

THE EAST HAVEN BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Joseph Civitello

Roll Call: Virginia Williams, Secretary

Commissioners Present: Chairman Joseph Civitello, Vice-Chairman Carl Perez, Commissioner Piergrossi, Commissioner Velazquez and Commissioner Crisci.

Also Present: Chief Brent Larrabee , Lieutenant Edward Lennon, ETV , Attorney Cofrancesco, Attorney Zullo, and citizens.

Pledge of Allegiance
Moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting 2/28/12

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Perez to accept the minutes of 2/28/12 as received, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried

Approval of Departmental Reports: March 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Crisci to accept the Departmental Reports as received, seconded by Commissioner Velazquez. All in favor. Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT: None
COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED/SENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chief Larrabee asked that we skip to the first item under New Business so we could introduce the East Haven Police Departments Interfaith Council Members:

The Interfaith council members were: Karen Johnson, Old Stone Church, United Church of Christ, Fr. Gerald Masters, St. Clare's Church, Fr. Thomas Sievel, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fr. Stanley Kemmerer, Christ and the Epiphany Episcopal Church, and Fr. John Lavorgna (who was not present) Our Lady of Pompeii Church.

Chief Larrabee commented that this was another way to get information to the police and that it was something he has done in other communities. They can meet once, twice, three times or on an as need basis. They are all East Haven Clergy, which is a good way to exchange information. The Chief also stated that we need a Police Chaplain who could deal with family issues, death notifications, counseling etc., This will be developed over the next couple of months and they would be given a badge and I.D.

Chief Larrabee handed out three policies, and stated that between LEARN, George Miller, DC Mannion and Lt. Lennon we can start the ball rolling. We will try to do more policies. Chief Larrabee invited anyone from the Board who would like to work with Lt. Lennon regarding policies and also said that this goes for the hiring process, we would have no separation this way. This would speed up the process for more timely hiring. The three policies handed out were: 1. Motor Vehicle Inventory, 2. Strip Search and 3. Bias & Profiling.

Chairman Civitello asked if some of the policies would be new. The Chief responded yes, like the License plate readers.

The Chief mentioned Project Learn, and that he would like a strategic plan on how we are going to operate the Police Department for the next 5 years. We are doing a very good job with limited resources.

Chief Larrabee stated that the Department of Justice will be coming in to do training on the 24th. and 25th. of April.

Chairman Civitello asked what the subject matter would be and the Chief stated racial profiling, etc.,

The Chief mentioned to the Board that at the present time we have no candidates to present to the Board. There were 9 names, 7 disqualified themselves and the last two were not put forth due to severe discrepancies

in their background. The Chief mentioned that the interviews are on video and audio. It's done for internal promotions etc., so that it can be reviewed by the person being interviewed as a positive learning tool. We waited too long to call for a list and some of the names on the list were requested by other police departments.

The Chief mentioned some of the up-coming retirements at the police department and that we need to move quickly and call for a list so that we can speed the process.

Commissioner Piergrossi stated that a lot of time was spent by the board writing policies and if they are still going to be used.

Chief Larrabee said that current police professionals will look at them as well as CALEA/ CT Post Council. We must match their standards.

Commissioner Piergrossi mentioned that the Board of Police Commission is the hiring authority. The Chief responded that the board could be there from the moment we get the applications, inasmuch as it's very time consuming.

The Chief reported that we have three good candidates for the Record Room's Clerk Position and they will be interviewed soon.

There will be a blog on the East Haven Patch "Ask the Chief @easthavenpolice.com

Commissioner Crisci addressed the board and asked Chairman Civitello why a letter he received from Attorney Zullo was not addressed under correspondence. He stated that proper procedure was not being followed. He felt that the conflicts mentioned in the letter should be addressed now. He mentioned the Town Charter and the case of Gesmonde, Pietrosimone, Sgrignari, Pinkus v Waterbury and that the board cannot retain separate counsel. He said the board should be provided with conflict free representation it is entitled to.

Attorney Cofrancesco commented to Commissioner Crisci that the so called case law he mentioned is not so authoritative at all and that this was not the time or place to litigate since he has a public forum in front of him.

Chief Larrabee was confused as to whom he was to get council from regarding an executive session item. He did say he would speak to Attorney Cofrancesco after the meeting.

Chief Larrabee commented that we should ask Civil Service for a Certified Recruit list and a Post Certified Police Officer List. We are budgeted for 53 officers and we only have 45 officers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to add an item to the Agenda, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perez. Roll call vote. All in favor.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi that a letter be sent to The Civil Service Commission regarding hiring at the East Haven Police Department, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perez. All in favor.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Perez that a letter be sent to the Civil Service Commission requesting two open ended lists, one for Certified Recruits and another list for Post Certified Police Officers, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Piergrossi thanked Chief Larrabee for his very professional report and the time that his staff put into it.

2. Discussion/action regarding Supernumerary request of Sergeant George Kammerer who retired on March 10, 2012.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairmen Perez to accept the request of Sergeant George Kammerer to become a Supernumerary officer at the East Haven Police Department effective immediately, seconded by Commissioner Piergrossi. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Discussion/action regarding Officer David Cari's exclusive ownership of Police K-9 Daro who retired effective 2/21/12.

A motion was made by Commissioner Piergrossi to accept the agreement between the Town of East Haven and Officer Cari regarding K-9 Daro dated February 21, 2012, seconded by Vice-Chairman Perez. All in favor. Motion carried.

A citizen asked why they could not respond to each item on the agenda and only under public comment. Attorney Cofrancesco explained that it was not the Boards protocol and that they can bring up their comments at the next meeting of the board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Crisci to adjourn, seconded by Vice-chairman Perez. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Civitello adjourned meeting at 7:42 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Virginia Williams, Secretary