

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

Vice 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 welcomed new Commissioner Bob Hannon to the Board and he highlighted Commissioner Hannon's past service to North Haven as it related to past Town Commissions and Boards that he has served on.

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17, 2019 meeting, both Regular and Executive Session. Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

Chairman Lazaroff asked for a motion to approve the monthly reports for December 2019. The motion to approve the reports was made by Commissioner Calafiore, seconded by Commissioner Mead. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

**Correspondence:**

A letter was received from a Universal Drive business owner thanking Detective Lee Capozzo for his investigative efforts in identifying and arresting a burglary suspect.

A letter was received from resident Pam Parella of Trumbull Place who was requesting "no thru truck signs" at both ends of Trumbull Place. After some discussion, the Chief advised the Board that should they approve such request, the request would be forwarded to the State Department of Transportation as this particular agency has the final decision in establishing speed limits and no thru trucks zones. After further discussion, the Board agreed to suspend any decision on this request and to revisit it in the coming months.

**Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Lazaroff stated that he attended the Police Retirement Board meeting last month and the pension funds are doing well.

Chairman Lazaroff stated the department will be hosting a Citizen Police Academy this April and deferred to the Chiefs report for more details. The Chairman encouraged all Board members to attend the first meeting to introduce themselves and let attendees know what the Board of Police Commissioners is about.

Chairman Lazaroff asked Chief McLoughlin about getting a new Police K9 to replace K9 Koda who recently retired. A discussion followed amongst the board regarding the cost of a dog, breed of dog, training, vehicle outfitting, food and medical costs for the dog and the day to day handling of a police K9. In considering the breed of the next police canine, Chief McLoughlin urged the Commissioners to speak, one on one, with Officer Alan Cantele, Koda's former handler, to get a good understanding of the day to day work and training that is involved with police canines, especially canines such as Koda.

Chairman Lazaroff asked if the Chief could post a notice to the officers to see if any of them had interest in being a K9 handler. Chief McLoughlin stated that it would be best if a specific breed was agreed upon before posting or advertising for potential K9 handlers.

Chairman Lazaroff stated that he and Commissioner Calafiore recently met with a resident of Ridge Road who voiced her concerns about the lack of visibility of patrol cars in the neighborhood.

Chief McLoughlin advised Chairman Lazaroff that officers are patrolling the area often. Chief also said that some of the patrol cars blend in with traffic and might not be identified as a police cruiser. Chairman Lazaroff asked for more blue lights to be activated in the cruisers during routine patrol.

A discussion followed about residents wanting more stop signs on Ridge Road, and it was agreed that stop signs would not alleviate any traffic concerns on Ridge Road.

Chief McLoughlin explained that state roadways and collector roadways carry high traffic volume, and if people chose to live on these highly traveled roads, that is their choice. The Chief added that the police are limited to speed control and there is little to be done concerning traffic volume on these streets.

Commissioner Calafiore asked about installing some type of rumble strips in the Ridge Road area. Chief McLoughlin stated he has spoken with First Selectman Freda in the past regarding rumble strips and a rumble strip in the center of the road is very possible. The Chief said he would reach out to Mr. Freda to follow up on this.

Chairman Lazaroff congratulated Officer Marv Carter on her recent graduation.

Chairman Lazaroff congratulated Officer Mateo on the completion of his ten week field training.

Chairman Lazaroff reminds residents during winter storms to pay attention and follow posted parking bans. Parking Ban notifications are posted on social media, the Town of North Haven website as well as all the major television channels.

### **Chief's Report**

Chief McLoughlin reported a decrease in vehicle burglaries since this time last year. Chief McLoughlin asked residents to please continue to lock your vehicle doors at all times.

Chief McLoughlin spoke of a suspicious incident that was posted on local social media recently. The incident occurred at Dunkin Donuts on Washington Avenue where it was reported that a suspicious male, accompanying three middle school age females, looked suspicious and out of place. It was later determined that the male subject was a parent of one of the females.

### **Budget**

Chief McLoughlin stated the budget is staying within our expectations.

Chief McLoughlin advised the Board that he was recently notified that the Police Academy is going to be increasing the cost of police recruit training to \$3800. Chief stated that we did not expect this increase, nor plan for it in next year's budget. Chief McLoughlin stated he will reach out to the Finance Department before the budget workshop on February 17<sup>th</sup> to see if he can get our proposed budget modified to reflect this increase.

### **Services Uniformed /ISU**

One residential burglary was reported last month on the West side of town

Five commercial burglaries were reported last month. A solid suspect has been identified in one of these burglaries and he may be connected to the others.

Two street robberies were reported. One incident involved a street fight at the movie theater, resulting in a cell phone being stolen, and the second incident was a drug deal that went bad in a local park.

There were four overdoses last month, one of which was fatal.

There was a decline in car burglaries last month, with five incidents reported in five weeks. All of the five vehicles were unlocked at the time of the burglary.

Three vehicle thefts were reported. One vehicle had the keys in it; two of them were left unattended with the motor running. Please lock your vehicles.

The massage parlor on Washington Avenue that closed last month has plans to reopen next week.

### **Traffic/Support Services /Professional Standards**

Chief McLoughlin spoke regarding Sergeant DePascale's traffic study based on a request from a Jansen Lane resident asking for the installation of speed bumps and a 10 mph posted speed limit.

Chief McLoughlin stated the he doesn't believe there is sufficient data to make any traffic changes on Jansen Lane. Chairman Lazaroff agreed, as did the other Board members. The Chief stated he would reach out to the resident with the outcome.

A signage request was also received from a resident asking for the installation of two stop signs; one at Locke Drive and Spring Road, and one at Stanton Road at Locke Drive. Chief McLoughlin stated a stop sign should already be in place at Spring and Locke and perhaps it was knocked down and never replaced. Chief stated we

will check the intersection and put one up if it is missing. For the stop sign request at Stanton and Locke, a study will be completed and the Board may address it next month.

Chief reported that Officer Marvline Carter graduated from the Police Academy last week and has started her mandatory 10 week training program.

Officer Mateo is now patrolling solo after finishing his 10 week training program just after Christmas.

The third of four new dispatchers has been brought in and he is doing well.

The other two new dispatchers are also working well and the fourth dispatcher will start at the end of February.

Chief McLoughlin spoke of the Citizen Police Academy which will be starting in April. It will be a six week program. Chief McLoughlin asked Chairman Lazaroff to be present at the first class which will be an overview of the department and its history.

The agenda for this academy is not set in stone as of yet, but topics and subject matter covered will be Patrol, ISD, SWAT, Traffic and the K9 program.

Applications are available at the police department front desk or they can be downloaded from the North Haven Police Department Facebook page.

### **Walter T. Berniere Scholarship**

Chief McLoughlin received three requests for scholarship consideration this month.

Sergeant Cliff Hill requests consideration for two graduate classes

Sergeant Joe Woznyk requests consideration for one graduate class.

Officer Rich DePalma requests consideration for two undergraduate classes.

Chief McLoughlin explained that the Walter T. Berniere Scholarship Fund was established in the memory of Police Chief Walter Berniere. Chief Berniere was a member of the police department for 46 years when he passed away in 1990. This fund awards a stipend of \$250.00 per course for officers pursuing post-secondary education. This fund is not part of the operating budget.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to grant the requests, seconded by seconded by Commissioner Calafiore. All were in favor.

In regards to this scholarship, Commissioner Calafiore asked Chief McLoughlin to get him the available account balance.

Chairman Lazaroff stated he would like to do a fundraiser for the Berniere Scholarship sometime this year.

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 7:46 p.m.

At 8:17 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 Hannon and seconded by Commissioner Mead. All were in favor. The time was 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Marc Calafiore, Secretary