

**HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2013 @ 7:00 P.M.  
EAST HAVEN SENIOR CENTER, 91 TAYLOR AVENUE, EAST HAVEN, CT**

Chairman Joseph Civitello called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Civitello welcomed Paul Constantinople to the board.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Civitello, Commissioner Velazquez, Commissioner Piergrossi, Commissioner Constantinople and Commissioner Crisci.

Also Present: Chief Brent Larrabee, Deputy Chief John Mannion, Attorney Frank Kolb, Attorney Joseph Zullo, Detective Ranfone, President Local 1662, Lt. Ed Lennon and citizens. ET Videographer was also present.

**REORGANIZATION OF THE HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Velazquez made a motion to nominate Commissioner Crisci as Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, seconded by Chairman Civitello

Chairman Civitello asked if there were any other nominations. Having none, nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote. All in favor.

Chairman Crisci welcomed Commissioner Constantinople to the board and thanked Commissioner Civitello for all his services and looked forward to working with him and the board in the future.

Commissioner Civitello made a motion to nominate Commissioner Velazquez as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Police Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople

Chairman Crisci asked if there were any other nominations, having none, nominations were closed.

Roll Call Vote. All in favor.

**Approval of minutes:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to accept the minutes of January 29, 2013, seconded by Commissioner Civitello. All in favor. Motion carried

**Approval of Monthly Reports:**

A motion was made by Commissioner Civitello to accept the monthly reports for February, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**John Zullo, 77 Borrman Road:** Addressed the board and commented that the police have been harassing him regarding the vehicles on his mother's property, where he resides. He commented that the board didn't know the history of what he went through with Chief Gallo when he had a business in East Haven in the past. Mr. Zullo also mentioned that he has spoke with Chief Larrabee.

Chief Larrabee commented that the Building and Zoning Commissions feel that this property is in violation. We have to respond to complaints and we have been trying to work with him. He mentioned that he has 2 vehicles, (one is registered and one is not) 2 wreckers and a flat bed. It's not a police problem and that the Zoning official asked him to go there. The Chief did state that Mr. Zullo complained that there are other people in the neighborhood who have violations.

Chairman Crisci suggested to Mr. Zullo that he get in touch with the Building and Zoning department. He stated it's probably someone complaining on him and that the department responds to complaints and there's nothing the police can do.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT:** None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chief Larrabee reported to the board that two 30 minute parking signs were put up on Main Street to accommodate businesses requesting them.

Chief Larrabee also reported that Mr. Candella had asked for a No Parking Sign on Williams Street and after a great deal of research we found that it just wouldn't work. It wouldn't change anything.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Discussion/action regarding Grievance Local 1662: 2013-2**

Det. Robert Ranfone, President Local 1662: addressed the board and showed them an employee sheet dating back 25 years and also a course sheet that detective's go to regarding background checks. He commented that with the exception of 2006-07, when they were short 3 detectives, it was always the detective division that did the background checks. He commented that it was past practice and felt that it should have been offered to the detective division before it went to patrol.

Attorney Kolb commented that upon looking at the job description for detective that there was nothing in the job description that covers background checks and that he saw no impact. He recommended that the board deny this grievance.

The Chief commented that he has been here one year and that 50 background checks have been done by (Sgt) Lt. Lennon and Detective Russell. Chief Larrabee stated that this has all come about due to the consent decree. There is just too much work.

Commissioner Civitello stated that he didn't care who did the background checks, as long as they were being done during working hours and not overtime.

Chief Larrabee said that it would be impossible to do them all during working hours and overtime would be incurred.

Det. Ranfone once again commented that this was the detective division's work, a wide scope, but its investigations by the detectives.

The Chief commented that there is no specific certification and that Det. Ranfone made it clear to him that he didn't have time to do what he actually does now. A memo was sent out by Lt. Lennon asking anyone who was interested in helping with the background checks should contact him. Det. Ranfone's name was not on this list. Other officers, who applied, are doing some of the background checks.

A motion was made by Commissioner Civitello that Grievance No. 2013-2 be denied, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

**2. Discussion/action to send a request to Civil Service regarding the process of a new recruit list.**

Chief Larrabee mentioned that the list for new recruits expires in May and asked that the board send Civil Service a letter requesting they start the process for a new recruit list.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constantinople requesting Civil Service start the process for a new recruit list, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3. Discussion/action to send a request to Civil Service to extend the Certified Lateral transfers for one more year.**

Chief Larrabee commented that there are only two names left on the list and asked the board to request from Civil Service that they extend the Certified Police Officer Grade C list for one more year.

The Chief commented that in the last round they went through 15 candidates to get just one candidate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi that a letter is sent to Civil Service requesting that they extend the Certified Police Officer Grade C list for one more year, seconded by Commissioner Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

**4. Discussion/action regarding goals and objectives**

Chief Larrabee gave the following: Strategic Actions, East Haven Police Department.

- Increase training program access for East Haven Police Officers, with the initial efforts focusing on (addressing racial profiling, use of force, police-citizens interactions, conflict intervention, and cultural awareness and effectively dealing with youth).
- Increase supervision in the field to provide the support to officers they need in addressing policing problems in East Haven, ensuring that there is a trained supervisor in the field for every shift.
- Establish police-community liaison groups for each major neighborhood bringing together officers working the neighborhood with residents and business people who have important perspectives on the neighborhood area.

- Put in place a transparent, easily accessible mechanism for citizens to file complaints against police actions or officer actions, as well through which they can complement officers who have been particularly effective in performance of their duties. Establish timeframes within which investigations of complaints received will be investigated and the person filing the complaint advised of the outcome.
- Increase the time officers spend out of their vehicles interacting with neighborhood residents and business people.
- Create a community involved partnership with various cultural community members and groups. The community partnership will help to develop an orientation program for both officers assigned to the areas in which a varied cultural population resides and for community members residing in this specific community area. This will develop a relationship so both officers and community members are familiar with local cultural norms and for the neighborhood population to understand police procedures.
- Review the management study performed by the Police Executive Research Forum and program out efforts to implement many of the changes recommended in that study. Form a community coordinating committee representing all segments of the East Haven community to provide guidance to this effort.

Commissioner Civitello asked when the new Joint Compliance Officer was coming. The Chief commented that she would be in town tomorrow. Her name is Kathy O'Toole.

Chief Larrabee also expounded on parts of his report.

Commissioner Piergrossi commented that in May during Police Week it would be nice for the department to have some type of event.

Chief Larrabee mentioned that when he was Chief in Stamford they did it on a big scale. We are talking about doing something in East Haven for the citizens to see and understand what we do.

Commissioner Piergrossi asked about the bicycle patrol and the motorcycles.

Chief Larrabee reported that hopefully we will have a bicycle patrol by spring and also that we have no one trained at the present time for the motorcycles. It's a work in progress.

**5. Discussion/action regarding promotions/hiring**

The Chief asked the board to schedule a special meeting on March 7, 2013 for promotions and hiring.

He commented that we would be promoting 3 sergeants, one lieutenant and 2 recruits. The Chief stated that the academy would have seats available on April 4, 2013.

Chairman Crisci asked the commissioners if they would be available March 7, 2013. He also asked the clerk to set the Agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Civitello to adjourn meeting, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor.

Chairman Crisci adjourned meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams, Secretary

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams, Secretary