harassment Prevent Training for Supervisors". Subsequent to the class, Sergeants Gallo and Doerfler were tasked with comparing our current sexual harassment policy which was adopted in 1998 to the new developments over the past eleven years. The policy it was found had not changed that much however different examples of sexual harassment were added into the policy. Captain Simone indicated that the Town Attorney had reviewed the proposed changes and the final document was presented to the Commissioners for review and adoption.

After review, motion made as follows:

MOTION made by Commissioner Triano to accept the Sexual Harassment General Order 100-1.1 as presented, seconded by Commissioner DellaVecchia all in favor, Motion passed.

Captain Simone additionally gave reports on two equipment maintenance issues and also the quarterly safety committee.

Equipment Maintenance – Treadmills. Captain Simone indicated that two

years ago the Department had purchased two used treadmills at a price of approximately \$400 each. Recently problems have developed with the circuit boards which are not covered under any warranty. Two quotes were obtained from Advantage Fitness for repairs to the machines. Quotes obtained to repair two treadmills were \$3,240 and one treadmill would be \$1,160. Captain Simone informed Commissioners that the cost to repair could not be taken from the gym equipment account as the account was designated for the purchase of new equipment only. Commissioner Triano questioned the usage. Captain Simone stated the treadmills get a lot of use. He further commented he was getting price quotes for the purchase of new treadmills for the Commissioners' consideration.

Captain Simone then spoke at length about the boiler issue indicating that on November 9th water was found to be leaking from boiler No. 1 in the mechanical room. Perfectemp was contacted and we were advised there was a crack in the cast iron boiler. The boiler was shut down and the department is now working off of one boiler for heat. The Department had a problem with the same boiler in November of 2004 when the gaskets were replaced by Saucier Mechanical in January of 2005 at a cost of \$3,900. The job was not covered by warranty and the manufacturer Smith Cast Iron Boiler inspected the boiler also. Perfectemp contacted a representative from Smith Boilers and the cast iron boiler section is covered by warranty however the installation and miscellaneous parts and gaskets are not covered. Perfectemp has been quoted in the amount of \$2,676 to repair the boiler problem which includes labor and materials. Capt. Simone reminded the Commissioners if this boiler goes down we have none.

Commissioner Bedard questioned why are there so many problems? Commissioner Triano indicated that he believed all of these problems revert back to the initial installation of the products and perhaps the Town Attorney should get involved and some communication should take place with the Attorney General's office. Short discussion between Commissioners on the equipment maintenance problems. Both Chief Daly and Capt. Simone reminded Commissioners that much of the equipment that is in the building requires proprietary parts and that is adding to the problems because the parts have to be purchased from the original vendor with no substitutions. Commissioner Triano questioned if there is anyone we could go to for answers, i.e. building committee. Answer was no as the committee had been disbanded.

Quarterly Safety Committee. Captain Simone informed Commissioners that at the October meeting discussion took place concerning an injury related to the

replacing of the five gallon water bottles onto the water coolers. One of the Department's employees had an elbow injury from replacing the five-gallon water bottles. At the meeting the Town Manager made a comment that due to these types of injuries perhaps the water coolers should be removed. Fire Chief Clark indicated that he in fact had them removed and placed filters on the water lines at the Fire Department. Capt. Simone stated this was the first injury of this type. Capt. Simone requested guidance from the Commissioners as to whether to keep the coolers or to remove them. Commissioner Triano commented that no matter what injuries occur they should be discussed in order to prevent future injuries from occurring. Chief Daly indicated that is what the safety committee discusses and Capt. Simone indicated that he returns and informs. It was decided by the Commissioners to maintain the water coolers throughout the Department.

Chief Daly then read a letter from Officer Anthony Cannatelli announcing his retirement from the Southington Police Department after eleven years of service due to illness. In closing, Officer Cannatelli wanted to thank the police commission, Chief Daly and his brother and sister officers and the citizens of Southington for allowing him the privilege of working as a Southington Police Officer. Officer Cannatelli retired from the Southington Police Department effective October 19, 2009.

Chief Daly stated the Department was starting to move in a new direction into the world of the internet and he introduced Officer Michael Kahn who would be giving a presentation on establishing an account on face book for the Police Department. Chief indicated that this was an idea directly from Officer Kahn. Officer Kahn's presentation to the Commissioners explained that the facebook would be another way to distribute information to the public. He indicated it would be a supplement to the department's website and the twitter account. Officer Kahn gave a detailed explanation and explained the difference between facebook and twitter. Commissioner Bedard questioned if the Department's facebook account would be like any other facebook account. The answer was no as the facebook account would only be outgoing, one way. Chief Daly commented we do not want other people setting up and posting on our account. Commissioners approved the idea and Officer Kahn would set up the accounts.

Chief Daly presented an offer from Post University wherein our officers would be offered the opportunity to return to school at a ten percent (10%) discount. He indicated Post University only requested that the Department sign off on the proposal. Further stated, he had the Town Attorney review the proposal and

it is acceptable. Chief Daly stated that Department has been encouraging our officers to go back to school. He indicated that Post University representatives came to the Department and met with 12 individuals who were looking to go back to school. He commented this is a positive thing and it does not force any officer to go to Post University however if an officer chose to go to Post University the officer would get the discounted rate. Commissioner Triano asked if the money was allocated. Chief Daly responded yes it is in our budget and if anyone does plan on returning to school they have to get approval of the Commission first if the individual is planning on requesting reimbursement. Chief Daly then commented we currently have two individuals in school who have received permission and are enrolled in school.

Letters from recipients of a tag had been distributed to the Commissioners. Commission members had reviewed the letter 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 three recently received contested parking tags, seconded by Commissioner Triano, all in favor Motion passed.

A letter will be sent to the individuals who had contested their issued tags.

One tag was also tabled pending communication with the Parking Authority and another tag was denied.

Chief Daly spoke on a memo received from Officer Thomas Gallo who had attended on October 14, 2009 the annual CPCA/DOT Chief's Challenge luncheon. Chief Daly also presented a plaque for the Commissioners to see. Officer Gallo indicated that Southington Police Department was awarded second place in the municipal category in the 2008 CPCA Chief's Challenge. Chief Daly explained that the Chief's Challenge is a yearly competition between departments of like size. The challenge takes into consideration all areas of traffic including enforcement, accidents, training, policy and guidelines, incentives and recognition, public information, education and effectiveness of efforts. The application is submitted and is not only judged statewide but nationally as well. Chief Daly added this is the second time the department has placed in the top two statewide in this

challenge. In 2006 the Department placed first.

Commissioner Communications. None

Public Communications. None

Old Business.

Chief Daly indicated that a voice vote had been taken concerning the hiring of Officer Christopher Lamarre and he believed a motion was needed:

MOTION made by Commissioner Triano to hire Christopher Lamarre to the rank of police officer with the Southington Police Department effective October 28, 2009, seconded by Commissioner Bedard, all in favor, motion based on voice vote Approved.

MOTION made by Commissioner Bedard to adjourn the regular meeting and go immediately into executive session, including Chief Daly, and including Officer Ronald Cash and his attorney when called, excluding the press and the public, for the purpose of discussing personnel and contractual issues, and also the LEAS grievances, seconded by Commissioner Della Vecchia. All in favor. Motion passed at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri
Recording Secretary

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Executive Session

November 12, 2009

Chairman Verderame called the Executive Session to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Personnel and Contractual issues were discussed.

At 7:15 Officer Ronald Cash and Attorney Andrew L. Houlding were called into Executive Session.

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

Executive Session adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri
Recording Secretary

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting after Executive Session

November 12, 2009

Chairman Verderame called the Regular Meeting after Executive Session to order at 8:05 p.m.

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

MOTION made by Commissioner Della Vecchia to deny the LEAS Grievance 2009-01, seconded by Commissioner Bedard, all in favor, motion passed.

MOTION made by Commissioner Triano to deny the LEAS Grievance No. 2009-02, seconded by Commissioner Nevelos, 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 Triano, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne D. Palmieri
Recording Secretary

