

Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
March 26, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall
Conference Room #1

Chairman David Monz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman David Monz, Vice Chairman Larry Lazaroff, Commissioners Alden Mead, Robin Wilson and Marc Calafiore. Also present Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Chief Kevin Glenn.

Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2019 Meeting both regular and executive sessions. Secretary Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman Monz asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for February 2019. The motion to accept the reports was made by Commissioner Mead seconded by Vice Chairman Lazaroff. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

Chief McLoughlin received a Thank you note from a resident praising the efforts of Officer Jonathan Dahlstrom and Detective Michael Harton for their assistance in helping her recover money that was fraudulently taken from her credit card.

Chief McLoughlin received a Thank you letter from Charles Sherwood; Director of the South Central Criminal Justice Association thanking him for allowing Officer Paulius Laukaitis to serve as a panelist on a recent oral board testing.

Sergeant Antonio DePascale received a Thank You Letter from the Pellegrino Law Firm thanking him and his fellow officers for the job well done with assisting in the 3rd Annual Super Bowl Sunday Road Race. Mr. Pellegrino stated their assistance made the race successful and safe for all the participants.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman David Monz spoke of a tragic motor vehicle accident that occurred earlier in March in which a pedestrian was fatally injured. Chairman Monz expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of the victim. Chairman Monz stated to those who live or travel in that area to be rest assured that the police department is actively assessing options to improve safety in that area. Further Chairman Monz stated that there are limitations to what can and cannot be done but the Board welcomes input from residents in that area.

Chief's Report

Chief McLoughlin once again reminds residents to lock your vehicles at night. Chief reported that the number of vehicle burglaries had declined in the earlier part of this year but the numbers are now increasing slightly.

Chief McLoughlin warned residents that internet and telephone scams are continuing. Chief reminds everyone that Government agencies and large companies will not call you and ask for personal/financial information or monetary payments. Chief McLoughlin stated to simply hang up the phone and do not respond to suspicious emails. Chief McLoughlin advises residents to call the police department if they have any problems with these types of scams.

Chief McLoughlin also stated that just yesterday he was made aware of a new scam in which people are claiming to be from the Social Security Administration looking to update personal information.

Chief stated that if someone is trying to obtain personal information about you such as your date of birth, social security number, banking account numbers etc., you should immediately raise a red flag.

Chief McLoughlin publicly congratulated Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney, Jim Turcotte on his upcoming retirement. Mr. Turcotte has been a prosecutor at the Meriden (GA 7) Court for 35 years. Chief McLoughlin stated that Mr. Turcotte has been a great advocate for the state of Connecticut and a wonderful resource for our officers and investigators. Chief wished him the best on behalf of the whole department.

Chief McLoughlin congratulated Detective Michael Harton for a recent incident while working an extra duty detail at the Cinemark Theater. Detective Harton was successful in resuscitating a two month old baby that was not breathing. Chief used the analogy of a "Swiss Army Knife" to describe Detective Harton. Because of his efforts, Detective Harton is being recognized by the Police Commissioners Association of Connecticut on May 29th for his life saving efforts.

Budget

Chief McLoughlin reported that the budget is going well at this point in the fiscal year and he is confident that it will be spot on at the end of this fiscal year.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship:

Chief McLoughlin reported that he received no scholarship requests this month.

Uniform Services/ Investigative Services:

Chief reported there has been a slight increase in nighttime commercial burglaries and reported that most incidents are occurring in the South end of town at restaurant type establishments. Chief McLoughlin stated that these burglaries are also happening in neighboring towns. Detectives are working together with surrounding agencies to locate the suspect/s. Chief McLoughlin reported that residential burglaries are down and almost nonexistent.

Traffic/Support Services

Chief McLoughlin spoke of the recent Ridge Road fatal motor vehicle accident and advised the Board that the accident is still under investigation. Officers are waiting for results from physical evidence collected at the scene which has been submitted to the State Laboratory as well as results from the cell phone carrier of the offending driver. A person of interest that is the potential suspect has been identified.

Chief McLoughlin explained that during the morning of that accident officers were running radar on Ridge Road in the area of the West Ridge Firehouse. Chief McLoughlin stated that to give residents some sense of comfort, patrol officers have conducted 18 additional radar enforcement details in the area of the accident.

Chief McLoughlin stated that Ridge Road is a “collector” roadway, a main artery for vehicles wishing to avoid Dixwell Avenue, State Street and Whitney Avenue. Further Chief stated that according to the DOT’s most recent study roughly 4000 cars use Ridge Road on a daily basis.

Records/Professional Standards

Chief reported that the department conducted Active Shooter Training this past month. The training was also offered to the other police departments within our South Central Compact (North Branford, Guilford, Branford, Madison and East Haven). Officers from the SWAT team were the trainers and all six towns trained together.

Chief McLoughlin explained that it is very beneficial to all the officers and the towns since these officers would be working together in a crisis situation.

Officer Rich DePalma has completed his field training and will be patrolling solo as of this weekend.

Officer Brenden Burke graduates from the Police Academy tomorrow. Burke will then start his 10 week field training.

Recruit Michael Stephens is due to graduate from the Milford Academy in July.

Recruit Santiago Mateo will start at the Meriden Police Academy on Friday April 5th.

Building Project Update

Chief McLoughlin stated that construction on the new police building continues to move forward and he is pleased with the work. Windows have been installed, walls are being painted, and tile is being placed in restrooms and locker rooms.

The monopole was erected on March 5th. Chief explained that it is of the newest technology and quite large but fits in nicely with the new buildings design.

Chief McLoughlin stated the anticipated date to repopulate the building is July 1st.

With nothing further, Chairman Monz asked for a motion to adjourn for the purpose of moving to Executive session. The motion was made by Commissioner Calafiore and seconded by Vice Chairman Lazaroff. All were in favor. The time was 7:23 p.m.

At 8:01 p.m. the Board returned to regular session for the purpose of adjournment. Chairman Monz asked for a motion to adjourn, the motion was made by Vice Chairman Lazaroff and seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor. The time was 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Wilson, Secretary

Minutes by P. Claffin