

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, AT THE EAST HAVEN SENIOR CENTER, 91 TAYLOR AVENUE, EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT.

Meeting called to order at: 7:20 by Chairman Pasquale Romano
The door to the Senior Center was not opened until that time.

Roll Call: Virginia Williams, Secretary

Commissioners Present: Chairman Pasquale Romano, Vice-Chairman Frederick Brow, Commissioner Frank Piergrossi and Commissioner Joseph Civitello. Commissioner Wright was absent.

Also present: Chief Leonard L. Gallo, President Local 1662 Thomas Russell and citizens.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Brow to accept the minutes of August 26, 2008 as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried

Approval of Departmental Reports:

Vice-Chairman Brow mentioned to the Chief the memo he sent to Mr. Paul Rizza, Director of Finance regarding outfitting a motorcycle operator. Vice-Chairman Brow stated that he asked for only one operator and the request was pluralized in the memo. He asked if we can possibly go for two operators. The Chief responded that he thought so but he would rather wait until February 2009 to see what's left in the budget and what accounts we can use. Vice-Chairman Brow stated that if we can put on two that would be fine.

Vice-Chairman Brow asked the Chief if the Community Service Officer was incidental to the motorcycle. The Chief responded that the Community Service officer can be utilized in any fashion and was not incidental to the motorcycle.

Vice-Chairman Brow also mentioned the letter from St. Clare's Church asking for a crosswalk in front of St. Clare's Church for the safety of the parishioners who must cross over to the east side of Coe Avenue on their way to church.

Chief Gallo stated that he has no problem getting an estimate and will see what funds are available.

Vice-Chairman Brow also mentioned the area of 129 Main Street and Park, near the end of the East Haven Green; they are looking for cross walk signs also.

The Chief stated that this is a State Road.

Chairman Romano stated that a letter should be sent to the Traffic Commission asked for signage and a cross walk. (Park and Main)

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Brow to have a letter sent to the Traffic Commission regarding Park & Main Street, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Brow to accept the departmental reports as submitted, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sergeant Paul Liquori addressed the Board and asked if under New Business he could go into Executive Session regarding a department issue.

Chairman Romano said we would take it up under New Business.

John Sullo, Johnny's Garage addressed the board and stated that he did go to the Zoning Board of Appeals and he felt he was grandfathered in.

Chairman Romano commented that the ZBA did not agree with him and in order for him to expand he would have to go back to them.

Mr. Sullo said he wanted questions answered and discussion continued once again regarding this issue.

Commissioner Piergrossi suggested that the Board of Police Commission send a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding this problem. They have to make a decision regarding this individual and that it was ridiculous, like a bouncing ball.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi that a very stern letter be sent to Zoning Board of Appeals that they make a decision regarding Johnny's Garage once and for all, and also ask for the Minutes of last month's meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. George Kenyon from Hemingway Avenue addressed the board regarding traffic violations on this street, to include speeding and passing school buses. He stated that many complaints have been made to the police department and that he has videoed some of the violations. He was told by some of the officers that only a bus driver can make a complaint and after his own research found out that Police Officers must act on bus complaints. He stated that he called the police department Wednesday and no one came and then on Thursday he called and waited two hours for an officer. He also commented that he was tired of hearing the excuse that there is no manpower.

Chairman Romano asked if he had called the Chief, inasmuch as it wouldn't come to the board until it went to the Chief first.

Chief Gallo asked Mr. Kenyon if he would like to come to his office tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. to discuss these issues. Mr. Kenyon said he would.

Correspondence Receive/Sent

1. Shawn Hatchell: Complimentary letter
2. Paul Rizza: Regarding Software/Radio System
3. Margaret Thomas: Regarding noise complaint
4. St. Clare Parish: Regarding crosswalk
5. Ralph Mauro: Regarding maintenance at police department
6. No. Branford P.D. Regarding compliments to Officer Cari and DeCrosta
7. Paul Rizza: Regarding Motorcycle outfitting
8. Sergeant Gilhuly: Regarding promotion to Detective
9. Officer Robert Ranfone: Regarding promotion to Detective

Vice-Chairman Brow asked about the letter from Mrs. Thomas. Chief Gallo stated that he wrote her a letter and also talked with her. He stated that the department has done what it can and that we have made many infractions there.

Vice-Chairman Brow also mentioned that earlier in the summer there were complaints regarding motorcycle noise and cars on Forbes Place. He also stated that there are problems on Kimberly, Hemingway, Coe, North High and Main.

Vice-Chairman Brow stated that he would like to embark on an organized campaign and get a jump start on next year to enforce speed. Meanwhile we should get our radar out on week-end nights. This is a town wide problem. He also suggested that we should put something on the local access station.

Commissioner Piergrossi also suggested that there be police presence on Bennett Road, where two new stop signs were put up, to let people know that we are enforcing these signs.

Committee Reports: Will be taken up under New Business

Unfinished Business

Vice-Chairman Brow asked the Chief if he has worked on the Sick time usage that he asked about back in July.

The Chief stated that he asked the board to develop a sick time plan. Vice-Chairman Brow stated he was asking him. The Chief responded that he was asking him and this went back and forth.

Commissioner Piergrossi stated that the board was looking for a pattern of abuse and the Chief responded he hasn't seen that many patterns.

Chief Gallo stated that he was looking for a comprehensive plan and that the Board should work with him and the Union regarding this issue. Discussion back and forth.

Vice-Chairman Brow commented that the Chief has had 10 years to work on this and that nothing has been done. He also commented that in the last two months they have worked on, approved and adopted six (6) up-dated policies.

New Business:

1. Discussion/action regarding the promotion of a Sergeant at the East Haven Police Department.

Chairman Romano asked if everyone received the Sergeants list from Civil Service. The commissioners responded that they did. He also stated that he wrote the Mayor asking her for the personnel files of the candidates on the list. Chairman Romano read a letter he received from the Mayor stating that

“Chairman Romano unilaterally elected to put the promotion of Sergeant on the Agenda for discussion and possible action for the September 30, 2008 meeting and that any such action would need to be undertaken by the Board as a whole, as opposed to you individually, accordingly until the board elects to move in that direction, the personnel files will not be made available to you.’

Union President, Detective Thomas Russell Local 1662 addressed the board and stated the board has not asked for personnel files before and this was not the normal routine. He also commented that promotions have been made in the past from one officer showing up to other times when officers are told not to show up. He felt it was not fair to view any personnel files, at this time, inasmuch as some things have been removed regarding discipline.

Discussion followed and Chairman Romano stated that personnel files have been available to them and sometimes they looked at them and other times they did not. He also felt that maybe the board should consult their attorney.

Detective Russell commented that the board did not need an attorney to make a decision and that the board would be acting unfair to one officer and there would be an advantage to another officer, because discipline has been removed from some files. He requested that they do not view the files and that this was the union’s position.

Vice-Chairman Brow commented that we should go forward with the promotion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi that we table this item until we go into executive session later in the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion/action regarding the hiring of Jessica Consiglio as Crossing Guard at the East Haven Police Department.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked the Chief if everything was in order, etc., The Chief responded yes.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to hire Jessica Consiglio as Crossing Guard at the East Haven Police Department, to become effective October 1, 2008, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Discussion/action regarding K—9 Policy and Procedure

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Brow to adopt the new K-9 Policy and Procedure, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Discussion/action regarding Bullet Proof Vest Policy and Procedure.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to adopt the Bullet Proof Vest Policy and Procedure, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked the Chief if he was working on the Organizational Chart. The Chief spoke to Commissioner Piergrossi (inaudible)

Vice-Chairman Brow asked about the Traffic Maintenance Division at the Police Department, who they work for. The chief responded they work for the Police Department. If they had benefits, the Chief responded that one had benefits and the other did not. If they were unionized. The chief responded yes. If they had a job description. The chief responded he could find one at Town Hall. He also asked what hours they worked and the Chief responded one works from 9 to 1 and the other 7 to 11 a.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to go into executive session at the request of Sergeant Liquori with Union President Detective Thomas Russell and the Commissioners present only, regarding a document, and also to discuss the promotion of Sergeant at the East Haven Police Department, with only the Commissioners present. The Chief stated at this time that if his name was mentioned he wanted to be called into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Civitello. All in favor.

Executive Session entered at 8:00 p.m.

Chief Gallo went into Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

Chief Gallo came out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

A motion was made to come out of Executive Session by Commissioner Piergrossi, seconded by Commissioner Civitello. All in favor. Time 8:53 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Brow to promote Officer Alfred Maio to Sergeant at the East Haven Police Department, to become effective Friday, October 3, 2008, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi.

Roll Call Vote: Vice-Chairman Brow: Yes
Commissioner Civitello: Abstain
Commissioner Piergrossi: Yes
Chairman Romano: yes

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Romano adjourned meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams, Secretary