

TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS-MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2010—7:00 P.M.
EAST HAVEN SENIOR CENTER

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners was held on January 26, 2010.

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

Roll Call: Virginia Williams, Secretary
Pledge of Allegiance/Moment of Silence

Commissioners Present: Chairman Frederick Brow, Vice-Chairman Joseph Civitello, Commissioners Krebs, Piergrossi and Romano.

Also present: Chief Leonard L. Gallo, ETV Videographer, citizens

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting, January 5, 2010, seconded by Commissioner Krebs.
All in favor. Motion carried

A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 20, 2010, seconded by Vice-Chairman Civitello. All in favor.
Motion carried

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

Chairman Brow stated to the Chief that an original format was adopted by this board on February 24, 2009 whereas the Chief was to submit a written monthly report to the board. After having an FOI sent to you, you did comply and now it seems you are submitting a brief monthly report, which a lot on the report seems irrelevant. You also mentioned in your report this month that you wish to have the Town Attorney present. You do not have to go through me, you can make an appointment with the Town Attorney at any time. He stated that he has seen

both the Chief and the Town Attorney in each other's presence twice recently and he could have asked for an appointment then.

Chairman Brow also commented that the Chief also mentioned in his report that two meetings were cancelled. (October and November) Chairman Brow stated that the October meeting was cancelled but that the November meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

Chairman Brow also stated that the Chief keeps requesting that a Captains position be filled. Chairman Brow commented that at the present time the Captains position is being filled by the Inspector.

Chief Gallo responded that we have one vacancy now, the Captain and a patrol position. Chairman Brow stated that the Captains money is supporting the budget.

Commissioner Krebs also commented that there is no vacancy now and somewhere down the line if there is a vacancy we will approach it.

The Chief continued to state that there was one vacancy. Chairman Brow thanked him for his point.

Commissioner Krebs mentioned the letter sent to Ms. Berg. Chairman Brow commented that it would be read under correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Frank Swan, 9 Sunset Pass, addressed the board once again and stated that he did have a meeting with the Chief and Mr. Loomis and that it was not fruitful at all. He stated that he still has a problem regarding parking on Sunset Pass and that the Police Department did not have the authority to issue tickets on his property.

Chairman Brow stated to Mr. Swan that the Chief did meet with both you and Mr. Loomis and he tried to resolve this issue between you.

Commissioner Romano suggested that Mr. Swan make an appointment with the Town Attorney and unless something else happened in court, we have to stand by the legal opinion we received from Attorney Cirillo.

Bonnie Eric, a neighbor, addressed the board and commented that the Swan family is being harassed. That the other person, who they are having this problem with, is single with three cars and his house faces George Street, problem solved. She continued to state that Mr. Swan has a disabled mother, brother and son and they have no access to their home. She stated that the person involved parks one of his three vehicles on Sunset Pass, that he has plenty of room and too many cars. She also stated that the Swans quality of life is being abused. They have lived there for years and years. She felt that the meeting held with the Chief was not balanced and that the Swans should start thinking of contacting American Civil Liberties.

Chairman Brow commented to Ms. Eric that her argument had merit but that the Town Attorney gave us his legal opinion. He suggested that maybe they would have to go back to Court.

Chief Gallo stated that he did have an interview with Mr. Swan and Mr. Loomis. There were no sides taken and he would like to see peace between them.

Mr. Loomis, George Street, addressed the Board and stated that he does have three vehicles, which are legal and pays taxes on. He also commented that as far as the court case went it was not about parking, it was for a fence over the line, not the driveway. He commented that the deed says "pass and re-pass"

Mr. Brow reiterated that this was not the boards jurisdiction and that the board was acting on the attorneys opinion.

Mr. John Sullo, 129 Short Beach Road, addressed the board once again regarding going on the Tow List for the East Haven Police Department. He commented that the board made a motion back in May 2008 to have 4 names on the Tow List. He stated he has complied with all requirements and moved his business etc. in order to comply.

Chairman Brow stated that this was an operational decision. The Chief responded that there is no opening and the answer was No.

Vice-Chairman Civitello stated that we did add four positions on this list. He also suggested that maybe we should have a lottery every year and then it would be fair. He said that obviously the tow companies on the list don't want to share the pie. He didn't like the way it was handled.

Chief Gallo stated that we had many complaints to include neighbor complaints against Mr. Sullo and that we cannot have this kind of reputation under police jurisdiction.

Mr. Sullo commented to Chief Gallo that the Chief told him there weren't enough tows. He also said that the Chief kept him waiting in the Police Department foyer for two hours and then the Chief went out. He said Officer Vecellio was a witness to this. Mr. Sullo also stated to the Chief that the Chief didn't like him.

Chairman Brow stated that we are at four at the present time and if the Chief feels he is not suited then it's his call.

The Chief stated that there is no need for a 4th. operation and that he didn't think Mr. Sullo was a bad guy.

The Chief at this time stated once again that there is one vacancy in the department in patrol. He also commented that we are out of applicants and request that the board ask for another Civil Service list.

Commissioner Romano asked if possibly three people should have been hired last week instead of two.

Chairman Brow asked once again where the vacancy was and the Chief responded that it's in the Captains position and that once the Captains position is filled each and every rank will push up. He said it takes 9 months in and out.

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT

1. Lori Wojciechowski: Re: Thank you for tow zone signs
2. Mike Messing: Re: Thanking the department

3. Erica Berg: Thanking her for the many grants she procured for the department
4. Robert Nappe: Regarding the Dive Team Training

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairman Brow mentioned the policy which is coming up for acceptance under New Business, Juvenile Policy and Procedure.

Chairman Brow stated that he met with the Chief, the Inspector and Secretary Virginia Williams on January 19th. to go over the proposed budget. He complimented the Inspector for his good ideas and input.

Chairman Brow stated that there are some signs on Waldo Street, Osmond Street, Kenneth Street and Thompson Avenue, where the poles are standing but the signs are wrapped around the base of the pole. The Chief explained that this could be due to construction in town. He would look into it.

Chairman Brow also mentioned the complaint received about Mary Street. Both he and the Inspector went out to look at this and were unable to come up with an opinion. He stated that they would look at it again once it snows and possibly this request can be accommodated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion/action regarding DARE Officer

Chief Gallo explained that the only DARE class scheduled is out of State and it would be very expensive to send someone. He commented that we do anticipate a class in the near future and that the officer that was picked out will be going.

2. Discussion/action regarding Record Room Report

Commissioner Krebs questioned the Chief about the Record Room Audit Report and stated that he brought it up to the Chief after the report was late. (90 days) The Chief said that it was sent out in October and that we are in compliance. He stated he sent it to the Board but would send them another.

Commissioner Krebs also mentioned that when he passed Laurel Street, that the signs on Laurel Street (Tivoli Gardens) were not put up. Chief Gallo stated he would look into it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/action to amend Policy No. 2008-2, Juvenile Policy & Procedure due to new law

A motion was made by Commissioner Krebs to amend Policy No. 2008-2 Juvenile Policy & Procedure to bring it up to date, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Brow mentioned at this time that this was Commissioner Romano's last meeting after serving 12 years on the board and thanked him for his service.

Chairman Romano said he hoped he was an asset.

Chief Gallo at this time addressed the board and asked the Board if they wished to pursue the Alarms. He said it needed to be discussed, possibly implemented and that the previous administration stopped it. He mentioned that after 5 alarms a person would be fined \$25.00.

Commissioner Krebs stated that this is a form of a Code passed by the Town Council and that the Town Council would be the only ones to stop it. He told the Chief that he took it upon himself to stop it. He also stated that the Board has never agreed not to enforce it.

The Chief commented that the alarms are not going off all over our town and if the Commission wants to enforce it he has no problem with it.

Commissioner Krebs stated once again that it was not in the boards purview to give authority to stop or start this Ordinance. It should go before the Town Council to be enforced.

Mr. Paul Hongo, Director of Town Affairs, addressed the board and commented that the Town wants to see this code enforced. \$25.00 after 5

alarms is very low, after checking other towns. He stated that there are an abundant number of alarms going off and officers have to go repeatedly, which is an exhaustion of funds and manpower.

The Chief said he was not imposed to enforcing it.

Chairman Brow stated that it was not in our jurisdiction and that the Town Ordinance was very clear and it should be brought to the Town Council.

Commissioner Piergrossi explained that there are safeguards in the Ordinance, for example thunderstorms, heavy rain, etc.

Commissioner Piergrossi at this time commented that he had the joy of growing up with Commissioner Romano and wished him the best of everything. All concurred. Applause.

A motion was made by Commissioner Romano to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Krebs. All in favor.

Chairman Brow adjourned meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams, Secretary