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POLICE COMMISSION

JACK TESTANI, CHAIRMAN  
PHILIP DIGENNARO  
ALFRED LIGGINS  
ROGER MCGOVERN  
DANIEL PORTANOVA  
ALBERT ZAMARY

Special Trumbull Police Commission Meeting  
Long Hill Conference Room – Town Hall  
March 11, 2015

**MINUTES**

The Trumbull Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Members present: Jack Testani, Chairman  
Alfred Liggins  
Daniel Portanova  
Albert Zamary

Absent: Philip DiGennaro  
Roger McGovern

Also Present: First Selectman Herbst  
James Haselkamp, Director of Labor Relations  
Lynn Arnow, Chief of Staff  
Chief Michael Lombardo  
Deputy Chief Glenn Byrnes  
Lieutenant Ronald Kirby  
Lieutenant Thomas Savarese  
Detective Robert Coppola

**Approval of the February 23, 2015 Police Commission Meeting Minutes**

Motion to accept the Police Commission Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2015 as presented. Motion made first by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner Liggins. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Correspondence**

A letter was received from Chief Gaudett of the Bridgeport Police Department thanking Lt. Savarese, Officers Richards, R. Lee and Millington for their assistance in a fatality that occurred in Bridgeport on February 7, 2015.

## **Chief's Report**

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Calls-for-Service for the month of February, there was a 13 % increase in accidents. Alarms were up by 14% in which the officers responded to 399 alarms for the year to date. Chief Lombardo mentioned that the residents will be receive an Alarm Notification along with the brief summary of the Alarm Ordinance should they not be home when their alarms are set off. This will help notify the residents of the Alarm Ordinance should they not be aware. Overall there was a 9% increase in Calls-for-Service through the end of February with 2,565 calls that the officers responded as in accidents, alarms, breach of peace, domestics, larcenies, etc. There were 293 medical calls for the year so far which was an increase of 9% for 2015.

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Incident Statistics for the month of February which showed every call the officers respond to. Community policing is something the officers have been increasing on for a variety of reason. The officers are getting out of their cars more than the usual, they visit the Marriott Hotel, Westfield Shopping Center, Hawley Lane mall and movie theater and speak with the property owners and are becoming more visible. Commission Liggins asked about the building checks is the number listed on the statistics due to alarms. Chief Lombardo responded that it is self-initiated building checks the officers do. Chairman Testani asked if the 30 suspicious vehicles is that a high number. Deputy Chief Byrnes responded that the numbers continue to increase due to residents calling if they see a suspicious vehicle, item, noise or person. It is encouraged for residents to call anything that may seem suspicious as it may help interrupt a burglary, apprehend someone or question someone if needed.

Chief Lombardo mentioned that for the month of February there was an overdose, normally when officers respond it is due to an adult overdose, this particular one was a 15 year old, no death involved. Chief Lombardo mentioned this as he wanted to make them aware that now the age for overdose is becoming much younger.

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Arrest Summary for the month of February and there was nothing specific to report and no questions were asked.

## **Traffic Report**

***Bridgeport Hospital Project on Park Avenue***, Lt. Savarese has meet and spoken with CT DOT and they are requesting the local traffic authorities position on installing a pedestrian activated phase to the traffic signal located at 5520 Park Ave, which is the new Bridgeport Hospital facility. The developers engineering firm Tighe and Bond, have documented the reasons why there should be no pedestrian crossing in this area. CT DOT has indicated that they would not be encouraging pedestrian crossing because there are no sidewalks or other provisions for pedestrians. Chairman Testani asked if someone has determined if there should or should not be a pedestrian crossing. Lt. Savarese responded with all the indications he has received, he does not believe at this time there should be no pedestrian crossing and that was confirmed with DOT. According to the developer in the future it is possible that that decision could change but at the present time there should be no pedestrian crossing.

Commissioner Portanova asked Lt. Savarese whether he is recommending that the commission not take any action. Lt. Savarese indicated that he is comfortable with the recommendations the engineering firm made along with DOT.

Chairman Testani asked when the speed trailer will be out again. Lt. Savarese responded the speed trailer will be placed out on the road once the snow disappears, which he hopes will be soon.

***Complaint: Traffic light request Main St @ Park La.***

Complainant has requested a traffic light to be installed on Main St at Park Lane. She has observed several motor vehicle accidents taking place at this location, the last one was on February 22, 2015. Officer Richard contacted the complainant. Sixteen motor vehicle accidents were documented since 2009. Lt. Savarese has been in contact with CT DOT and has forwarded the accident data for further review and sees what their recommendation would be.

**Supplemental Information**

The 2014/2015 DUI Enforcement Grant began on November 21, 2014 and will continue through September 7, 2015. Fourteen (14) citations were issued during the one (1) day enforcement period for February.

The Traffic unit assisted the Bridgeport Police Department with a two car fatal motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Noble Avenue and Crown Street.

The Town of Trumbull is participating in the Redflex Student Guardian bus video violation program which started this school year. Passing school bus violators are identified through a video system mounted on school buses. Nine (9) citations were issued for the month of February.

Forty (40) total cases were assigned to the Traffic Division Officers during the month of February. These cases included: 1 motor vehicle complaint, 12 car seat installations, 2 escorts, and 21 motor vehicle citations (Includes DUI Grant/School bus violations).

**Training Report**

Chief Lombardo reported there was Veocci Training which is a system that is used when there is a major event. EOC staff and town employees attended training. There was also Active Shooter response, Records Retention and Freedom of Information, ERT training, and other Re-certification training. Supervisors along with town hall employees attended training on Sexual Harassment & Hostile Work Environment and there was Dive Team training as well.

**Police Explorer Report**

Chief Lombardo reviewed the report provided by Officer Fedor, the Police Explorers had several meetings during the month of February. Jena Racz was promoted to Captain as it was mentioned in last month's meeting. There was a Valentine's Day dance at Trumbull High School on February 13<sup>th</sup> in which Chief Lombardo attended and he reported that there were about 200 children and parents attended. Chief Lombardo indicated that it was well planned event.

### **Sick Report**

Chief Lombardo reported that some of the officers that were out for a long period of time have returned to work, and one of the officers is back on light duty and the other is back on full duty.

### **Detective Bureau Report**

Chief Lombardo reviewed the Detective Bureau report that for the month of February there were 49 cases opened of which 41 have been closed. There were 40 open cases from previous months added to the 8 remaining from February equaling out to 48 open cases still. The cases range from fraud, sexual assault, arson, threatening, etc.

### **Unfinished Business**

254 Shelton Road subdivision; Mr. Mandanici was present at meeting along with Attorney Christopher Russo who shared a map with the commission of the previous plans and presented another map with the new plans for the changes in plans for the 254 Shelton Road subdivision that was discussed in detail.

Chief Lombardo indicated that a letter was received from Town Engineering regarding 254 Shelton Road subdivision in which they have reviewed the intersection of the proposed road with Shelton Road and find the intersection has adequate sightline distance.

Commissioner Portanova made a motion in acceptance of the subdivision as presented and in more so of the March 11, 2015 letter from William Maurer, Civil Engineer the Town of Trumbull is in accordance. MOTION made by first by Commissioner Portanova and seconded by Commissioner Liggins. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

Chief Lombardo indicated that he provided the commission with an update on the police substation via email in which the mall management is in the process of design plans for the substation in which they will send out for bid for cost analysis and then move forward. Deputy Chief Byrnes has been pressing the mall to get the substation in place. The mall management has been very cooperative and is working as quickly as they can as they are spending a great deal of money to accommodate the department with the needs of the substation.

Chairman Testani mentioned that he would like to set a time line for the mall management as to when the substation location would be confirmed. Chief Lombardo indicated that he understood the importance of the substation, at this time the department would not like to give the mall management a deadline and the reason being they are spending thousands of dollars to accommodate the department for the substation. Chief Lombardo would like to continue the great relationship with mall management.

Deputy Chief Byrnes provided an update on the Communication Center project. The project is a two parts, one being the radio system upgrade and the other the being renovation project which was approved over a year ago. As of a few days ago the preliminary work has begun inside police headquarters and preparing for the dispatch center to be moved over to a temporary location so the major renovations can take place. As part of the upgrade the

department will be changing from a single transmit site that is currently at Long Hill along with some smaller receiver sites that will provide a total of eight sites in the new system. What is occurring, and is an ongoing process, is evaluating some of the existing sites they have and to see if the equipment needs to be improved. Deputy Chief spoke in detail about the proposed cell tower that will be built near Trumbull Center which will allow the Police Department to add some equipment to expand the signal coverage that the department currently has. Deputy Chief Byrnes asked Ed Lavernovich to speak more in detail about the proposed cell tower. Prior to Deputy Chief Byrnes handing over the topic to Mr. Lavernovich he wanted to let the commission know that this cell tower would help the department in three major ways, adding the radio equipment to the tower which will cover the signal problem, mobile data computers in the vehicles all work on Verizon cellular signal and third the back-up form of communication, the cell phones which are all on the Verizon service. Mr. Lavernovich showed the commission a map of the location of the proposed cellular tower and he indicated that several cellular providers that have spoken to the town in providing coverage in the Trumbull center area and Verizon has been the most persistent and they have spoken to the town of multiple sites and one being a location off of Jeffrey Place. Verizon was given permission to do some testing on the site and found the site to be feasible and provided some site drawings and types of improvements. Mr. Lavernovich would need to go before the Parks and Recreation commission to get their permission and neighbors were notified about the location of the tower is being considered. If Parks and Recreation approves, the next step will be to go before the Planning and Zoning commission to get a report from them prior to any final decision by the Town Council to get into a lease agreement with Verizon. Town Council would need to hold a public hearing on the land transaction. If they get approval process with town Verizon will sponsor their own public hearing for the tower. Mr. Lavernovich found that in speaking with Chief Lombardo and DC Byrnes this would be of importance to the department.

Mr. Lavernovich would like the commission to endorse the concept that anything that can be done to improve cell coverage in the the Trumbull center area is a plus to the town.

A motion was made by Commissioner Portanova to endorse the concept Mr. Lavernovich is proposing for the cell tower. MOTION made by first by Commissioner Portanova and seconded by Commissioner Zamary. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Testani welcomed and asked the guests that were present at meeting to introduce themselves. Brian Daly attended meeting as he is earning his merit badge for the Boy Scouts. Also present was his father.

### **Union Business**

Grievance 15-01, James Haselkamp indicated that there is no agreement for the grievance but there is an agreement to waive Step 2. The Town of Trumbull has made some commitments to get some information for the union in the time frame outlined. Mr. Haselkamp has a waiver agreement that the Chairman will need to sign. The grievance will proceed to arbitration and Mr. Haselkamp has agreed will provide information Union has requested by May 1, 2015. Detective Coppola requested that the motion be read for the record.

Chairman Testani made a motion for "The Town of Trumbull and the Police Union Local 1745 agree to waive Step 2 of the Grievance procedure outlined in collective bargaining agreement without prejudice to either parties' position regarding grievance number 15-01 involving change of carrier Article 6 Section 3. The town agrees to provide the Union the requested information that is required to be release by CGS 38a-981 and/or mera by May 1, 2015."

MOTION made by first by Chairman Testani and seconded by Commissioner Liggins. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

First Selectman Herbst asked that James Haselkamp and Lynn Arnow also be present in the executive session. First Selectman Herbst indicated that it is his understanding that what is being done tonight is exclusively asked for by Chief Lombardo for the the recommendation of Deputy Chiefs.

Commissioner Liggins made a motion to enter into Executive Session under new business for interviews and appointments of Deputy Chiefs at 6:00 p.m. MOTION made by first by Commissioner Liggins and seconded by Commissioner Zmary. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

Entering into Executive Session: Chairman Testani, Commissioners Liggins, Portanova, Zmary, Chief Lombardo, First Selectman Herbst, Lynn Arnow, James Haselkamp and Vivian Munoz.

Lieutenant Ronald Kirby entered Executive Session at 6:40 p.m. and exited at 6:53 p.m.

Lieutenant Thomas Savarese entered Executive Session at 7:02 p.m. and exited at 7:13 p.m.

A motion was made to exit Executive Session at 7:16 p.m. Motion made first by Commissioner Zmary, seconded by Commissioner Liggins. There was no further discussion. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Portanova hereby made a motion that Lieutenant Ronald Kirby be appointed by the Trumbull Police Commission as Deputy Chief of Police for the Town of Trumbull with an effective start date of March 30, 2015, which shall accord the Town of Trumbull ample time to negotiate and execute his employment agreement. MOTION made by first by Commissioner Portanova and seconded by Commissioner Liggins. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Portanova hereby made a motion that Lieutenant Thomas Savarese be appointed by the Trumbull Police Commission as Deputy Chief of Police for the Town of Trumbull with an effective start date of March 30, 2015, which shall accord the Town of Trumbull ample time to negotiate and execute his employment agreement. MOTION made by first by Commissioner Portanova and seconded by Commissioner Zmary. ALL IN FAVOR, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, and upon motion made by Commissioner Portanova, seconded by Commissioner Liggins, the Trumbull Police Commission adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Munoz  
Clerk of the Commission