

Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 28, 2020
Police Headquarters
8 Linsley Street
7:00 p.m.

Chairman Larry Lazaroff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Larry Lazaroff, Vice Chairman Robin Wilson, Commissioners Alden Mead, Marc Calafiore and Bob Hannon

Others present: Police Chief Thomas McLoughlin and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Glenn

Chairman Lazaroff said it was good to be back to meeting in person during these interesting times with the current health concerns. Chairman Lazaroff spoke on behalf of the entire Board stating they are proud to serve on the Board and it is a privilege to serve and work with this department as Police Commissioners and they stand behind all the men and women of the department. Chairman Lazaroff referred to the departments seal displayed on the wall behind him which reads "Service, Integrity, Excellence and Vision" and praised the work of the fine police force in North Haven.

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 regular meeting. Commissioner Calafiore made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Correspondence:

A thank you card was received from the LeGrand family thanking the department for their service and protection and also stated that they are proud of the police department.

A letter was received from a Meriden resident who wished to express her thanks to the department.

Chief McLoughlin received a letter from Charles Sherwood of the South Central Criminal Justice Association thanking Lieutenant Andrew Stavrides for serving as a panelist in a recent oral board testing held in Naugatuck.

A letter of thanks was received from a resident who was the victim of a financial crime. He praised the efforts and hard work of Detective Learco Capozzo.

A letter was received from Josepha Gibson who expressed her thanks to the department for all they did for her and her family during the recent passing of retired North Haven Police Captain Hayes Gibson.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Lazaroff said fortunately there has been no illnesses in the department related to COVID. Chairman Lazaroff spoke of a recent protest on the green and stated that everything went smooth.

Chairman Lazaroff also spoke of a recent march from the high school to police headquarters and thanked the entire department for their participation. He also thanked Lieutenant Andrew Stavrides for a job well done in setting up the operational plan.

Chairman Lazaroff stated a new K9 handler has been chosen.

Chairman Lazaroff stated Brett Runlett was recently sworn in as a new Supernumerary Officer.

Chairman Lazaroff congratulated all NHHS seniors who graduated this year and thanked the department for their assistance with the traffic detail associated with the new procedures put in place for the ceremony.

Chief's Report:

Chief McLoughlin said tonight was the first in person meeting since the start of COVID in March. The meeting is being recorded by NHTV and a live feed of the meeting can be viewed in the lobby of the police department.

Budget:

Chief McLoughlin stated the budget is off to a good start for the first month of the new fiscal year and is currently about 2 percent under our self-imposed monthly expenditures.

Uniformed Services/ Investigative Services:

Chief McLoughlin stated the department has been fortunate to report no COVID related illnesses. He asked those listening to please wear a mask and practice safe social distancing.

Chief McLoughlin stated the daily police operations that were modified back in March at the start of the pandemic have resumed to normal. The court system has also reconvened to normal operation.

Chief McLoughlin stated since the outbreak of COVID in March, calls for service from March 15th through yesterday, compared to last year during the same period, are down about 20 percent.

There was an uptick in overdoses in July. Five non-fatal overdoses were reported.

There was also an uptick in vehicle thefts. Vehicle burglaries are up 37 percent. Once again, Chief McLoughlin reminds everyone to lock their vehicles and remove any valuables, key fobs and garage door openers.

Motor vehicle accident numbers are down since March.

Chief McLoughlin stated the Connecticut State Police K9 Unit recently assisted the department with the selection of new K9 handler. Officer Jonathan Dahlstrom will start training for this position at the end of September or early October. The new K9 should be here before next month's commission meeting.

Chief McLoughlin stated Brett Runlett was recently sworn in as the department's newest Supernumerary. Runlett will be assigned to the High School. SRO Runlett is a retired Lieutenant from the New Haven PD with a lot of experience. Chief McLoughlin stated he is a great asset to this department.

Chief McLoughlin spoke of a Black Lives Matter protest on the town green roughly five weeks ago which was peaceful and no incidents were reported.

Chief McLoughlin spoke of a Black Lives Matter protest/march two weeks ago. Protesters marched from the High School to Police Headquarters. There were no incidents. Chief McLoughlin thanked Lieutenant Stavrides for putting together a good operational plan and thanked the whole department for their participation.

Support Services/Traffic:

Bob Thomas Ford of Hamden has won the bid for the three new police cruisers. Bob Thomas Ford said delivery of the cruisers will be roughly a 30 week wait. A brief discussion followed regarding the current police vehicles.

Records/Professional Standards

Chief McLoughlin spoke of new police accountability bill under consideration in Hartford that is currently being deliberated by the Senate. Chief McLoughlin stated the bill is somewhat controversial and if it passes, there will be significant changes to law enforcement. Chief McLoughlin encouraged the entire Board to read the bill. Commissioner Calafiore asked Chief to briefly explain the proposed police accountability bill. A brief discussion followed.

Walter T. Berniere Scholarship

Chief McLoughlin received seven requests for scholarship consideration this month.
Lieutenant Andrew Stavrides requests consideration for two graduate courses.
Sergeant Joe Woznyk requests consideration for two graduate courses.
Sergeant Cliff Hill requests consideration for one graduate course.
Officer Rich DePalma requests consideration for two undergraduate courses.

Commissioner Mead made the motion to grant the requests, seconded by Commissioner Hannon. All were in favor.

Chief McLoughlin stated on behalf of Deputy Chief Glenn and himself they would like to congratulate Sergeant Hill for receiving his Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Commissioner Mead spoke briefly about Captain Hayes Gibson and referred to him as a "sterling" police officer. Commissioner Mead spoke of his friendship with Gibson and stated "what an outstanding and great person he was". Everyone present thanked Commissioner Mead for his kind words.

With nothing further, Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to move to Executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. The motion was made by Commissioner Hannon, seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. All were in favor. The time was 7:39 p.m.

At 8:00 p.m. the Board reconvened to Regular Session for the purpose of adjournment. Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Calafiore and seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson. All were in favor. The time was 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Calafiore, Secretary