

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 9, 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.

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain
Lieutenant Lowell DePalma, Operations
Lieutenant Michael Baribault
Master Sergeant Robert Wilson, Patrol Operations

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, April 2013.

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2013 meeting. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:01p.m.

3. Communications.

a. Communications from the Public

Art Cyr of 103 Berlin Ave., Southington, CT attended the meeting to state the following:

He states that he has attended a lot of meetings and has given a lot of input regarding the need for the charter revision, however, this Board (Board of Police Commissioners) was not one of his concerns. This Department and this Board are very low on his list of problem places. He states that, as soon as a charter revision was announced, people started posting silly stuff in the newspaper saying that the revision was facilitated to replace the Chief and he wanted to address the fact that this is not true. He pushed for the charter revision for other reasons and problems in other areas. He stated that the only people who think the charter revision is in order to get rid of the Chief of Police are people who know absolutely nothing.

Mr. Cyr also requests that Lt. DePalma review the plans with respect to the growing YMCA road race during the Apple Festival. He would like his street and a few others closed down for an hour or so during the race. Mr. Cyr would like Lt. DePalma to provide a detailed report of what the new plan is for the race. He states that the Town needs a solid plan as to how to deal with all of the runners.

Brief discussion regarding Commissioners' terms and issued items.

b. Commissioner Communications

Commissioner O'Brien congratulates Chief Daly on his appointment to the Police Officers Standards and Training Council. She thinks this is very prestigious and that it says a lot about the Department; that they are efficient, effective and have good leadership. It is a great honor and she is very proud of the Chief.

Commissioner DePaola responds to Mr. Cyr's concern regarding the size of the YMCA road race. He states that they are valid concerns since the race has grown significantly. He believes they should consider having the race on two weekends or staggering the start times. Less people on the road at a particular time is easier to control for safety reasons. If it becomes too big it is a safety hazard and it loses its original appeal. Smaller, more manageable groups make more sense.

Commissioner DePaola states that he is dismayed and flabbergasted relative to the comments in the newspaper over the last month or so with respect to the charter revision and it being a plot to oust the current Chief of Police. Commissioner DePaola states that this information is totally unsubstantiated and that there is absolutely no proof or documentation to back up such an allegation. He discusses why he feels this way and why it is wrong and why it is hurtful to many people. Commissioner DePaola also addresses the fact that a statement has been made that there are four Republicans on the Commission therefore they can do anything they want. He states that this is absolutely false and he would not be a party to that type of thing. They work as one cohesive unit and this should not be interrupted with nonsense. Commissioner DePaola states that none of the people on this Commission were consulted with respect to the charter revision. Commissioner DePaola discussed the Commission's role in the hiring process. He hopes that, from this day forward, everything will be handled on a professional basis.

Commissioner O'Brien agrees with Commissioner DePaola and states that it is inappropriate and needs to stop and continue in a professional manner. She also states that, having attended the last charter revision meeting where the Town Manager from Meriden was in attendance, he did not show that there was any advantage to having the Departments report directly to him and no efficiencies in making that change.

Commissioner Pestillo states that the Commission on Disabilities held an event at Hawk Landing and he thanks the Police Department for their attendance. He also appreciates the work being done on the medication drop box. Commissioner Pestillo states that he also agrees

with everything Commissioner DePaola has stated with respect to the charter revision and the Chief of Police's position.

Commissioner Montague adds that there is a State statute that states that neither the Board of Police Commissioners nor the Town Council can fire the Chief of Police. Other towns that have tried to do that (such as Hamden and East Hampton) never ended up getting rid of the original Chief. The State statute does not allow that, so he's not sure why people would even go there with that discussion.

4. Chief Jack Daly's Report to Commission by Captain Palmieri.

- a. On April 18, 2013 the CPCA Expo was held at the Aqua Turf. The Chief would like to thank those that attended.
- b. June 12, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. is the annual CPCA meeting in Farmington. Chief Daly will be sworn in for his second term as President of the CPCA.
- c. August 26, 2013 is the CPCA Golf Classic at the TPC River Highlands.
- d. September 19, 2013 is the CPCA Fall Quarterly meeting in Waterbury.
- e. December 12, 2013 is the CPCA winter meeting in Cromwell.
- f. October 19 – 23 is the IACP training conference in Philadelphia.
- g. The Chief also wanted to thank the Board of Police Commissioners for allowing him to attend Captain Pocock's graduation in Kentucky. The Chief is very proud of Captain Pocock.
- h. Letters from the public: Officer Cifone received a letter commending him for doing a good job on a motor vehicle accident. The Department also received a letter with respect to video games and is in the process of responding to that letter.

5. Administrative Report by Captain Palmieri

a. Eyewitness Identification Policy/Directive

This went into effect on May 1st. A new way to go about doing photo lineups which is mandated by statute. Will no longer be using photo boards. Instead will be using a new process that will neutralize the identification process.

b. Grant Information

Currently have a bulletproof vest grant which allows 50% reimbursement to the officer. There is a mandatory wear policy. The balance of that grant is currently \$24,830.00. The JAG grant balance is currently \$38,762.00. That is a non-matching grant where they will be getting their audio/video recording system for the booking area, new switches for a new CT Chief Program allowing them to share information from other police departments, patrol rifle program allowing them to get training rifles and a speed

trailer to be used as a message board and/or tracking a vehicles speed. They met with Heather Steel from The Innocent Justice Foundation with respect to a cell phone analyzer. That would be no cost to the Town and allow the officers to analyze cell phones at our facility. Click It or Ticket is a reimbursable grant for safety occupancy overtime.

c. Budget Request Transfers FY 2012-2013

Brief discussion with respect to transfers and appropriations into specific accounts and the amount of gasoline used in the 4-wheel drive vehicles, which is relatively the same and equally as efficient. Lt. Baribault confirms that the 4-wheel drive SUVs we have purchased are designed for a police vehicle and are built on the same chaise as the sedan. Gas mileage is basically equal.

Brief discussion with respect to the caliber of patrol rifles and number of rounds needed for the training rifles.

6. Detective Bureau Report by Captain Palmieri

The Department is up 166% on pistol permits. Commissioner O'Brien inquires as to whether the increase is due to the gun control legislations. Cpt. Palmieri confirms that it is due to the gun control legislation and that they are doing their best to stay on top of them. Last year the number of gun permits was 139 and currently the number is 370. Every individual permit takes time to process.

7. Operations Report by Lieutenant DePalma

a. Chief's Challenge Highway Safety

This year the Department will be participating in this challenge and judged on the Department's traffic safety programs. The people judging will be basing it on a national standard and a state standard. Since 2006 our Department has placed no lower than third place in the entire State in comparison to other Departments of the same size. On several occasions our Department came in first place. In the last two years, our Department was Best in State for the Child Safety Program. They hope to do well.

Since the warm weather is here and the snow is gone, they will be doing a lot more with respect to motor vehicle enforcement. There is heavy enforcement right now with respect to cell phone use.

b. Individuals with Disabilities in the Workforce

This was a really good event for bringing them up to speed on disabilities, what capabilities people have and what programs are out there. Such as, increasing programs and how to evaluate them, availability of planning services, ensuring an adequate and professional workforce, and supporting the education of employers and co-workers. Lt. DePalma thanks the Board for the invitation to that event. They got a lot out of it.

c. **PowerPhone Program**

The dispatchers also take care of emergency medical calls. Rather than only sending an ambulance they can also do something and help while on the phone call by using an emergency medical dispatching system. Powerphone is used to assist them in these efforts. They are able to be more direct once the computer program launches instructions and instructs as to what questions to ask. This is great not only for our Department, but for our citizens. The flip-charts previously used will still be accessible as backup.

d. **MADD Walk**

This took place on April 27th. The Department assisted with traffic and pedestrian flow. It was a great event that raised about \$13,000.00 which will be used in victim support programs throughout the State.

e. **Elks Youth Awards**

Four of the Police Explorers were recognized on by the Elks during the May 2nd dinner. Nick Cianci, Bill Freeman, Matt Reeney, and Matt Daigle were honored for their service to the community and what they have done with the PD. The local news covered it and it is up on the PD Facebook site as well.

f. **Active Shooter Exercise overview**

On April 22nd Lt. DePalma facilitated a table top exercise at the Municipal Center in regard to an active shooter to determine, if there was ever an event at one of our schools, how the Town would handle it. There was a great turnout. Simulated an active shooter at one of the schools and discussed what each department head or town official would do. Lt. DePalma confirms that we have very good plans set in our Town. However, they did learn that there are improvements that can be made in communication and coordination. There will be another Active Shooter Exercise next year.

g. On February 12, 2013 our Department received a reported motor vehicle accident on Queen Street near the Outback Restaurant. When our officers arrived they saw that three young girls had been hit by a car and the vehicle had left the area. One of those girls subsequently died from those injuries. Today, at approximately 11:00 a.m., we arrested and charged the driver of that car. He was charged with misconduct of a vehicle, and three counts of evading responsibility. Lt. DePalma commended Officer Wilke and Master Sgt. Elliott for using good old fashion police work and modern technology to close the case.

8. Training Report by Lieutenant Michael Baribault

They were able to send a multitude of people (administrators, dispatchers, detectives, patrolmen) to different types of training from February through April 2013. Training was held both offsite and onsite. Brief discussion on the specific training that has been done including an active shooter scenario (with and without force) at Bradley Memorial Hospital. Very positive feedback from this type of training.

Commissioner DePaola inquires as to whether the two new detectives are helping the work load to level out. Lt. Baribault states that having the new detectives is helping to spread out the case load and they are well deserved positions. He believes they will do a fantastic job.

9. Bills Submitted for payment

Commissioner DePaola made a motion to approve the bills as submitted. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 6:53 p.m.

10. Old Business budget

None.

11. New Business

None.

12. 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 Pestillo excluding the public and press for the purposes of personnel and contractual issues. Included in executive session were Captain Palmieri, Lieutenant DePalma and Lieutenant Baribault. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passes unanimously on a voice vote at 6:54 p.m.

Whereupon, The Commission went into executive session at 6:54 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.

Administrative staff in attendance:

William Palmieri, Administrative Captain
Lowell DePalma, Operations Lieutenant
Lieutenant Michael Baribault

No motions were made or votes taken during executive session.

Commissioner O'Brien made a motion to return to public session. Commissioner Verderame seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:21 p.m.

Executive session was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Regular session

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to add supernumerary position to the agenda. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:23 p.m. The motions added were as follows:

Commissioner Verderame made a motion to hire Jay Pleva as a supernumerary officer after meeting all the hiring requirements. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:24 p.m.

Commissioner Pestillo made a motion to adjourn the Board of Police Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner O'Brien seconded. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote at 7:25 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jodi Lapreay
Recording Secretary