



City of Ansonia

CONNECTICUT 06401

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

COMMISSIONERS

Nicholas L. Amico, President

Ann Pitney, Vice President

David Casseti, Secretary

Dennis M. Phipps, Commissioner

Bob Goldson, Commissioner

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

5:00 PM

Erlingheuser Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

All those present rose for the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

At the request of the Chairman, the Recording Secretary called the roll. The following Commissioners were present.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico	X		
Commissioner Ann Pitney	X		
Commissioner David Casseti	X		
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		

Chairman noted that during the organizational meeting, Mayor Della Volpe has confirmed Mr. Dennis Phipps' resignation as Police Commissioner and that he is no longer a member of the Board.

Also in attendance:

Chief Kevin J. Hale, Alderman John Marini, Attorney Kevin Blake

Recording Secretary recorded four Commissioners present at the time of the roll call. The Chairman declared a quorum and proceeded with the agenda of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the December 2, 2009, regular meeting. Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to accept the December 2, 2009, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
Bob Goldson			X			

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman asked if there was anyone present to speak during the public session to please state their name and address for the record. There were none at this time. **(Please note that the public session was held after the unfinished business)**

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to accept the monthly reports. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. Commissioner Cassetti noticed that half a million has been spent on patrol salaries and wanted to know from Chief Hale if the million that is left would be enough if overtime is taken out of that. Chief Hale responded that the overtime is a separate line item and that monies in the salary line are the base salary for the patrol officers and it will be enough. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman asked for a motion to accept the communications a place them of file as presented. Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to accept the communication as presented and place them

on file as well as the late communications a) and b). Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Casseti	X		X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

- a) Letter dated December 14, 2009, from United Illuminating Company-Mr. Lawrence Mai to the Board, regarding his response to Mr. Wilkins (forwarded) request. **Commissioner Casseti asked if there was a light there before. Chief Hale stated he believed that they moved it. Chief hale also noted that the Mayor is aware and that Chief Hale will be speaking with him again. Commissioner Goldson asked if a copy of the UI response letter would be sent to Mr. Wilkins. Chief Hale stated that once we get the Mayor’s approval, the a letter will be sent to Mr. Wilkins.**
- b) Letter dated December 21, 2009, from the CT Department of labor, carbon copy the Board regarding grievance 2009-1. (Informational only-No Action Needed) **FYI – No action taken. Chief Hale stated that mediation has been requested on this. Commissioner Casseti confirmed that the Chief would be attending the mediation.**

Late Communication a) Letter dated December 16, 2009, from Chairman Bart Flaherty of the Planning and Zoning Commission to the Board, regarding their Boards suggestion of imposing the same parking restrictions on TEAM (school located on Howard Ave). **Chief Hale noted that the problem with this request is that there are very small children and parents run late to drop off the children and they park in no parking zone across the street and run their kids across the street and busses can get through. Commissioner Amico stated that the Board would review this request.**

Late Communication b) Letter dated January 6, 2010, from Attorney Kevin Blake to the Boards regarding the parking review of Wakelee Avenue. **Commissioner Casseti just wanted to clarify that this letter just stated that the Board of Police Commissioner/Traffic Authority has the authority to approve or deny the parking issues on Wakelee Avenue and not the Board of Aldermen. Commissioner Pitney wanted to be sure that Chief Hale would be reporting on this in his report. Chief Hale responded yes.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Ms. Flynn’s request for the Board to review the “No Parking” signs on Rockwood Ave. **Chief Hale informed the Board that the sign will be moved.**

2. Chief Hale to look into the area of 74 High Street. (This pertains to Martha Santiago’s request for a “Handicap Parking” sign to be placed in front of her home.) **Chief Hale reviewed the area and feels that this issue does not override the Boards “Handicap Parking” policy. Commissioner Goldson made a motion to deny Martha Santiago’s request. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor**
3. Mr. Tenpenny’s request for Winter Street to be made a one-way. **Chief Hale informed the members of the Board that the Ansonia Fire Department brought their largest vehicle for several practice runs, both ways on Winter and Summer Streets. The fire departments practice exercise went well and the fire truck was able to get into Winter Street.**
At this time two people from the public entered the meeting as well as Aldermen John Marini.
Chief Hale also presented the results of the survey conducted of the Winter Street residents regarding whether or not they were in favor or opposed to Winter Street becoming a one-way street. The survey results were 15-in favor and 10-opposed. Chief Hale also noted that only one member of each residence was allowed to vote. Commissioner Cassetti was surprised by the results and had the impression that an overwhelming majority of the residents were in favor of Winter Street becoming a one way. Commissioner Pitney made a motion to postpone the decision of Winter Street until Mr. Tenpenny is made aware of the results of the survey. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Cassetti			X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion for the Board to revert back to the public session so that the people who entered the meeting could speak. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
Bob Goldson			X			

Mr. Warren Connors
4 Winter Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Connors expressed to the Board his concerns with making Winter Street a one-way and that his feeling is that making Winter Street a one-way will bring in more problems. Mr. Connors feels that between plowing, parking and inconvenience issues, he is not in favor of Winter Street becoming a one-way. Commissioner Pitney thanked Mr. Connors for his presentation and stated that the Board would look into this matter.

John Marini
Board of Aldermen
City of Ansonia
253 Main Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Aldermen Marini introduced himself to the members of the Board and informed them that he has been appointed to the Police Committee. The members of the Board thanked him for attending their meeting. Commissioner Cassetti requested that all correspondence regarding the Board of Police Commissioners be sent to Aldermen Marini.

Chief Hale asked for Commissioner Pitney to clarify what she felt needed to be done in regards to Winter Street. Commissioner Pitney stated that the Board needs to know the number of people that are in favor of Winter Street becoming a one-way. Chief Hale stated that the police department as gone door to door to extract that information.

Mrs. Linda Connors
4 Winter Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mrs. Connors expressed her concerns on the survey that was taken a few weeks ago, her vote was not taken and her daughter was not home for the petition and the survey. Chief Hale explained that the department just wanted one vote from each address. Mrs. Connors also expressed her concerns that during the winter time it gets extremely slippery and having to go down to forth to North Cliff Street is concerning for her.

At this time Mr. Tenpenny entered the meeting.

Commissioner Cassetti asked the members of the Board what their opinion was regarding this matter. Commissioner Goldson stated that he felt Winter Street should stay as is. Commissioner Cassetti mentioned that it be patrolled as well for speeding.

Chairman asked that Chief Hale to update Mr. Tenpenny on the outcome of the survey.

Joel Tenpenny
22 Winter Street
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Tenpenny had concerns of the survey that was taken and felt that people who did not reside on Winter Street were putting in their vote for the survey. Chief Hale stated that the officers were instructed to speak with one resident of the household. Commissioner Cassetti expressed to Mr. Tenpenny that with the 15-10 vote, it didn't merit the Board to change Winter Street into a one-way. Commissioner Goldson made a motion to keep Winter Street as is. Commissioner Cassetti seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti		X	X			
Bob Goldson	X		X			

Frank Heusser Jr.
Frank's LLC
142 Wakelee Ave.
Ansonia, CT 06401

Frank Heusser Jr.- I've got some concerns with the police department. I see that they discipline some officers for stuff that happened in Bridgeport. They had the State Police come in and do an investigation on Mustafa over a stolen garden hose. I would like to know how come nothing was ever done to Sergeant Owens for paying someone to steal running boards off a vehicle at Healey Ford quite a few years back. You know they call the State Police for something like that but they don't call it in for a bigger concern like this. You know, is it because he's white? Is there something here revolving around that? Should the NAACP get involved in this? I don't think that's fair.

Commissioner Amico- How many years ago exactly?

Frank Heusser Jr. - It doesn't matter how many years ago...

Commissioner Amico- No, no, no, you're the one that brought up and said it was about how many years...

Frank Heusser Jr.- ...alright it was ten, twelve years ago, but in the police contract the last time I checked in the duty manual of an Ansonia Police Officer, the statutes of limitations are forever. There's no timeline.

Commissioner Goldson- Did you bring this up before ten, twelve years ago?

Frank Heusser Jr. - I brought it up a few times any nobody's done anything.

Commissioner Goldson- Ten or twelve...you said this happened ten or twelve years ago, did you bring it up then?

Frank Heusser Jr. - look at Lieutenant...

Commissioner Goldson- ...Did you bring it up then?

Frank Heusser Jr. - I'm bringing it up now because they told me they were coming after me if I said anything. Sergeant Owens did. If I said anything he was coming after me. So here I am bringing it up now. It is a legitimate issue. He paid somebody while he was working and sent the...he actually told me that he would call me if anyone called to report it, for me to call the kid and tell him to get out of there. I knew all about it. He told me if I said anything he would come after me. Sergeant...the Chief knew about it. There other Lieutenants knew about it. Lieutenant Williams gets nailed for seven years ago on a boat. Look at that. This is what I am talking about. There's things going on in the department but nobody looks into them, they just brush them away. That's conduct unbecoming of an officer, using his powers to steal stuff off a local business. Look at Madison P.D. with the lobsters.

Commissioner Pitney- I'd like to make a motion that the Board go into executive session right now with the Board, Chief Hale and Attorney Kevin Blake to be present only. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The Board went into executive session at 5:38 pm.

Commissioner Pitney made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Board returned to regular session at 5:41 pm.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Cassetti			X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Mr. Heusser asked if the matter would be looked into. Commissioner Pitney responded yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Pitney asked if the pictures have been completed for the department. Chief Hale responded no but would be soon, and that the commissioners will be contacted. Commissioner

Cassetti asked Chief hale if the code books have been ordered. Chief Hale stated that he placed the order but they have not been delivered.

ORAL REPORT:

Personnel:

- 2 officers are out injured. One officer was on a long term injury but has returned. One officer is recovering from surgery and one officer is on light duty.

Miscellaneous:

-The budget hearing is scheduled for next Wednesday at 7 pm. The budget will go to the Board of Aldermen first, and then it will go to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation for final approval.

-The Anti-Crime Unit started December 23rd. They came across a robbery in progress and made an arrest.

-The Lieutenants have switched duties. Lieutenant Cota is the Operations Lieutenant, and Lieutenant Williams is the Administrative Lieutenant.

-Chief hale has spoken to lieutenant Cota regarding “Distracted Driver Enforcement” Chief Hale informed the Board that the majority of people guilty of this do not realize that they are driving while they are talking on the phone, or with other distractions.

-The Wakelee Avenue study- Chief Hale suggested that the Wakelee Ave. study be placed on the February agenda. Commissioner Cassetti suggested that it be placed on the March agenda so that the new Board member will have enough time to review the Wakelee Ave. study.

-Chief Hale has made a draft copy of the 2010 goals which he will send out to the board members soon.

-The X-tra Mart robbery is still under investigation.

-Lieutenant Cota is scheduled to go to the FBI National Academy.

- Chief Hale asked if the Board would motion to approve any policies currently in place on December 31, 2009, are still in effect in 2010. Commissioner Goldson made the motion. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Cassetti			X			
Bob Goldson	X		X			

-Chief ask for the board’s approval on a recording systems which funds will be paid through the asset forfeiture account, approximately \$12,000.00. Commissioner Pitney made a motion to approve Chief Hale’s request for him to bring his request to the Board of Aldermen for approval of the Audio/Video Recording System. Commissioner Goldson seconded the request. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Cassetti			X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to accept Chief Hale’s report. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to go into executive session with Chief Hale to be present, regarding the update for the building committee. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Board went into executive session at 6:10 pm.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Commissioner Pitney made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The Board returned to regular session at 6:25 pm.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney	X		X			
David Cassetti			X			
Bob Goldson		X	X			

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
Bob Goldson			X			

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lester
Recording Secretary
Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority