

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2012
EAST HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Carl Perez, Commissioner Frank Piergrossi and Commissioner Jose Velazquez. (Commissioner Crisci absent)

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Brent Larrabee, Attorney Kolb, Attorney Zullo, Detective Robert Ranfone
President Local 1662.

Approval of Minutes: November 27, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to approve the minutes of November 27, 2012, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perez. All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/action regarding developing a comprehensive plan to reduce departmental overtime. Chairman Civitello stated that he had put this item on the agenda and possibly we can discuss it at a later time.

Commissioner Piergrossi suggested that sick time be studied, etc.

Chief Larrabee commented that the sick time has been way down and that absenteeism is not the problem. We have four officers in training, 1 out on paid administration, one out injured and vacancies. We are not up to strength and he believed that once we hire more officers, following DOJ's letter, that between one year to eighteen months we should be up to strength. The Chief also stated that we have called for the Sergeant and Lieutenant tests. We will have some of the salary not used for these positions to offset some of the overtime. The Chief said there will probably be more overtime due to the consent decree. There will also be equipment issues.

The Chief mentioned to the Commission that the community has gotten bigger and that the population has changed which indicates to him that we are probably short staffed. He asked that the board champion the fact we need more officers, but funding will still be a problem.

2. Discussion/action regarding Grievance No. 2012-08 Police Union Local 1662.

Detective Ranfone, President Local 1662, addressed the board and stated that during storm Sandy that the department placed officers on two divided twelve hour shifts. The union was not approached and the denial of our officers to enjoy the pick a shift selection was not guaranteed.

The Chief responded that based on previous years everyone was ordered in at one time and it became very confusing. This was a State of Emergency by the State and the Mayor, and we decided 12 hours on and 12 hours off so tired people would not make a mistake. He continued to say that it was done now and he felt he was on good ground.

Chairman Civitello suggested that a possible settlement would be that it would be done differently if this ever happens again.

Attorney Kolb stated that the request of the union is more of a penalty then a remedy. He suggested that the Board of Police Commission deny the Grievance.

Detective Ranfone suggested that this be brought up in negotiations. Atty. Kolb replied that we haven't got to the economics yet but it should be addressed.

Vice-Chairman Perez commented that there is no language in the contract for or against. Everyone got compensated during the storm and that he felt management in an emergency situation has the right to do exactly what they did for the safety of the citizens and the officers.

Chief Larrabee read from the Union Contract Section 16, Article 21, which he stated was pretty broad language.

Chairman Civitello stated he saw no harm done and Commissioner Piergrossi commented that the Chief acted properly for the safety of the citizens and the officers.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Perez that Grievance No. 2012-08 be denied, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Discussion/action regarding Policy regarding 'SUBJECT VIDEO RECORDERS (MVR)'

The Chief commented that the policy was written and provided to the union and presently the videos are in all our cars. All together we will have 17. The Chief mentioned that we have the space necessary to maintain the recordings. The DOJ stated they should be retained for 5 years.

Commissioner Piergrossi commented that he felt very strongly about this policy especially for the safety of the officers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to accept this policy "Subject Video Recorders (MVR) Seconded by Vice-Chairman Perez. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Discussion/action regarding Policy which rescinds 2009-16 "EMERGENCY VEHICLE RESPONSE'

Chief Larrabee commented that this policy restores a little more faith in our police officers. They can use their lights and sirens and we will always have a supervisor on the streets.

The DOJ mandated that two to four hours training must be done on this policy, to include the members of the Board of Police Commission.

The Chief mentioned that all this information will be put out on Twitter and Face book.

Detective Ranfone stated that everyone in the rank and file is very positive regarding this policy.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to accept Policy 2009-16 "Emergency Vehicle Response" seconded by Vice-Chairman Perez. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Perez to adjourn meeting, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor.

Chairman Civitello adjourned meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams
Secretary