

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
APRIL 11, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.
Southington Police Department
69 Lazy Lane
Southington, CT 06489

Chairman Richard Montague, PhD called the meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Southington Police Department, 69 Lazy Lane, Southington, CT with the following in attendance:

Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner James Verderame, Sr., Commissioner Nicholas DePaola and Commissioner Sharon O'Brien, and John F. Daly, Chief of Police

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain
Lowell DePalma, Operations Lieutenant

Richard Montague, PhD, Chair, presiding:

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone in attendance.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from the previous meeting, March 2013.

The March meeting minutes were amended as to item #11 – regular session. Commissioner DePaola seconded the motion to hire Natalie Paquet as fulltime dispatcher effective 3-19-2013, rather than Commissioner Pestillo.

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2013 meeting. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:01p.m.

3. Communications.

a. Communications from the Public

None.

b. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner DePaola stated that he realizes that the Department is short handed now with Captain Pocock being gone and would like to commend Lt. DePalma, Captain Palmieri and Chief Daly for carrying the work load, the additional responsibilities and duties, along with their regular duties. It also makes him extremely happy that all the departments are working together; the detective division,

patrol division and the administration. That is what makes a department function perfectly.

Commissioner DePaola also stated that he had occasion a couple days ago to use the services of Captain Palmieri and the detective division. They were very cordial to him and would like to commend Detective Triano for handling a situation quickly and professionally and that they all worked well together.

Chairman Montague, PhD agreed with Commissioner DePaola in that the Captain and Lieutenants have been picking up a lot of added responsibilities and that the Master Sergeants have seemed to be working out well for management.

4. Report to Commission by Chief Daly.

- a. CPCA (Connecticut Police Chiefs Association) Expo will be next Thursday, April 18th, at the Aqua Turf. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch is at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome.
- b. Chief Daly's term as the President of the CPCA was set to expire on June 12th, however his replacement has announced that he is not going to accept the presidency because of his retirement and Chief Daly has been asked to stay on another year as the President of the CPCA. Chairman Montague, PhD states that he thinks this is a good idea. Commissioner O'Brien states that she thinks it is an honor that Chief Daly has been asked and accepted to serve a second term as CPCA President. Chief Daly looks forward to another year as the President of the CPCA. He will be the first CPCA President to serve two terms. Chief Daly will provide the Commissioners with the dates for all the quarterly meetings throughout the end of the year.
- c. There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th at 3:00 p.m., in the SPD classroom for the employees of the Police Department. Shane Lockwood, our Health Director, will be coming in to explain the results of the air testing we had done at the building.

5. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri

- a. Department General Orders and Procedures

Captain Palmieri gave an overview of the general orders he is currently working on. Starting May 1st the Department will need to have a policy on eyewitness identification – a photo lineup. This is because there are State regulations with respect to photo lineups.

b. Information Requests

Captain Palmieri stated he had two (2) Freedom of Information requests, the first dealing with the handling of anonymous complaints. The second requested information on the processing of pistol permits.

Grant Information

Captain Palmieri states that he has submitted another grant to the Innocent Justice Foundation. This is a private foundation. The Department is trying to get a cell phone analyzer. There will be a meeting with a grant representative in May of this year. There would be no cost to the Town. The foundation would pay for the device and the Department would cover the training. They would be able to analyze cell phones right at the SPD. Currently they have to outsource to other police departments.

Captain Palmieri will supply a list of all grants they have applied for at the next administrative report.

Brief discussion of how different grants work and where the money goes.

c. Budget Request Transfers FY 2012-2013

Meeting was postponed from Wednesday, April 10th to Monday, April 15th.

d. Budget Update FY 2013-2014

Board of Finance took \$25,000 more from the Department's overtime. Overtime line going into FY 13-14, if ratified by the Council as is, would be \$415,000.

6. Detective Division Report by Captain Palmieri

The Detective Division has 46 active cases with four investigators assigned. Patrol officers and detectives are working together. Everyone is pitching in. Captain Palmieri confirms that all active cases are recent. Some cases are a longer process than others. None are 3 -4 years old.

Chief Daly confirms that we are short two people and have two vacancies in the Detective Division currently.

Brief discussion with respect to how long it takes to get a search warrant and the basic process, which depends on the specific case.

7. Operations Report by Lieutenant DePalma

a. MADD Walk

The Police Department is working again with Mothers Against Drunk Driving on Saturday, April 27th, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. for the Walk Like MADD event. A walk to increase awareness for their cause. The PD's roll is to assist with traffic and

public safety but also gives them the chance to get some of their crime prevention points out to the town's people. This year the walk is dedicated to the memory of Michael Elber of Fairfield who was killed in a DWI crash. There are still about 10,000 who die every year from DWI related accidents. Teen alcohol kills about 6,000 every year and car crashes are the leading cause of teen deaths.

b. PAC Meeting

On March 27, 2013 Commissioners O'Brien and DePaola, Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, Captain Pocock, Lieutenant Baribault and Lieutenant DePalma attended the Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut awards dinner to recognize Officer Alexander Milne for his achievement at the police academy. He graduated first in his class with a grade point average of 95.35. He was awarded with an engraved Sturm-Ruger SR9 handgun. Photographs are online on the PCAC website.

c. Central Business Alliance Walkthrough Downtown

On March 21, 2013 Officer Petro met with members of the Central Business Alliance. This was for the annual downtown walk in Southington. The Department does this in partnership with Southington's downtown merchants and the Chamber of Commerce. It gives the PD an opportunity to form community relations with the business community itself and provides the PD the opportunity to get some crime prevention tips out to them. Some issues found during the walk were: parking concerns; signs that were damaged; sidewalks that were damaged; garbage in the area; missing gas and water caps. This gets information to the people and also helps keep downtown looking better.

Our parking enforcement, bicycle patrol and T3 vehicle will be downtown again enforcing parking violations.

d. CERT operation New London

In regard to our Central Region Emergency Response Team, in an operation that took place in New London, CT. On April 3, 2013 the United States Attorney's Office, the New London State's Attorney's Office, Homeland Security, United States Secret Service, the United States Postal Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Explosives, The United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Customs and Border Protection, The Office of Air and Marine, and the United States Marshal Service participated in "Operation Checkmate". Our CERT team, which is also our SWAT Team, was also called in to assist. In total there were approximately 800 officers and agents that participated in this one day event. This was a 15 month investigation and a massive heroin and cocaine trafficking operation which also included money laundering and gun trafficking in three countries. The operation headed over 100 arrests and disrupted gang operations and drug operations in the entire northeast section of our country. In the planning stage 12 targets were identified as being extremely dangerous; murder suspects, gun runners, drug runners, human traffickers and the like. Because of our reputation and skill set, our team was chosen to capture one of the most dangerous

persons on the list. Our team was able to apprehend the suspect, place him under arrest without injury to him, his family or any member on the team. Lt. DePalma stated that he is very proud to be the Commander of this team. Lt. DePalma further stated that because of Master Sergeant Wilson tactical plan this whole operation was a success. Lt. DePalma would like to commend Master Sergeant Wilson and the entire CERT team for their professionalism.

8. Bills Submitted for payment

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:28 p.m.

9. Old Business budget

None

10. All other business deemed proper and appropriate to be brought before the Board at this time.

Motion to enter into executive session was made by Commissioner DePaola excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. Included in executive session were Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, Lieutenant DePalma and Attorney Kevin Roy. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote at 6:29 p.m.

Whereupon, The Commission went into executive session at 6:29 p.m.

Executive Session

The Southington Board of Police Commissioners entered executive session immediately following their regular meeting with the following in attendance in order to discuss personnel and contractual issues:

Chairman Richard Montague PhD, Commissioner Steve Pestillo, Commissioner James Verderame, Sr., Commissioner Nicholas DePaola, and Commissioner Sharon O'Brien, and John F. Daly, Chief of Police

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain
Lowell DePalma, Operations Lieutenant

Labor Attorney:
Attorney Kevin Roy, Shipman & Goodwin

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to return to public session. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:29 p.m.

Executive session was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Regular Session

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to add the promotion of two officers to the rank of detective. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:30 p.m.

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to promote Officer James Armack to the rank of detective effective immediately. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:31 p.m.

Motion to enter back into executive session was made by Commissioner Pestillo excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. Included in executive session were Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, and Lieutenant DePalma. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote at 7:32 p.m.

Whereupon, The Commission went back into executive session at 7:32 p.m.

Executive Session

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to return to public session. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:47 p.m.

Executive session was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Regular Session

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to promote Officer Adam Tillotson to the rank of detective effective Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:48 p.m.

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to certify the detective promotion list for one (1) year from April 11, 2013. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:49 p.m.

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to add dispatch grievance 2013-02 to the agenda. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to deny dispatch grievance 2013-02. Commissioner DePaola seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:51 p.m.

Motion to enter back into executive session was made by Commissioner Pestillo excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. Included in executive session were Chief Daly, Captain Palmieri, and Lieutenant DePalma. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote at 7:52 p.m.

Whereupon, The Commission went back into executive session at 7:52 p.m.

Executive Session

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to return to public session. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 8:39 p.m.

Executive session was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Regular Session

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to adjourn the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Pestillo seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 8:40 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jodi Lapreay
Recording Secretary