

HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2013
EAST HAVEN SENIOR CENTER, 91 TAYLOR AVENUE, EAST HAVEN, CT

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

1. Roll Call:
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Lou Crisci, Vice-Chairman Jose Velazquez, Commissioner Joseph Civitello, Commissioner Paul Constantinople (Commissioner William Illingworth absent)

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Brent Larrabee, Deputy Chief Mannion, Bob Nappe President Local 1662, New Haven Register Reporter Evan Lips, ETV Videographer, Attorney Zullo, candidates and citizens.

4. To consider and act upon the approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting on September 24, 2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constantinople to accept the minutes of September 24, 2013 as received, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. To consider and act upon the monthly reports;

A motion was made by Commissioner Constantinople to accept the monthly reports as received, seconded by Commissioner Civitello. All in favor. Motion Carried.

6. Public Comment;

President Local 1662, Robert Nappe, addressed the board with the following concerns. He stated that manpower at the East Haven Police Department is getting to a critical stage. He has never seen it so bad and he felt that the citizens of East Haven are not getting what they paid for. He mentioned that the Detective Division has only one officer working and that we are not as effective as it should be. The officers are running ragged. He asked if there was any way to assist the Mayor to help us get the manpower we need and increase the size of the police department.

Chairman Crisis stated that all this was mentioned last month and that everything is budget driven.

Bonny Erich, citizen:

Addressed the board and commented that with all the officers arrested, convicted, going out on disability, etc., what does an East Haven Police Officer need to do to get fired.

Chairman Crisci stated that this is probably on a lot of minds, but we are governed by the collective bargaining agreement.

7. Correspondence Received/Sent;

- a. Officer Dennis Spaulding, Re: retirement
- b. Officer Eduardo Diaz: Re: Resigning
- c. Chief Larrabee: Re: Temporary assignment
- d. Det. Robert Ranfone: Re: retirement
- e. Daniel Gilhuly: Re: resignation as supernumery
- f. Catherine Loy, Re: No Parking sign in front of house

8. Personnel Matters:

- a. Injured employees;
- b. Overtime;
- c. Contract negotiations-general status update;

Chief Larrabee gave the following report:

He mentioned Officer Diaz who resigned

1 officer out who was operated on today

1 officer on family leave who would like to come back in two weeks.

We have two openings, and we do have some candidates.

One Officer is back from injury and two others are due back soon.

We will have 5 officers that can go on rotation, which should have a significant impact.

There has been very little absenteeism, which is very abnormal especially for the long days the officers have been working.

The Consent Decree has also caused shortages due to training.

Our deadline of 365 days is coming up on 12/21/13 regarding the DOJ and hopefully we will see less overtime.

We are trying to hire more. In the 1st. quarter of 2014 we should be in good shape. Those in the academy will be on board the 1st. quarter of 2014 also.
The Chief stated he hoped this paints a better picture.

Regarding Negotiations: The lawyer for Council 15 has been out on maternity leave. Negotiations should resume again soon.

9. Old Business:

a. Update on Internal Investigations:

Chief Larrabee mentioned to the board that the Internal Investigations were all concluded yesterday and cannot be addressed in public session.

Commissioner Civitello asked the Chief if he handled them himself and when was he planning to tell the Board. He said that the department made a big deal about the January issue. He was told that an outside law firm did the investigation and that he would be very upset if we had to pay them.

The Chief commented that the Administration did hire an outside law firm hired to deal with the investigation.

Commissioner Civitello stated he was puzzled that it all went away because of a retirement and that he also signed the Consent Decree along with the Mayor. He also said that he has seen no discipline for years.

The Chief once again stated that the discipline was handed out only yesterday and he they do not accept the discipline that it will come before the board. Contractual negotiations go into this.

A motion as made to move 10 b on the agenda before 10a by Commissioner Constantinople, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor.

10b Discussion/possible action on the retirement of Detective Ranfone

Chairman Crisci stated that all we are doing is acknowledging his retirement in order to have the paperwork processed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constantinople to acknowledge the retirement of Detective Ranfone, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Velazquez to add to the Agenda the retirement of Officer Dennis Spaulding, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople. All in favor.

Commissioner Civitello asked why we are adding this on the agenda.

Chairman Crisci stated that according to the union collective bargaining agreement we must acknowledge the retirement application submitted by Officer Spaulding.

Commissioner Civitello commented why wasn't he terminated and also asked how much he was going to be paid. He felt that the money this debacle caused, we could have added 10 officers easily to the department. He stated that he had an obligation to the taxpayers of this town.

Chairman Crisci once again commented that it's contractual.

President Local 1662 Robert Nappe addressed the board and stated that the board has an obligation to put it through now and then deal with the rest later.

The Chief said that he does not have the right to impose discipline on a retired officer. This is all done by the state laws.

Commissioner Civitello commented that we paid him almost the entire time was out. The Chief reminded the board that at a meeting on 5/28/13 Officer Spaulding was put out on unpaid suspension and that all his benefits would continue to accrue.

Chairman Crisci commented that in our minds he may not be entitled, but the collective bargaining agreement is not in this board's control. He also said that unfortunately even the budget or settlements are not in our control.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Velazquez to accept the retirement of Officer Dennis Spaulding, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople.

3 in favor (Crisci, Constantinople, Velazquez)
1 abstention (Civitello)

Motion carried.

10 a. New Business

- b. To consider and act upon the hiring of (1) Confidential Secretary at the East Haven Police Department. (Interviews to be conducted in Executive Session);

A motion was made by Commissioner Constantinople to go into executive session with the board, the Chief, the Deputy Chief and Attorney Zullo present, to interview candidates for the hiring of a Confidential Secretary at the East Haven Police Department, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez . All in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session started at 7:33 p.m.

Anna Marie Cires: Went into executive session at 7:35 p.m.
Came out of executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Josephine Perruzzi: Went into executive session at 7:41 p.m.
Came out of executive session at 7:45 p.m.

Marsha Maldonado: Went into executive session at 7:46 p.m.
Came out of executive session at 7:51 p.m.
Went back into executive session at 7:55 p.m.
Came out of executive session at 7:58 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Civitello to come out of executive session, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople. All in favor. Time: 8:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner to make an offer of employment to Marsha Maldonado, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor.

Chief Larrabee would be determining the starting date, etc.

A motion was made by Commissioner Civitello to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Time: 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams
Secretary