

**TOWN OF EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT  
HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
DECEMBER 17, 2013  
EAST HAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT  
471 NORTH HIGH STREET  
EAST HAVEN, CT**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Brent Larrabee, Deputy Chief John Mannion, Lieutenant Ed Lennon, Attorney Frank Kolb, Attorney Joseph Zullo, Union President Local 1662 Bob Nappe, Sergeant Patrick Tracy, Officer Frank Montagna, Attorney Daniel Ford, New Haven Register Reporter Evan Lips

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Lou Crisci

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. To consider and act upon the approval of the minutes of:
  - a. Regular Monthly Meeting of November 26, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to accept the minutes of November 26, 2013 as received, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople. All in favor. Motion carried.
  - b. Special Meetings of November 20, 2013 and December 11, 2013

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to accept the minutes of November 20, 2013 as received, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to accept the minutes of December 11, 2013 as received, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople. All in favor. Motion carried.
5. To consider and act upon the approval of the monthly reports

No reports for the month of December.

## 6. Public Comment

**President Local 1662, Bob Nappe** addressed the Board regarding the 'Public Comment' of the agenda, asking if it had to be at the beginning of the meeting or could it be reordered towards the end to give the public an opportunity to comment on other agenda items. Chairman Crisci noted the format of the agenda is standard and further clarified that anyone could comment on any agenda item pertaining to union issues, also reminding Mr. Nappe that he has always been given the opportunity for comment. Commissioner Civitello supported Chairman Crisci noting that any issues could be added to the agenda for subsequent meetings and be addressed at that time. Mr. Nappe, as Union representation, felt very strongly that he should not be relegated to the 'Public Comment' section and requested a designated agenda position similar to general updates provided by the Chief of Police. Attorney Daniel Ford (Union counsel) suggested a submission of a monthly "President of the Union Report" for Board review.

Mr. Nappe expressed concern regarding the recruitment process for civilian police dispatchers, noting that both the Board and the Town know that there is an agreement to negotiate; however, the position has been publically advertised and Civil Service has posted for the civil service exam. Chairman Crisci suggested that Mr. Nappe contact Civil Service if he believes there has been a breach of the agreement.

Mr. Nappe stated that Commissioner Illingsworth addresses the Police Union with a bias and makes accusatory statements that Mr. Nappe feels are inappropriate, inaccurate and disrespectful. He further requested that Commissioner Illingsworth remove himself from the Board.

## 7. Correspondence Received/Sent

### a. Kevin White, Re: Forbes Intersection

Chairman Crisci read correspondence from Mr. White. Chief Larrabee commented on prior studies and suggested some action be taken.

## 8. Personnel Matters

### a. Injured Employees

### b. Overtime

### c. Contract Negotiations – General Status Update

Chief Larrabee noted that there are two officers out on long term injury leave. He stated that one should return to duty in January and the other one is unknown.

Chief Larrabee stated that overtime is under continual review to meet budgetary guidelines and changes/adjustments will be made accordingly.

Chief Larrabee stated that Union contract negotiations are ongoing and progress is being made.

## 9. Old Business

Nothing at this time.

## 10. New Business

### a. Grievance 2013-10: Discussion; possible action

The grievance hearing will proceed, however, Chief Larrabee noted that a critical witness would be unavailable for the month of February, and whose earliest availability would be March 2014.

A motion was made by Chairman Crisci to discuss the scheduling of the hearing at the February 2014 Commissioner's meeting, seconded by Commissioners Illingworth and Constantinople. All in favor. Motion carried.

Attorney Ford inquired about the terms of open/closed sessions and requested that the hearing be held in executive session (non-public). Attorney Kolb and Chief Larrabee opposed, stating that the hearings should be conducted in regular session (public access). A decision by the Board is pending.

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to go into executive session with the Board, Chief Larrabee, Deputy Chief Mannion, Lieut. Lennon and Attorney Zullo present to interview candidates for the hiring of three (3) police officers at the East Haven Police Department. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

Executive session commenced at 7:50 PM.

A motion was made by Chairman Crisci to come out executive session, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried. Time: 8:13 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to return to executive session with the Board, Chief Larrabee, Lieut. Lennon, and Town Attorneys Kolb and Zullo present to interview candidates for the hiring of three (3) police officers at the East Haven Police Department, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session resumed at 8:13 PM.

- b. To consider and act upon the hiring of three (3) Police Officer C (non-certified) positions with the East Haven Police Department. Interviews to be conducted in executive session.

Candidates were interviewed in the following order:

Nezar Belhna: Went into executive session at 8:26 PM  
Came out of executive session at 8:30 PM

Luke Rasile: Went into executive session at 8:33 PM  
Came out of executive session at 8:37 PM

Kevin McGuire: Went into executive session at 8:39 PM  
Came out of executive session at 8:42 PM

Dylan Northrup: Went into executive session at 8:43 PM  
Came out of executive session at 8:48 PM

Donato Palma: Went into executive session at 8:50 PM  
Came out of executive session at 8:53 PM

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to come out of executive session, seconded by Commissioner Constantinople. All in favor. Time: 9:03 PM.

A motion was made by Commissioner Constantinople to make an offer of employment to Nezar Belhna contingent on a signed pre-employment agreement, seconded by Commissioner Illingworth. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Illingworth to make an offer of employment to Luke Rasile, contingent on a signed pre-employment

agreement, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez and Commissioner Civitello. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Commissioner Civitello to make an offer of employment to Dylan Northrup, seconded by Vice-Chairman Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried.

Lieut. Lennon stated that start dates for Nezar Belhna and Luke Rasile will be December 30, 2013 and both will attend the Police Academy in January 2014. He further stated that Dylan Northrup's start date is to be determined, contingent on an opening at the Police Academy and a signed pre-employment agreement.

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

Chairman Crisci adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha M. Maldonado  
Confidential Secretary