

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES JANUARY 27, 2009**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at the East Haven Senior Center.

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

Roll Call: Chairman Pasquale Romano, Vice-Chairman Frederick Brow, Commissioners Wright, Piergrossi and Civitello.

Also present: Chief Leonard L. Gallo, Police Union President John Cascio, Vice-Chairman Local 1662 Sergeant Frank Montagna, Detective Robert Ranfone Union Member at Large, Paul Hongo Director of Town Affairs and citizens.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to accept the minutes of December 30, 2008 as received, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to accept the monthly report as received, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Sullo addressed the board and asked who was in charge of the Towing List. He didn't know if it was the Mayor or the Chief of Police.

The Chief responded that he was.

Correspondence Received/Sent

1. Retirement of Sergeant Paul Liquori
2. Margaret Thomas, Re: noise meters
3. Amendola & Nesi: Re: John Sullo

Vice-Chairman Brow asked about a letter regarding overtime policy and that two weeks had elapsed regarding an amended policy. Sergeant Casio stated that the amended policy was put out last week and that a workable policy is in effect.

Chairman Romano stated that Sergeant Casio asked to have an item added to the Agenda which would be taken up later in the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Brow asked about the letter from Mrs. Thomas regarding noise meters. Chief Gallo stated that a letter had been written to Mrs. Thomas and that he was working on the solution.

Vice-Chairman Brow mentioned letters from Officer Vecellio regarding police vehicles and condition of the building.

Vice-Chairman Brow asked the Chief if he was aware of these letters. Chief Gallo commented that he was and that everything is being addressed.

Union President, Sgt. Casio stated that this is an ongoing problem and that they had to put two officers in one car.

Chief Gallo commented that the cars are getting old and that they are being addressed and fixed as soon as possible. He stated that he also planned to address this in this year's budget.

Vice-Chairman Brow also asked about the booking area and holding cells that have not been cleaned. Sergeant Casio stated that this has also been ongoing for years. Chief Gallo stated this was also being addressed.

Chairman Romano asked the Chief if the main problem was money. The Chief responded yes and that the building can use substantial repairs.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked that if our police vehicles are hit, do we go after those responsible for hitting the vehicles aggressively. The Chief responded yes.

Sergeant Casio commented that there was no internal control system in place to monitor these cars. No maintenance and no tracking.

The Chief commented that when our own mechanics can't handle a repair it goes out.

Mr. Hongo, Director of Town Affairs addressed the board and stated that a meeting was held last week and that Mr. Ralph Mauro, Assistant Director of Town Affairs, gave directives that Police and Fire would be priorities, regarding the repair of vehicles. Mr. Hongo went on to say that there seem to have been a lack of communication between the Public Services Department and the Police Department. He stated it was a good meeting, concerns were shared, and that it's back on track.

Sergeant Cascio stated that once again it comes back to the officer and once again mentioned that there is no managerial policy. He stated the majority of the cars are junks and that the fleet is sub standard so that when problems hit all at once there is a dilemma.

Chairman Romano stated that he felt that it was the officer's responsibility to let someone know when something is wrong with the vehicles.

Vice-Chairman Brow showed Officer Cascio a Vehicle Inspection Sheet and asked if this was the form that is being used. Sergeant Cascio stated that this is the most recent form.

Chief Gallo stated that this form would go to the Captain but now that the Captain is out injured so it goes to the Inspector.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked if there was a designated mechanic to fix police vehicles. Mr. Hongo stated no, that it was a multi faceted problem and would take a collective effort. Mr. Hongo also commented that Chief Gallo was very concerned and has met with him several times.

Commissioner Piergrossi stated that we have capable Lieutenants and Sergeants and stated that they should perform their duties, for example, pick up the vehicle inspection sheets and go to Public Services with them and have the date and time stamped.

Sergeant Cascio stated that service has an impact on the citizens and that we lag behind other towns. The whole system has not worked for East Haven and that we must have a highly functional police department in this day and age.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked the Chief if it was possible to get a log book on every vehicle. Sergeant Cascio mentioned that there is software available for this which we don't have. Chief Gallo commented that maintenance does keep track of police vehicles.

Commissioner Piergrossi commented that we in East Haven have a lot of services that other towns do not have.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice-Chairman Brow stated that this would be taken up under New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Piergrossi asked Chief Gallo if he received any names on the Motorcycle list.

The Chief responded that he would re-post it.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Action regarding the disability retirement of Sergeant Paul Liquori.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to accept the Disability Retirement of Sergeant Paul Liquori, to become effective January 16, 2009, seconded by Vice-Chairman Brow. Roll Call Vote. All in favor.

Commissioner Piergrossi addressed the citizens and the Board and stated that Sergeant Liquori has given dedicated years to the community and that he has served the department and town honorably.

Sergeant Liquori, who was in attendance, thanked Commissioner Piergrossi.

2. Discussion/action regarding actively recruiting Crossing Guards for the East Haven Police Department.

Mrs. Andrea Liquori, Chief Examiner for the Civil Service Department, was present and offered to help recruit for these positions. She stated that

citizens come in on a daily basis looking for work and that she would E-Mail them and also put an ad in the Courier.

Chairman Romano thanked her and also commented that he still had a problem that some of the Crossing Guards They are only suppose to stop traffic for children and not direct traffic in the middle of the street.

3. Discussion/action regarding the following Policy and Procedures:
 - a. Deadly Use of Force
 - b. Less Lethal Force
 - c. Deployment of Patrol Rifles & Shot Guns

Vice-Chairman Brow stated that he and Inspector Nappi were working diligently on the policy and procedures. He also complimented Sergeant Frank Montagna for his expertise in helping.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to accept Policy Number 2008-10, 2009-1 and 2009-2, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Brow to add an item to the Agenda, namely Grievance No. 09-01, seconded by Commissioner Wright. All in favor.

President of Local 1662, Sergeant Cascio, addressed the Board and stated that back on December 26, 2008 the Mayor decreed an Unauthorized Holiday, due to the executive decision by President Bush to declare the day after Christmas a federal holiday. He stated that the town was not refusing to give the union the holiday it was just that it deviated from how it was done in the past.

Mr. Hongo, Director of Town Affairs, addressed the and citizens present and stated that all the unions called with contract language and it will be addressed. Where we will get the money was the problem.

He commented that he came up with a creative solution. All the department heads would put it in the new budget accordingly and it would be a floating holiday. By putting it in the next fiscal year budget it would also come with a raise. No other town union filed a Grievance, with the exception of the Police Union.

Chairman Romano stated that he felt this should be an agreement between the Union and management.

Sergeant Cascio stated that he felt it was a step backward.

Mr. Hongo stated that there are times you must do something outside the box. I thought it was a win, win situation.

Chairman Romano asked if he wanted the Board to make a decision tonight.

Sergeant Cascio stated that whatever the board decided was fine, they just wanted to follow the steps.

Chairman Romano stated that in his estimation the union was right. Commissioner Civitello agreed.

Mr. Hongo explained that the third step was added to avoid arbitration and that in good economic times there would be no problems. He also mentioned that when this administration first came into office many grievances were settled and did not have to go to arbitration.

Commissioner Civitello questioned the Chiefs answer on the Grievance and stated that he should have either denied it or not. He also questioned step 3, which goes to Town Hall. He commented that no one else does this. Sergeant Cascio agreed and stated that he did not want to undermine the authority of the Police Commission and that's why it came before them, but again reiterated that it was fine if it was denied because then it would go to Mr. Hongo where they can continue to negotiate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wright to sustain Grievance No. 09-01, seconded by Chairman Romano: Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Romano: Yes

Commissioner Wright: Yes

Commissioner Civitello: No

Commissioner Piergrossi: No

Vice-Chairman Brow: No

Motion failed.

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

Chairman Romano adjourned meeting at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Williams, Secretary