

MINUTES
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
February 13, 2023

PRESENT: Chairman Ed Tessman, Commissioners Rob Derry, Dom Morelli, Paul Melanson and Lynn Hidek

Also present: Chief DeMaio, Captain Jakober, Captain DePietro, Dennis Donovan, Lourdes Rojas, Craig Manemeit, David Cairns, Kathleen Recchia, Jason Frey, David Gorski, Jeff Brymer and Keith Graham

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Tessman. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance

A motion was made by Commissioner Hidek, seconded by Commissioner Derry to add Grievances 22-01 and 22-02 to New Business. The motion was unanimously approved.

Comments from the Public:

- Dennis Donovan expressed concern over people walking on Cow Hill Road in non-reflective clothing, making it hard to see them. He inquired if the department could post something on the Facebook page educating residents.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hidek, seconded by Commissioner Derry to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 regular meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Correspondence:

- Discussion occurred regarding the positive correspondence received

Traffic Authority:

- Angel Ride-Annual event scheduled for June 3, 2023. Chief DeMaio recommended the LTA approve the ride. A motion was made by Commissioner Derry, seconded by Commissioner Morelli to approve the ride. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chief's Report:

- The budgets were discussed and Chief DeMaio answered any questions that the Commissioners had.
- Chief DeMaio discussed the State of the Department report and answered any questions the Commissioners had.
- Community Support dog, K9 Jagger progressing well in his training
- Center for Policing and Equity team will be visiting the department the week of February 20, 2023. They would like to meet with the Commissioners and a date will be selected for that week.
- K9 Sonny has been with the department for 6 years and will need to be replaced. A process will occur for a K9 handler.
- Personnel-Staffing shortages, 2 officers are currently out, one is on light duty and the other is out on injury leave. There is still a vacant spot from an officer that resigned. A Sergeant has given his intent to retire to the Chief and there is the possibility of two officers resigning in 30-90 days. The department is currently looking to hire an entry level and a certified lateral officer. Chief DeMaio stated he is working with Captain DePietro on a schedule that will not place undue burdens on the remaining staff should those openings occur.
- Chief DeMaio commended the actions of the midnight shift, Officer Kostek and Officer Brymer apprehended a juvenile suspect who was entering vehicles in town.

- Boat-maintenance work was completed; a date will be determined regarding putting the boat back in the water.
- Radio Project-Three phases to the project were discussed.
- Chief DeMaio testified to the legislatures Public Safety Committee in Hartford regarding public safety retention and recruitment. Incentives were discussed to both retain and recruit new officers.
- Diaper Drive ends February 15th, articles were published in the newspaper and on Channel 8 regarding the event.
- Families Helping Families stuff a cruiser will occur April 1, 2023 at Big Y

Captain Jakober's Report:

- CALEA policy writing continues, currently 116 chapters left to complete.

Captain DePietro's Report:

- Captain DePietro provided the Commissioners with the monthly stats report, Investigative section report and Corporal Mangs Youth Bureau report. He answered any questions the Commissioners had.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Grievance 22-01- Union Attorney, Craig Manemeit presented the grievance to the Board of Police Commissioners.
- Grievance 22-02- Union Attorney, Craig Manemeit presented the grievance to the Board of Police Commissioners.

Executive session:

- A motion was made at 6:57 PM by Commissioner Derry, seconded by Commissioner Hidek to go into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved. Invited into executive session was Chief DeMaio, Captain DePietro and myself.

A motion was made at 7:54 PM to come out of executive session by Commissioner Hidek, seconded by Commissioner Melanson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Grievance 22-01-Commissioner Derry made a motion to deny the grievance as it stands, seconded by Commissioner Melanson. The motion was unanimously approved.

Grievance 22-02- Commissioner Melanson made a motion to deny the grievance as it stands, seconded by Commissioner Morelli. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Derry, seconded by Commissioner Melanson. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Shove
Executive Assistant
Police Chief