



EAST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF POLICE SERVICES

471 NORTH HIGH STREET • EAST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06512

Mayor Joseph A. Carfora

Honorable Board of
Police Commissioners

HONORABLE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 26, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM

COMMISSIONER(S) PRESENT: Chairman Paul Carbo (presiding), Vice Chairman Dominic Balletto, Commissioner Eduardo Torrealba, Commissioner Marc Conte

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Edward Lennon, Deputy Chief Patrick Tracy, Clerk Marsha Maldonado

Due to technical difficulties with the Zoom platform, Chairman Carbo called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM.

Good evening, I am Paul Carbo, Chairman of the East Haven Board of Police Commissioners.

As is indicated on the preamble to this evening's agenda due to Governor Ned Lamont's March 10, 2020 declaration of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency and his subsequently issued Executive Orders 7B and 7D: and, due to the spread of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 in the State of Connecticut including New Haven County, in-person public access to this meeting will not be permitted. This meeting will be conducted in its entirety as an electronic meeting.

The public can access this meeting from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Tonight's regular meeting is taking place remotely via ZOOM. Videoconference links and dial-ins were provided to the public. For those listening, I would ask that you mute your devices if you are able so that we do not get any background noise.

I have one very important reminder for our members, every time someone speaks, you must state your name and title for the record. We must also be very careful not to speak over one another and, while initially this might seem a bit cumbersome, it is required so that all participants can hear what is being said, and so that we can create a clear record.

Thank you very much.

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Moment of Silence
3. Roll Call - Clerk Maldonado; quorum obtained
4. Announcement(s)

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5. Consider and act upon the approval of the Regular Monthly Meeting minutes of February 25, 2020

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept and approve the regular monthly meeting minutes of February 25, 2020 as received; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Consider and act upon the approval of the Monthly Reports (March, April, May 2020)

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to accept and approve the monthly reports as received; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consider and act upon Committee Reports & Recommendations

8. Public Comment

9. Correspondence Received/Sent

- a. Laura Ferriouolo (Crest Avenue/North Street), email dated May 21, 2020 – Follow up to resident undersigned letter dated June 17, 2017 and received by Clerk Maldonado July 24, 2017. The letter was presented to the Board at the July 25, 2017 monthly meeting for discussion, Item 9.ii.
- b. Dr. Brittany L. Stalsburg & Charles Fritch, Esq. (1 Palmetto Trail), dated May 20, 2020 – Request for temporary speed bumps on Cosey Beach Avenue.
- c. Megan Lyons & Sean Devlin (266B Cosey Beach Avenue), dated May 22, 2020 – Request for temporary speed bumps on Cosey Beach Avenue.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to defer these requests to the Traffic & Public Safety Committee for review; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Captain Joseph Slane (Retirement Notification), dated May 22, 2020 – Will address under 12.c.

10. Department Updates (Chief Lennon)

a. Personnel Matters/Injured Employees

- i. One (1) sworn personnel remains on long term injured; status unknown; to be determined
- ii. One (1) sworn personnel on light duty

iii. Promotions/Hirings

- 1) Subsequent special meetings to conduct in-person executive session interviews pursuant to items 12d.-h. will follow in the coming weeks.
- 2) We are fortunate to report that we recently completed our budget presentation before the Town Council. With the support of Mayor Carfora, our request for a staffing increase for sworn personnel was approved as the Department has not seen a staffing increase since the 1980s. These positions are long overdue because of our ratio of personnel to calls for service which is considerably higher in comparison to neighboring towns of equal or smaller size. Several of these promotions will be to fill current vacancies or vacancies due to upcoming retirements.

b. Overtime

Tracking fairly well for this time of year based on previous years; significantly less due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how we respond to calls for service.

c. Awards & Commendations

d. Noteworthy News

Vice Chairman Balletto asked about our personnel in relation to COVID-19 and sick time. Chief Lennon stated that we have not lost any employees due to direct exposure. As a Town and a community - along with the Fire Department and the Administration - we got ahead of the pandemic ensuring that we had proper PPE and sanitation supplies for our personnel. We had to change our perspective on sick time pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement to facilitate COVID-19 testing to make sure they were not infected thereby exposing the entire workplace. At this juncture, we are doing well.

Vice Chairman Balletto commended the Chief, Board of Finance, and Mayor Carfora and his Administration for all their hard work – it is absolutely remarkable.

Commissioner Conte echoed Vice Chairman Balletto for all their efforts. He recognizes a whole different sense of pride and importance in the Town thanks to our Police/Fire/First Responders and the Administration.

II. Old Business

12. New Business

a. Brother's Dream Ride – August 23, 2020

Clerk Maldonado advised the Board that the Dream Ride Event Coordinator submitted a request seeking approval from the Local Traffic Authority (LTA) along with the Certificate of Liability naming the Town as an additional insured. An authorization letter was sent to the Event Coordinator. The 2020 Dream Ride will be the weekend of August 21 - 23, 2020 and will come through East Haven on Sunday, August 23, 2020 en route to the Farmington Polo Club in Farmington, CT. The motorcycle ride anticipates 75 riders from Brothers Harley Davidson in Branford, CT. Dream Ride supports the Special Olympics.

b. State Project No. 0173-0500 – Traffic Control Signal Revisions

Commissioner Torrealba believes that the State is merely informing us of their intentions to proceed with the project to reduce fatalities on a State road unless the Board has a strong opposition to the project.

Chief Lennon commented that as the Local Traffic Authority, it would be appropriate to acknowledge the State's project as it moves forward. He agrees with Commissioner Torrealba in that it is a State road, stating further that there is no cost to the Town of East Haven and the project will improve intersection safety – it is a benefit to the Town.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to acknowledge State Project No. 0173-0500 – Traffic Control Signal Revisions; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. Consider and act upon the retirement of Captain Joseph Slane and his request for Supernumerary status

Clerk Maldonado read aloud the Retirement Notification letter from Captain Joseph Slane whose retirement date will be June 5, 2020. Captain Slane served the Department first as an auxiliary police officer for three and one-half (3.5) years before becoming a fully sworn member on August 20, 1993 – combined, approximately thirty (30) years. He is requesting Supernumerary status to continue serving the Town of East Haven.

Chief Lennon commented that it will be sad not to see Captain Slane at the Department every day. Captain Slane is a very nice man. He cannot say enough about him and he will be missed. Chief has no reservations about him becoming a Supernumerary, and hopes the Board will honor his request pursuant to the Collective Bargaining Agreement. As the most senior member of our Department, although he takes a lot of police and life experience with him, he will continue to be a resource to us. We wish him the best.

Deputy Chief Tracy echoes the Chief saying that a retirement of this caliber is always difficult. Captain Slane has made tremendous impacts to the Department in the various positions that he has held over the years and he will certainly be missed. Deputy Chief Tracy recommends him for Supernumerary status.

Commissioner Torrealba made a motion to acknowledge the retirement of Captain Joseph Slane and approve his request for Supernumerary status effective upon the date of his retirement; seconded by Vice Chairman Balletto. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. Request a certified Captain List from the Civil Service Commission

Chief Lennon spoke of the necessity for the certified lists (items d.-h. collectively) pursuant to the approved sworn personnel positions granted by the Town Council's budget for fiscal year 2020/2021. The reality is that the promotional/hiring process will be tiered and take place over the next several months to maintain balance so as not to impact patrol operations. It will also give us time to ensure that we have enough qualified candidates for hire. The Captain is the third-highest rank within the Department, and losing someone of that rank has an immediate impact on our operations. Therefore, he seeks the Board's support in requesting these certified lists to help us fill all these positions over the next several months.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to request a certified Captain List from the Civil Service Commission; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- e. Request a certified Lieutenant List from the Civil Service Commission

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to request a certified Lieutenant List from the Civil Service Commission; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. Request a certified Sergeant List from the Civil Service Commission

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to request a certified Sergeant List from the Civil Service Commission; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

- g. Request a certified Detective List from the Civil Service Commission

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to request a certified Detective List from the Civil Service Commission; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Request a certified Police Officer – Grade C Recruit List from the Civil Service Commission

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to request a certified Police Officer – Grade C Recruit List from the Civil Service Commission; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

i. Discussion and approval of revised policies 442.2 (Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)) and 450.2 (Use of Narcan)

Deputy Chief Tracy explained that changes to the CIT policy reflect compliance with Connecticut General Statutes as well as to streamline how officers are dispatched to a call where a Crisis Intervention Team member would be required.

As we progressed through the COVID-19 pandemic, we received further guidance from our Emergency Management Director Fire Chief Marcarelli along with Yale whose recommendation is that we don full PPE to include an isolation gown/suit when administering Narcan due to the risk of being exposed to COVID-19 as well as fentanyl; this change is reflected in the Narcan policy revision.

For the record and transparency, Chief Lennon noted that the change to this policy rescinds the previous policy as well as the temporary General Order 2020-03.

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to approve the revised policies en masse effective June 10, 2020; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Voice Vote: All in favor. No one opposed or abstained. Motion carried unanimously.

j. Discussion to schedule Special Meetings for June 2020

Chief Lennon proposed Thursday, June 4 for promotional/hiring for in-person executive session interviews at the Senior Center (to maintain social distancing guidelines) beginning at 1900 hours. The reason for the immediacy of this Special Meeting is because the next Police Academy begins on June 12, 2020.

The second Special Meeting will be to discuss the Town Council's action pertaining to Parking Ordinances to consider giving the BOPC authority to make changes to a few parking regulations. If they do vote for this, a meeting would be necessary to discuss how to proceed. Attorney Luzzi recommended the week of June 15, 2020 to give ample time to notify all interested parties who may want to participate in this discussion. Chairman Carbo proposed June 16, 2020 for a Zoom meeting beginning at 1900 hours.

To confirm, the Special Meetings will begin at 1900 hours as follows:

- Thursday, June 4, 2020 (East Haven Senior Center) - Promotional/hiring in-person executive session interviews
- Tuesday, June 16, 2020 (via Zoom) - Parking Ordinances

13. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Balletto made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Commissioner Conte. Chairman Carbo adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha M. Maldonado
Clerk to the Honorable Board of Police Commissioners

[Audio recording on file – duration 01:00:10s]