

**EAST HAVEN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
EAST HAVEN SENIOR CENTER
AUGUST 31, 2010**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Honorable Board of Police Commission was held on Tuesday, August 31, 2010.

Meeting called to order at: 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Frederick Brow

Roll Call: Virginia Williams, Secretary

Commissioners Present: Chairman Frederick Brow, Vice-Chairman Joseph Civitello, Commissioners Frank Piergrossi, Marie Saddig and James Krebs.

Also present: Acting Chief Gaetano J. Nappi, Deputy Chief John Mannion, Mr. Paul Hongo Deputy Director of Town Affairs, Union Members.

Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

**Approval of Minutes: Regular Monthly Meeting: June 29, 2010
Special Meeting: July 19, 2010**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 29, 2010, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello
All in favor. Motion carried**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 19, 2010, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello
All in favor. Motion carried**

Approval of Departmental Reports: July and August 2010

**A motion was made by Commissioner Saddig to approve the Departmental Reports for July and August, seconded by Commissioner Krebs. All in favor.
Motion carried.**

Chairman Brow asked the Chief about several items on his monthly report:

Item #9: Regarding training. The Chief stated that 21 Officers received Collect Recertification.

Item #10: Regarding radio equipment. Chief Nappi commented that he has been in contact with Motorola who will be installing the software in the training room. The department will be making a full training facility and in the future we can do training in our own department.

Re: Collect system. Chairman Brow asked the Chief if the Record Room was in compliance. He stated that back on October 6, 2009 the audit report put us at a Moderate level.

Chief Nappi stated that the Record Room is now in compliance and a letter would be forthcoming.

Alarm Ordinance: The Chief stated that Lieutenant Slane has told the Supervisors that they can go on line, effective September 1, 2010.

Chief Nappi commended the Record Room for all their endeavors. They did an excellent job getting us up and ready.

Chief Nappi also commented that the Public Services Department have been assisting the department with signage, etc. inasmuch as the department does not have a Traffic Maintenance Man.

Chairman Brow asked Mr. Hongo, when the department can expect a Traffic Maintenance Man. Mr. Hongo replied that a test was scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 1010.

Chairman Brow thanked Chief Nappi for his comprehensive report, even though he knows that the Chief has been very busy.

Chairman Brow at this time welcomed Deputy Chief John Mannion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Detective Thomas Russell: Asked that the following be read into the minutes: The threat to the well being of police officers is inherent in the job. We go into this job knowing that and pledge to face those threats in order to protect and service the citizens of our community. Law enforcement deaths are up 41% over this time last year. Since my employment there have been 3 officers involved in shootings; one officer has been shot while others have been shot at. The men and women of the Police Department have had guns pointed at them, they have been assaulted, verbally abused, attacked by dogs, and in one instance an officer was almost stabbed by a mentally unstable individual.

We now face a bigger threat to the well being of our officers. In the past several months both elected and appointed officials have made public comments and call into question our integrity. The Mayor has called us troubled; the Town Administrator said that we were abusive when taking contractual vacation time. Commissioners have questioned our job performance and in a public meeting practically accused one of our officers of stealing. A commissioner has repeatedly told members of the public that as a result of the current DOJ investigation 2 to 3 officers are going to be led out in hand cuffs and/or fired. The Commission has stepped outside their scope of authority and called for a criminal investigation on an incident that happened 14 months ago and has already been reviewed by the State Attorney's Office. It's time that the town officials and the Board of Police Commissioners put aside their own personal agendas. The hard working men and women of the East Haven Police Department deserve better. They deserve respect and consideration and the right to be treated professionally.

The Police Department has weathered past administrations and we will weather this one. And we will do so while still doing our duties to protect and serve the taxpayers of East Haven in earnest with responsibility, integrity and professionalism. If the town officials are not going to act in a responsible and professional manner with the duties entrusted in them by the citizens of East Haven they should resign. Detective Thomas Russell

Chairman Brow thanked him for his comments.

Officer David Cari addressed the board and stated he has been a police officer for 9 years. He commented that he spoke with the Chief regarding the incident arrest of Father Manship. He also commented that the Board of Police Commission had the State's Attorney's Office look into this matter and was told there is a letter clearing him on this matter. He asked that this letter be put in his personnel file and that as far as he knows it a closed case.

Chairman Brow responded that the matter was forwarded to the DOJ and that he could not comment on the content.

Mr. Hongo addressed the board regarding the recent vandalism in the Momouguin area. He stated that he had concerns that some of the citizens may take matters in their own hands. They have been walking the neighborhood at 3 o'clock in the morning. In Mr. Hongo's opinion we don't need vigilantes working on their own.

Chief Nappi stated that he is aware of the problems in this area and that the officers have been policing the area and logging in. There have been 170 checks in this area. He also stated that he met with two of the citizens in the area and has also met with Mr. Dougherty, Chairman of the Town Council. The officers are doing everything possible to curtail the problems in this area.

Detective Ranfone commented that the Detective Bureau did not have access to unmarked cars.

Chief Nappi responded that the department was in the process of getting a vehicle ready and that he would do everything possible to expedite it.

Commissioner Piergrossi made the following comments to those present:

He commented that he took to heart the statements made by Det. Russell and Det. Ranfone. He felt things were getting out of control with false information and innuendo's. He would like to get together in executive session some time and talk privately about matters. He also commented that this community is so well known politically that we all have to calm down and work together. The officers are doing a great job and that our goal is the protection of our community. Go on facts.

Det. Russell and Det. Ranfone responded that what they brought forth is factual.

Chairman Brow asked Chief Nappi about the Awards Committee. Chief Nappi responded that Sgt. Kammerer takes care of the committee's recommendations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Chairman Brow stated that we are waiting for the PERF report regarding our policies.

Correspondence Received/Sent

1. P.J. Norwood: Re: Thank You presence of Patrol Car/Glenmoor Drive
2. Robert Falcigno: Re: Illegal fireworks
3. Gail Verderame: Thank You Sgt. Kattis/Officer Kakalow re: family emergency
4. Det. Thomas Russell: Re: Award Committee/Officers to be considered

Unfinished Business

New Business

1. Consider and act upon Police Union Grievance Local 1662 No. 10-06 Frank Montagna, President Local 1662 addressed the Board and commented that the union has been waiting to be made whole regarding the applicable dispatch or shift rate as a result of an officers dispatch assignment.

Mr. Hongo commented that we all agree that we are on the same page. The investigation has been delayed and he felt it was not fair. We will go with what we have and settle it next week.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to table Grievance No. 10-06 seconded by Commissioner Saddig. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Consider and act upon Police Union Grievance Local 1662 No. 10-08 Detective Russell, Local 1662, addressed the board and commented that there should be some kind of standards regarding investigations. (mentioning a incident dating back to September 2008) He suggested that frivolous complaints get cleared out.

Chief Nappi explained that the union was well aware why this complaint was taking so much time, and that the officer was notified that it was not substantiated.

Mr. Hongo said that the union felt that if a complaint goes beyond the 90 days that a response is owed to them if it does go beyond that time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to sustain Grievance 10-08, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Consider and act upon Police Union Grievance Local 1662 No. 10-09 Detective Ranfone stated that on May 24, 2010 Chief Nappi issued a memo regarding uniform equipment and personal appearance. Det. Ranfone stated he has language dating back to 1998, which is past practice.

Commissioner Krebs commented to Detective Ranfone that the Board had asked the union to provide a copy of this documentation to the Board.

Det. Ranfone gave a copy for the Chief, Deputy Chief and board to look at. (they only had one to share, but would make a copy the next day)

Chief Nappi stated that he had never seen it before and he was also waiting for the union to produce a copy of this document.

Mr. Hongo commented that he thought he gave the union a proposed settlement agreement. Common sense prevails. We are all adults and if a situation comes up that needs clarity, to put it back in the Chiefs hands.

Detective Russell stated that the Union wants what has been past practice.

Chairman Brow commented that the document was very vague.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to sustain Grievance No. 10-09, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello. All in favor.

Commissioner Krebs commented on 4 letters sent Certified and Regular Mail from Linda Neale Monaco, Esq. which he felt was inappropriate that it did not come to the Chief of Police or Board of Police Commissioners. (two letters went to the Department of Transportation and 2 went to Honorable Mayor April Capone Almon) He felt she was out of order circumventing the local authority and is doing this strictly on the complaint of each individual.

Chief Nappi commented that the police department has been taking action in all these areas. Mill Street and Silver Sands Road are State Highways.

We are continuing to enforce speeding, etc., on Strong Street, David Drive and Charter Oak Avenue.

Chief Nappi suggested to the board that we form a Committee regarding the recent meeting he has had with the Department of Transportation in relation to road improvements in various areas of towns

A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi.

Chairman Brow adjourned meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Williams, Secretary