



City of Ansonia

253 Main Street
Ansonia, Connecticut 06401

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BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS 'TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 4, 2012
5:00 PM
Erlingheuser Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nicholas L. Amico 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 Bob Goldson	X		
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		

Also in attendance:

Chief Kevin Hale
Alderman Marini
Alderman Tripp

Recording Secretary recorded four (4) 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 Amico asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2011 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the December 7, 2011 Regular Meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

PUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Amico asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak during the public session.

David Cassetti
3 High Acres Road
Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Cassetti said 10 years ago he and Ann Pitney were the first to come on board to the Police Commission after the Board was increased from three members to five members. He said the Board of Aldermen did not appoint him to a new term and he wanted to tell the Commissioners that it was a pleasure serving the community with them. They accomplished a lot of important business for the City and he is sure the current Board will do the right thing. He wished the Commissioners good luck and best wishes.

Chairman Amico thanked Mr. Cassetti for his years of service to the City. He said the Commissioners appreciate his time and work that he gave to the Board and City of Ansonia. He thanked Mr. Cassetti for a good job and wished him a very happy healthy New Year.

Ed Musante
138 Old Ansonia Road
Ansonia, CT

Mr. Musante suggested that Rockwood Avenue be made into a one way street. He said that it was one way up Rockwood Avenue in 2009. There are oil trucks that slide down the hill in the winter when there is snow and ice. He said that City of Ansonia trucks also slide. He is asking that Rockwood Avenue be made into a one way street going up the hill. It was one way in 2009 for three months.

Chief Hale said there was an issue at the top of the hill and it was made a one way while there were repairs to the road. It was then reverted back to two way at the request of the neighbors. The problem was repaired and the road was widened at the top of the hill near the curve.

Commissioner Pitney said that is correct. There was a survey done in the neighborhood and the neighbors wanted the road back to a two way street.

Commissioner Tyszka said he lived on Elaine Drive and it is an inconvenience for the people who live there when the street is a one way.

Mr. Musante said North State Street is a one way and has been one way for many years. Rockwood Avenue was a one way in 2009.

Chief Hale said it was one way so that the road could be repaired. It was a short term solution for safety issues at the top of the hill. Public Works Dept. widened the road and it reverted back to a two way street. Two cars can pass on the street. The majority of the neighbors wanted the road back to a two way street.

Jeff Devine

12 Arlene Drive

Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Devine said the light at Bridge Street and West Main Street intersection if you are traveling east bound and it is sunny you cannot tell if the light is red or green.

Mr. Devine also asked about the winter snow rules for parking. He said on 97 Benz Street there is a group home which is a business and they do not follow the winter parking rules. You cannot get by in the winter if they are parked like they are now.

Chief Hale said in a business area during the day the rule is a little more lenient however this is a residential neighborhood even though the Group Home is a business. The area is still a residential area. He said he will take a look at the area at 97 Benz Street.

Mr. Devine said the other issue is commercial trucks parked in a residential area. It makes it difficult to see with these large trucks parked on the side of the road. He said the Police Dept. is watching for that type of violation in the residential area.

Richard Bshara

20 Sobin Drive

Ansonia, CT 06401

Mr. Bshara asked if the Police Dept. has looked at his request from last month to remove the stop signs at Chester Street and Michael Street and Sheasby Road. He said there is very little traffic where these stop signs are located.

Commissioner Pitney said that years ago there was a plan to connect Sheasby Road to Woodbridge Manor and it never materialized and that might be the reason for the stop signs. She said she would be in favor of removing one sign at Sheasby Road.

Chief Hale said Lt. Cota walks that area every day and is very familiar with the traffic on those roads. He said Lt. Cota recommends they keep the stop signs the way they are. The streets are a

cut through and there is traffic there. He said they can do a traffic survey in the Spring and will continue to review the area.

There was discussion on the stop signs and their location and the reason they were installed.

Chief Hale said there are a lot of children in that area. He said he will try to find the original request for stop signs for Michael Street and Sheasby Road.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Commissioner Pitney made a motion to approve the monthly reports as submitted. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Monthly Reports:

1. Departmental Monthly Report
2. Car Maintenance Report
3. Officers' Activities Report
4. IA Log

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept all of the communications and review them. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

1. Communication A: Letter dated December 5, 2011, carbon copy to the Board from the Department of Transportation regarding their notification that they will be reviewing the roadway conditions on Main Street at Elm Street and Division Street in the vicinity of Park Place. They will also be contacting President Amico to let him know of their findings.

Chairman Amico said he hasn't heard from them yet. They want to meet with the Police Commission for recommendations.

Chief Hale said that intersection was redone years ago and it is an 1800's street. Exiting from Park Place residents report that it is difficult to take a left turn. The road is one lane. There is a house and garage located there that is in the Historic District and Elm Street is a State road. The Mayor received a complaint regarding Park Place and the Police Department sent a letter to the Dept. of Transportation to look at the area.

Chief Hale also explained the recent revisions to the intersection of Division Street and Main Street where the traffic backs up down Main Street to Sardo's and it takes six cycles to get through that area. There is a large volume of traffic and there should be three lanes. There is just so much property and land that can be taken to widen the road. There is a house, and a house and a business. The Shell Station closed off the entrance closest to the traffic light and the stop bar can be moved to allow four more vehicles up there but this doesn't alleviate the entire situation.

Chairman Amico said the State is still reviewing the traffic at that intersection.

Chief Hale said the Council of Governments is looking at it again. There may be some funding available.

Commissioner Tyszka said the traffic is better than what it was.

Chief Hale said the residents can make a right turn only out onto Elm Street from Park Place. He said he doesn't know how you can improve the area to make it easier to take a left.

Commissioner Tyszka said they may have to turn right and go up the street and turn around if they want to go left.

2. Communication B: Quarterly Pension report from Fiduciary Investment Advisors

Chairman Amico said they are still reviewing this information with Finance.

3. Communication C: Letter dated December 19, 2011 to the Board from Mitchell Murray, requesting a stop sign at the corner Franklin Street and High Street.

There was discussion on where Mr. Murray is requesting a stop sign.

Chairman Amico said there are no stop signs from Howard Avenue to Olson Drive. There are stop signs at the corner of Franklin Street and High Street and Lester Street and High Street.

Chief Hale said the Police Dept. will look at the traffic data and report back to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Beverly Drive at Highland Avenue

Chairman Amico asked if anything has been done with the island at Beverly Drive and Highland Avenue.

Chief Hale said they have sent a second request to the Public Works Department requesting they look into installing a traffic island at Beverly Drive and Highland Avenue.

Commissioner Tyszka asked who receives the letter besides the Superintendent of Public Works.

Chief Hale said the Board of Public Works members have received copies of the letter.

Chairman Amico explained the Board of Police Commissioners requested an island and stop sign at Beverly Drive intersection of Highland Avenue because there have been complaints that you can't see to the right as traffic exits onto Highland Ave. The Board requested the island to resolve the problem.

2. Board to discuss issues concerning a new pension recipient.

Chief Hale said that this is still pending.

3. Board to discuss winter parking situations on Colony Street and Wakelee Avenue

Wakelee Avenue

Chief Hale said he spoke with Attorney Sheehy on his request. The Supt. of Public Works is not in favor of alternating the parking on Wakelee Avenue. He said they want to keep a straight line for the snow plow. This is a residential area and there are businesses in homes and there is limited off street parking. During the winter months the Department doesn't strictly enforce the parking during the daytime hours in the business district. He said they could put up a sign specific for business parking – 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This will not be unmanageable and will not alter the side of the street parking or snow removal. The sign could read “Business Parking Only 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.”. This can be enforced and only for people in the business location.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the recommendation of Chief Hale to install a sign “Business Parking Only 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday” on Wakelee Avenue as requested. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

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

Colony Street

Chief Hale said from Colony Street to Underhill Road the yards have walls with a paved area so that the homeowner can park their vehicle off street. It is a way of getting people off the street. The people who live there park there and they all have off street parking. If another vehicle is visiting or a neighbor across the street needs a place to park they cannot park parallel to the car parked in this area because it would block them in. He said that they cannot start changing the No Parking rule as to which side of the street is No Parking. It has to remain as is because it would open doors in other areas. A number of streets have specific rules and after review of this area the recommendation is to leave it as it is. There is one family involved and a small area with one or two cars. The concern is we would be creating a pattern.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion not to change the No Parking rule for Colony Street to Underhill Road but to keep it as it is. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Pitney said that she would like to receive her minutes and information packet a few days earlier than this month's was received.

Chief Hale said that Mrs. Lester was on vacation but that the minutes normally go out to the Commissioners on time.

ORAL REPORT: Chief Kevin Hale

Chief Hale presented the following oral report to the Commission.

Personnel:

Chief Hale said that Officer Frolish has begun his duties on January 2, 2012 as Detective. The official swearing in ceremony will be held on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldermanic Chambers.

- Three (3) officers are on long term workers compensation.
- One (1) officer is on short term workers compensation.
- Two (2) part-time Dispatchers are out on non work related illness. This is impacting operations a bit. The Dispatcher position is unique and requires 3 to 4 months of training. The shifts are covered with either a Dispatcher with Overtime or a Police Officer.

Miscellaneous:

- List of signs that the Police Commission authorized are waiting for the Public Works Department to install.
- Budget process has started. Police Department's budget hearing is Thursday, January 12, 2012.
- There was discussion last month on the No Parking Sign in front of the former Social Security Office on Main Street being too far back. Buses and trucks can't make the turn radius and they need the room. Main Street is a State of CT road.
- The Anti-Crime Unit is working very well.
- U.S. Attorney of Connecticut is recognizing several of our officers. The Board will be notified when this will happen. Commissioner Tyszka asked if they will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony. Chief Hale said they would be recognized at that time also.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept Chief Hale's oral report. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to have the Police Commission send a letter of thanks to David Casseti. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Tyszka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Lynn Flaherty
Acting Recording Secretary
Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority