

## POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

March 26, 2008

Present: James Cole, Chairman  
Dexter J. Sutton, Secretary  
Stuart Sawabini, Member

Edward J. Nadriczny,  
Chief of Police

Also in attendance: Captains Thomas Bendernagel and Leon Krolikowski, Selectman Rob Mallozzi, Fisina Tomaselli, and Joan Wosahla.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Commission Chairman James Cole.

### I Minutes of Previous Meeting (February 20, 2008)

Discussion was held on the School Resource Officer position at Saxe Middle School, which has not been funded for this year. If we can do it on a limited basis we will do it starting in September. Commissioner Sawabini expressed his opinion that if by September we have five civilian dispatchers he would say "go ahead and put someone full time into Saxe." Otherwise it would bring our staffing down to 44. With no further discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Sutton, seconded by Commissioner Cole, the minutes of the February 20, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

### II Budget Presentation

The Chief reviewed the budget presentation he submitted to the town, which included reductions he was asked to make by the Board of Finance. The EMS building will go out to bid in May or early June. In 2009-2010 renovation of the police building will begin. The Chief has recently met with Cheryl Jones, Jeb Walker, Gary Conrad, George Maranis and the Town Attorney regarding civilian dispatch, with a target date of September or October 2008 for three or four dispatchers. If we don't go ahead with civilian dispatchers we will have to hire more officers. Commissioner Sawabini stated it has been approved by the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Town Council, as well as the Police Commission. He made motion to accept the budget as presented. Motion second by Commissioner Cole, the budget was unanimously accepted.

### III Department Monthly Reports

The department monthly reports were noted and accepted for the record.

### IV Topics For Discussion

#### 1. Request for elimination of "No Turn On Red" sign. Heritage Hill & Main Street Traffic Light.

Mr. David Kirby of Father Peter's Lane requested the removal of the "No Turn On Red" sign at Heritage Hill Road/Main Street for southbound traffic on Heritage Hill. The sign causes traffic to back up waiting for the light to change, when there is very little traffic on Main Street. The results of Captain Krolikowski's traffic investigation revealed that Heritage Hill Road and Main Street is a heavily traveled intersection. There were four reported accidents in the area in the last three years. There is a significant sight line problem. The State D.O.T. believes removal of the sign would not be

justified, but we can request a D.O.T. engineer to meet with the Captain. Mrs. Fis Tomaselli of Garibaldi Lane, present at the meeting, stated she had written a letter to D.O.T. in 2001, and then a second letter, with still no response. When she called them they said the problem was a hedge at the house on the corner, which blocks the view of oncoming traffic. Selectman Rob Mallozzi said the problem for drivers entering Main Street from Heritage Hill Road is with drivers not adhering to the "No Turn on Red" sign at the top of Locust Avenue. The "No Turn on Red" sign on Heritage Hill can be viewed as an inconvenience to those who regularly use that road to approach the Railroad Station or the shops on the west side of town. Captain Krolkowski will look into the site and contact D.O.T.

## 2. Request for Club Connecticut Road Races

Mr. Jim Gerweck of Club Connecticut is requesting approval for the following road races within town:

March 30, 2008	1500 hours	Equinox Race, 8K, 75 runners, Presbyterian Church
July 4, 2008	0900 hours	4 on the 4 <sup>th</sup> , 4 miles, 350 runners, St. Mark's Church
October 12, 2008	0830 hours	Great Train Race, 6.8 miles, 75 runners, Maple Street
October 26, 2008	1500 hours	Pumpkin Chase, 5K, 75 runners, Waveny Pool

Captain Bendernagel stated the races have little to no impact on the community and have been approved by the Police Commission for many years. He recommended approval. Upon motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Sutton, all four races were unanimously approved.

## 3. Request for approval of Extra Duty Rate Increase.

Lieutenant William Ferri requested an immediate increase in the department's hourly extra-duty rate to make it comparable to other area departments' rates. After discussion, the request was tabled until the next Commission meeting in April.

## 4. Request to attend Naval Postgraduate School. Captain Krolkowski.

Captain Leon Krolkowski requested Commission approval to attend an eighteen month Master's Degree program in Homeland Security offered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA and the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS). The M.A. program is offered at no cost to eligible local officials. All tuition, fees, classroom materials, per diem for meals and travel expenses are paid for by FEMA. The officer would have to go to California for 12 weeks out of an 18 month period. After discussion, it was the Commission's unanimous decision to look into other such programs that might not require so much time away from the department. Once a program is chosen, it would be opened to interested, eligible candidates prior to one being selected.

## IV State of Department

A. Letters of Appreciation for: Department Personnel; Officer Bryan Connolly; Captain Tom Bendernagel and Lieutenant William Ferri; Lieutenant David Bender; Captain Leon Krolkowski; Sergeant Carol Ogrinc and Lieutenant David Bender; the Department; Captain Leon Krolkowski and the Police Department..

## B. Performance Evaluation Revision.

Captain Krolikowski has a committee revising the performance evaluation form. They have worked with the Union, who will present it at their meeting on Friday. Officers have asked for a change. At present 50% of their promotional grade is based on performance evaluations. We are the only department who does that. Chief would change it to 33%. We will be having a lecturer from Penn State University coming to speak on how to rate and inspire officers. Sergeant John DiFederico is a state certified instructor who will also do training on the use of the new forms.

## C. Patrol Rifle Program.

The Commission unanimously approved the revised General Order Number 02-01-110, *Patrol Shotguns & Rifles* which adds members of the SRT be assigned to carry their SRT rifle instead of a shotgun while on patrol.

## D. New Canaan/Easton Peer Jury Program.

The New Canaan and Easton police departments have been working on the formulation of a Peer Jury Program in which minor juvenile cases will be adjudicated. Each town would provide 12 – 15 high school students to sit on the peer jury, as well as a moderator. New Canaan cases will be heard by an Easton jury and Easton cases will be heard by New Canaan. SRO John Milligan is working with schools to get some sophomores and juniors to serve on the jury. Sergeant Carol Ogrinc from time to time gets juveniles who commit minor crimes. This would enable them to not have to go to court. Prosecutor Rich Colangelo is now a Police Commissioner in Easton, and received permission from the supervising State's Attorney to start this program. The program will begin as soon as we get jurors and training is completed. The Commission unanimously agreed on going ahead with this program.

## E. Information Memo

Included:

- Officers Steven "Bo" Bear and Joe Pearson were honored by the American Red Cross with the Safety Professional Award as *2008 Heroes of Lower Fairfield County*. They were presented with the award at a breakfast on Friday, March 14, 2008 at The Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Stamford.
- Sergeant Jason Ferraro and wife Darlene are the proud parents of a new son, Isaiah Matthew.
- Officer Ron Bentley has received School Resource Officer training.
- Officers Aaron LaTourette and Joseph Farenga attended the Connecticut State Police motorcycle skills evaluation course. Officer Farenga will be first and has completed his 3<sup>rd</sup> day of training. He will be finished on April 11<sup>th</sup> and on the street between April 15 and 20<sup>th</sup>. Officer LaTourette will be sent for training in June.
- PBA sponsoring baseball team – *New Canaan Police*.
- Staff Development Days at West Point Military Academy in April.
- The Outback hosted a "Cop Shop" on February 21, where NCPD officers answered student questions.
- Department to change Performance Evaluations.
- Motorcycle won in the Connecticut Law Enforcement Challenge for a one-year lease, is being purchased outright by the department.

F. INSIGHT Training Bulletin: *Drug Interdiction Techniques*  
And  
*Hidden Compartments*

V. Other Matters.

A. Communications Sent on Behalf of Commission were noted..

VI. Other Traffic Matters.

A. Memorial Day Parade.

Our Highway Use Permit for the Memorial Day Parade has been received.

B. Route 124 (Oenoke Avenue)

The State has approved Captain Bendernagel's request to establish a "No Parking Any Time" zone on the east side of Route 124 between Holmewood Lane and Parade Hill Road.

C. Traffic Calming Committee

Captain Krolikowski's report on traffic issues shows 77 closed and 13 open.

VII. Executive Session (to be voted on by Commission)

At 7:24 P.M. Chairman Cole made motion to move to Executive Session. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sutton, and unanimously approved, the Commission entered Executive Session. At the conclusion of Executive Session at 8:08 P.M, regular session reconvened. With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Sutton made motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Cole, the Commissioners unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dexter J. Sutton, Secretary