

**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2006
5:30 P.M. - POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

REVISED 06/22/06

Present: Commission Members: Commissioners Joseph Ametrano, Peter Barrett,
Rose Dostert, Lawrence Muccilli

Departmental Members: Chief Thomas A. Terribile, Deputy Chief Jeffrey C.
Hutchinson, Officer Mark O'Connor, Anita Catardi
(Clerk of the Board)

Others: None

Meeting called to order by Vice - Chairman Barrett @ 5: 30 P.M.

1. Approval of prior meeting minutes

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Dostert, seconded by
Commissioner Ametrano to approve the minutes of April
19, 2006 as presented.

Vote: In favor: Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, and Dostert
Opposed: None
Abstained: Commissioner Muccilli

Motion: Motion made by Commissioner Barrett , seconded by
Commissioner Ametrano to approve the minutes
of May 5, 2006 , and May 6, 2006 as presented.

Vote: In favor: Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett
Opposed: None
Abstained: Commissioner Muccilli, Dostert

2. Public Petition/Commentary

None

3. Traffic

Motion: *Motion made by Commissioner Dostert, seconded by Commissioner Ametrano to add 3.1. Highwoods Drive Block Party to the agenda.*

Vote: In favor: Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, Dostert, and Muccilli
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

3.1 Highwoods Drive Block Party

A letter was received May 16, 2006 requesting the closure of Highwoods Drive for a block party on Saturday, June 24, 2006 with a rain date of Sunday, June 25, 2006.

Motion: *Motion made by Commissioner Dostert, seconded by Commissioner Ametrano to approve closure of a portion of Highwoods for a block party on June 24, 2006 with times noted in the request.*

Vote: In favor: Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, Dostert, and Muccilli
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

4. Committee Reports

4.1. Facilities/Equipment

Chief Terribile said some of the equipment purchases recently approved by the Commission have been delivered; ie. Taser guns, the accident reconstructionist equipment and the gun cleaner.

4.2. Personnel

4.2.1. Police Candidates progress report

Chief Terribile reported that the Meredith Thornton's background **check** is in process. The second candidate's conditional offer was withdrawn. A conditional offer has been made to the third candidate, Christopher Bird; his background **check** is currently in process. Commissioner Ametrano asked what is the time frame for background checks. Chief said it depends on the candidate; the two they are working on now shouldn't take too long. Commissioner Ametrano asked about the openings at the academy. Chief said we have one guaranteed spot with the possibility of another in October. Commissioner Barrett said the interviewing, though extensive went well and there was a good crop of candidates. He also expressed his gratitude to the Chief and Deputy for their presence during the interviews. A discussion took place regarding hiring officers from other departments

4.2.2. Grievance 2006-01

Commissioner Barrett stated that this grievance was acted upon at last month's meeting and it was his understanding through some mis-communication Officer O'Connor had the desire to be present when the grievance was heard, but was not. Commissioner asked for a motion to reconsider the grievance.

Motion: *Motion made by Commissioner Ametrano, seconded by Commissioner Dostert to reconsider Grievance 2006-01 at this time.*

Vote: *In favor:* *Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, Dostert, and Muccilli*
Opposed: *None*
Abstained: *None*

Commissioner Barrett asked Officer O'Connor if he wished to have the discussion in Public or Executive Session? Officer O'Connor said Public was fine. Officer O'Connor said his grievance was concerning the last promotional process. Officer O'Connor referred to the police contract Article XXI, section 5, regarding longevity; and Article XIX regarding seniority in his presentation he felt he is entitled to recognition for his years of service from New Haven PD. He stated that had he received the "points" for his years of service he would have finished second on the recent testing for Sergeant. He stated that in the minutes of last months commission meeting; Commissioner Cole said, " he understood that when the grievant and other lateral hires were made it was explained to them that they would receive credit only in pay." Officer O'Connor said it was not explained to him. Officer O'Connor stated he felt the contract does not specify where the experience is earned, and therefore, he is entitled to recognition for his years in New Haven.

Commissioner Barrett asked the Chief to respond.

Chief Terribile referring to Article XIX, Section 5 stated that when the Department started looking at the possibility of hiring officers from other departments there was a concern regarding the affect on current employees; seniority, and rates of pay. Chief Terribile referred to Article XIX, section 5 in the hiring of experienced police officers; it applies to rates only. He stated that in the contract, any reference to seniority or longevity is assumed to be with the Guilford Police Department. He further stated that the lateral hires didn't affect anything else, ie bidding, entitlements, etc. Chief said that when an officer is hired they receive a copy of the contract; it would be up to the Union to explain the contract to the new employee.

Commissioner Barrett asked the Chief if this is the first time longevity issues have been raised in the department? Chief said when Sgt. Norman was hired from Madison his time at Madison was not counted when he applied for Sergeant and Lieutenant promotional opportunities. The point system was never applied to Sgt. Norman's application. It has been past practice not to count prior years of service with other departments.

Commissioner Barrett referring to Page 32 of the contract, Article XIX, section 5 stated it clearly states, "applies to rates of payment only; it shall not otherwise affect or modify the terms of the collective bargaining agreement."

He asked Officer O'Connor, "when you were hired, you received pay grade A for your more than 5 years of experience. Commissioner Dostert asked "What is the difference between seniority and longevity? Officer O'Connor responded, seniority affects bidding, etc.

Commissioner Barrett stated ~~the two terms were "wedded"~~, **the section of the contract relating to the hiring of officers from other municipal departments and the section dealing with promotional points were "wedded", and should not be read independently of each other.**

Commissioner Muccilli asked where Officer O'Connor would have placed if he had received the points? Officer O'Connor said he would have placed second.

Commissioner Barrett asked if there were further questions? He asked for a motion.

Motion:

Motion made by Commissioner Ametrano, seconded by Commissioner Dostert to deny Grievance 2006-01.

Vote: In favor: Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, Dostert, and Muccilli

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Chief Terribile asked Officer O'Connor if he would be submitting a letter of withdrawal on Grievance 2006-02 to his office as agreed? Officer O'Connor said, he would.

4.3. Communications

4.3.1. Letter from Lynn Faulstick - Officer Duphily

Commissioner Dostert read a letter thanking Officer Duphily for his help in the rescue of her cat.

She stated that he was "extremely kind and patient". "His genuine concern for my feelings as a pet owner has made this situation easier for me. You have a very special police officer in Officer Duphily and for that, I thank you".

4.3.2. Letter from S.C.C.J. - Officer Brooks

Commissioner Dostert read a letter that was received from Mr. Charles Sherwood from S.C.C.J. thanking the Chief for letting Detective Sandra Brooks serve on the recent oral board examination for the position of Recruit Police Officer.

4.3.3. Letter from Sherilynne Vaughn - Officer Shove

Commissioner Ametrano read a letter from Ms. Vaughn stating that she was stopped by Officer Shove for a failed brake light. She stated that Officer Shove was both courteous and professional. Her demeanor was such that she felt her genuine caring for her well-being and safety. She wanted to take the opportunity to thank her.

4.3.4. Letter from Madison PD - Lt. Robinson, Sgt. Norman, Officers Dube, Denison, Officer Ruggiero, and Dispatcher Perrelli

Commissioner Ametrano read a letter received from Chief Jakubson expressing appreciation for the aid provided by Lt. Robinson, Sgt. Norman, Officers Ruggiero, Dube and Denison as well as Dispatcher Perrelli for their assistance in finding a missing 11 year old girl on April 27, 2006. He further stated the officers are to be commended for their high level of assistance and concern provided during this time. A special thanks to Sgt. Norman who found the missing girl.

4.4. Budget/Finance

4.4.1. 2005/2006 Budget

Chief Terribile said it looked like we will have surplus of \$23,000. When we start to cancel some blanket purchase orders that may increase. Chief said hopefully we will not have another unexpected incident as last week, which increased our overtime line to over \$6,000. He said some training classes will be cancelled until July, except a Fatal Accident class that we will be sending Officer O'Connor to. Chief Terribile told the Commissioners that we received the bid results for fuel costs for next fiscal year. We budgeted \$1.95 gallon and the bid for gasoline is \$2.40, if we continue with usage as we normal, there will be a shortfall of \$15,000 on this one line item. Heating oil will have a \$1,800 deficit. Chief asked if the Commission would be asking the Board of Selectman for additional money to our budget to cover these costs. Commissioner Barrett said this is not something you can skimp on; and he suggested that we wait for Chairman Cole to return and place this on the agenda for June for further discussion.

Chief Terribile told to the Commission that we will need only one more bicycle for patrol, not two as originally requested. We did an upgrade on one bicycle so only one new bicycle is needed. He said that currently we have money in the State and Federal Asset Forfeiture account and asked them to approve the purchase from those funds. The cost of the bicycle is \$ 1,755.91. Commissioner Ametrano asked what happens to the forfeiture monies? Chief said its use is at

our discretion. Commissioner Barrett said originally the department was talking about the purchase of two bikes and appreciated that the Chief is able to get by with one bike and not use the money out of this years budget.

Motion: *Motion made by Commissioner Dostert, seconded by Commissioner Muccilli to purchase one bicycle at the cost of \$1,755.91 out of Asset forfeiture money.*

Vote: In favor: Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, Dostert, and Muccilli
Opposed: None
Abstained: None

Chief Terribile said he had just met with the Noise Ordinance committee. He said they will be presenting an ordinance to the Town Attorney for review and then presenting it to the Board of Selectman. Chief said the committee found “time” limits are unconstitutional however there are State DEP regulations on decibel levels; which will enable us to enforce it. The department would need to purchase a decibel meter. The manufacturer would provide training with the purchase. He said he spoke to the States Attorney’s office and they are willing to come out to get the training as well to help them in court. The cost of the handheld unit is \$1,680.00; plus the printer unit at \$610.00. Chief said the Zoning Enforcement Officer would be able to use this equipment as well. Commissioner Ametrano asked why would be buy it now if we don’t have a noise ordinance in place yet? Chief explained that even without a Town Noise Ordinance, we can enforce noise complaints under the State’s D.E.P. regulations with the decibel meter. Commissioner Barrett said we should ask the Board of Selectman to purchase the meter for the Town for use by the Police Department and the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

5. Monthly Reports

Commissioner Barrett asked if there were any questions regarding the monthly reports?

Deputy Chief discussed a new report that was enclosed in the packets called “Staff Inspection”. He explained that CALEA requires a report every three years consisting of an analysis of each Division. He further stated that this gives you a snapshot of the whole Department. He derived the report from staff reports, workload analysis, etc. Chief said he has asked his staff to coordinate their reports with budget planning time as it would be helpful at that time in putting the budget together. Commissioner Barrett said to the Deputy Chief that it was an outstanding summary. It is helpful in giving the Commissioners perspective of department operations. He asked if the Deputy Chief could do the report every

year instead of every three? Commissioner Barrett also stated that this report would be extremely helpful to a new Commissioner when appointed for the first time.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

Deputy Chief Hutchinson presented pictures provided by Officer Moreno of this past weekend's events for the Explorers, they participated in an event at the State Police Academy and they came back with a few awards. Chief said there will be a week long event coming up this summer and our explorers will be participating. The Explorers pay their own way; we pay for the advisors expenses.

Commissioner Muccilli thanked the Commissioners and the Department for their support during the recent months and expressed his gratitude to be back on board.

8 Police Personnel Comments

None

Motion:

Motion made by Commissioner Ametrano, seconded by Commissioner Dostert to adjourn at 6:48 P.M.

<i>Vote:</i>	<i>In favor:</i>	<i>Commissioners Ametrano, Barrett, Dostert, and Muccilli</i>
	<i>Opposed:</i>	<i>None</i>
	<i>Abstained:</i>	<i>None</i>

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Catardi
Clerk of the Board