



# 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, November 4, 2009

5:30 PM

Erlingheuser Room

### MINUTES

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Nicholas L. Amico chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:27 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 Dennis Phipps			X
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		

Also in attendance:  
Chief Kevin J. Hale

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 September 2, 2009, regular meeting. Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to accept the September 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			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson			X			

Chairman also asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the October 7, 2009, regular meeting. Commissioner Goldson motioned to approve the minutes of the October 7, 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			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson	X		X			

Commissioner Cassetti had a question in regards to the discussion held at the October 7, 2009. He mentioned that at the meeting he raised a number of questions regarding the sixth sergeant position but the discussion was not elaborated in the October minutes, it just stated that a brief discussion was held. Chief Hale explained that it was synopsized and that the tape of the meeting is placed on file with the Town Clerk's Office. Commissioner Cassetti agreed as long as the tapes are placed on file.

**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.

**Michael Carpinello**  
**20 Fairview Street**  
**Ansonia, CT 06401**

Mr. Carpinello approached the Board and informed them that in June he was involved in a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of East Main Street at Eagle Hose Firehouse. He stated that he spoke with Commissioner Pitney in regards to filing a claim with the Board of Police Commissioners. Commissioner Pitney commented that she informed Mr. Carpinello to file a claim with the Board of Aldermen. Chief Hale mentioned that it would go to the Board of Aldermen Claims Committee and the Corporation Counsel. Mr. Carpinello will take this matter to the Board of Aldermen as directed for resolution.

**Vincent Mas III**  
**229 Caroline Street**  
**Derby, CT 06418**

Mr. Mas stated that he has a little business located on Bridge Street near JR B's Restaurant. He stated that he places items for sale on the sidewalk, but has been receiving tickets for doing so. He expressed his concerns of other businesses that place tables, chairs and items for sale on the sidewalk but they are not issued summons. He stated that he is trying to do everything the right way. Commissioner Cassetti asked Mr. Mas if items are left there overnight. Mr. Mas stated that sometimes he does leave items out during the overnight for those people who are leaving the bars or going to work. Commissioner Cassetti was concerned with this because people could trip over the items if they are left out. Chief Hale informed the Board that he met with Mr. Mas and informed him that there is a permit process in the charter. Chief Hale stated that his understanding was that Mr. Mas was not going to place items on the sidewalk until this matter was figured out. Mr. Mas asked why he is the only one that is being asked not to place items on the sidewalk. Chief Hale expressed in his opinion that the sidewalk is too narrow. He also mentioned that the upper and lower parts of Main Street, the sidewalks are bigger. Commissioner Amico asked Mr. Mas what other store were in violation. Mr. Mas did not reply. The Board members asked Mr. Mas to be patient while the Chief researches this matter.

Chairman asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak. There were none. Public session was closed.

### **MONTHLY REPORTS:**

Commissioner Pitney made a motion to accept the monthly reports. 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			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Commissioner Cassetti noted that the budget report shows there is no money for signs and paint. Commissioner Cassetti asked Chief Hale what would be done in a circumstance for example with the crosswalk request we have from Mr. Civitella. Chief Hale stated that in that particular case the request would go to the Department of Transportation because it is a state road.

**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. 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 Cassetti	X		X			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson		X	X			

- a) Letter dated September 1, 2009, to the Board from Mr. Pasquale Civitella, regarding his request for a crosswalk area to be placed at the corners of Columbia Street and Main Street. **Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to forward this letter to the Department of transportation. 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			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson			X			

- b) Letter dated September 4, 2009, to the Board from Clayton Jackson, regarding his request to have a street light returned to the corner of Tremont Street and Beaver Street. **Chief Hale recommended to the Board that this letter be forwarded to**

**Untied Illuminating. Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to forward Mr. Jackson’s request to the United Illuminating Company. 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 Cassetti	X		X			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson		X	X			

- c) Letter dated October 7, 2009, to the Board from Robert Hughes of the Derby Police Commission regarding their approval of this Boards request for signs on Division Street near Griffin Hospital. **No action needed.**
- d) Letter dated October 28, 2009, to the Board from Al & Darlene Brewnig, requesting the removal of the “No Parking Church Only” sign(s) located at the former Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church located on Hubbell Ave. **Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to remove signs located at the former Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. 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 Cassetti	X		X			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson		X	X			

- e) Letter dated November 2, 2009, to the Board from Chief Kevin Hale regarding the request for permission to drive golf carts on city streets. **Chairman asked Chief Hale to give a summary to those present, regarding his concerns on driving golf carts on city streets. Chief Hale expressed his concerns not only on the safety of golf carts but also on the town’s liability on officers inspecting the golf carts. Commissioner Cassetti asked if the Board could allow it as a drive at your own risk. Chief stated no because the golf carts can not be driven on city streets without the Boards approval.**
- f)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. Review issuance requirements for golf carts. **Commissioner Pitney informed the Board members of a survey she had completed, and provided a copy for the record, concerning golf carts on main roads. She stated that she contacted 20 Chiefs of Police in the surrounding areas and that each of the Chief’s said that they would not**

allow golf carts on their streets. Commissioner Pitney shared the reasons the Chief's gave on why they wouldn't allow these golf carts. Commissioner Pitney also mentioned that she did contact Chief Mosca of Old Saybrook Police Department (who allows golf carts) to get his input. Chief Mosca stated that it is the best thing they could have done, it has cut down on vehicle accidents, and carts are allowed on roads allowing 25 MPH or less. Mr. Carl D'Alessio's original request for golf cart usage on city streets, alleged that there are motorized two wheel cycles and at least one motorized wheel chair that he has seen operating on city streets without proper registration and requests this be investigated. Mr. D'Alessio was informed that his allegation will be investigated and acted upon as necessary. (Please see attached copy of Commissioner Pitney's Survey Report) Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the Chief's review and Commissioner Pitney's survey, and that the Board will not allow golf carts on Ansonia streets. Commissioner Pitney seconded the motion. All in favor, Commissioner Cassetti Abstained. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney		X	X			
David Cassetti					X	
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson	X		X			

2. Send a letter to the Fire Chief with carbon copies to the Fire Commission, Ansonia Public Works and the Board of Aldermen regarding Winter Street. (Letter has been sent, awaiting response at this time.) Chief Hale stated that he is still awaiting a response from the Public Works Department. Chief Hale stated that the Fire Commission is not in favor of Winter Street becoming a one-way because it would be difficult for the equipment to get through. Tracy Brickett of 18 Winter Street approached the members of the Board in favor of making Winter Street a one-way. Mrs. Brickett expressed her concerns of the speeding vehicle that cut through Winter Street to get to Assumption or the Y.M.C.A. She also stated that she has called the police department to allow the officers to park in her driveway to monitor speeding vehicles. Chief Hale read a speed survey that was placed on Winter Street from Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> through Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there were 2,796 vehicles that passed through Winter Street during this survey and 93% were driving at or below the speed limit. The mean speed was 22 miles and hour, and the highest was between 43-50 miles an hour. Commissioner Cassetti recommended temporary speed bumps and asked the Board to consider. Mr. Tenpenny and Mrs. Brickett were in favor of the speed bumps. Chief Hale recommended that the Board wait to hear from the Public Works Department. Commissioner Goldson asked for this matter to be tabled until the December meeting.
3. Send letter to Mr. Sisbarro regarding the denial of his request for a "Handicap Parking" sign to be placed in front of his business located at 350 East Main Street. Letter has been sent.

4. Discussion of Rockwood Avenue. **Chief Hale reminded the Board that the top of Rockwood Ave has been widened. He stated that it was made into a one-way street because it was very narrow. Chief Hale recommended that the Board consider making Rockwood Ave. a two-way street with some parking restrictions. Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to revert Rockwood Ave to a two-way traffic road effective December 1, 2009, and that there be some parking restriction at the Chiefs discretion. 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			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson			X			

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Commissioner Cassetti’s request for a stop sign to be placed at the corner of 202 Beaver Street. **Commissioner Cassetti recalled speaking of this issue previously and at his request, he would like the Board to review the area and consider Chief Hale’s initial recommendation of placing a “Blind Driveway Ahead” sign on the same side the drive way is located. Matter was tabled till the December meeting.**
- b) Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority meeting schedule for 2010. **Commissioner Goldson made a motion that the Regular meetings for the Board of Police Commissioners be changed from 5:30 to 5:00 pm for the year 2010, and that the January 6, 2010, Organizational meeting be held at 4:45 with an invitation to the Mayor. 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			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson	X		X			

The Board members asked Jennifer Lester to contact Rich Bashura to update the City website, relative to our board meeting time change.

**ORAL REPORT:**

**Personnel:** - 6 officers are injured. Three are long term, 2 are short term, and 1 is non-work related. Chairman asked how this would affect the overtime issue. Chief responded that it was not good and a letter has been sent to the Board of Apportionment and Taxation regarding the overtime issues.

**Miscellaneous-** Chief Hale informed the Board of 2 Federal Grants the department has been approved for and that they are both 100% reimbursement. One is for the WAVE (seat belt checks) program and the other is a stimulus grant for the Anti-Crime Unit.

-The phone system equipment has been delivered. Chief Hale will be meeting with the project manager to see how the phone system will be phased in.

-There is progress on the Wakelee Avenue Study. There is now a new sidewalk on Wakelee Ave. at Mary Street.

-There is progress on the murder over the summer and the shots fired call from two weeks ago.

-Chief Hale stated that the Board has 15 days to act on the grievance they received. The deadline has passed and because the Board did not respond, it is considered a denial.

-The police department has been speaking with the Board of Education and the Middle School. The board of Education has made some configuration changes to the schools. All of the contracts stated the teachers will be provided parking spaces but there are not enough parking spaces. A week before school started the Chief Hale was contacted by the principle of the Middle school informing him of the parking situation. Chief Hale gave a short term solution to park on the ball field. Chief Hale mentioned to the Board members that he does not have the authority to order the teachers to park there. Chief Hale should be meeting with the Superintendent regarding this issue.

-The Jackson arbitration is Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>.

A letter has been sent to the Department of Transportation regarding the light on Clifton Avenue at Division Street. Chief Hale is going to speak with the D.O.T engineer for her insight on this issue, but we may start with eliminating right turns on red at that intersection

Commissioner Cassetti made a motion to accept Chief Hale’s report. 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 Cassetti	X		X			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Commissioner Pitney made a motion for the Board to send a letter to Dennis Phipps thanking him for his help and contributions to the Board. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Pitney asked Chief Hale regarding the lock down of the schools two weeks ago, when the police department got the call of shots being fired in the Olson Drive area. Chief Hale stated that he will be meeting with the Superintendent of Education on this matter as well.

Commissioner Pitney asked Chief Hale about the complaints that were turned in from a gentleman at the last meeting. Chief Hale told the Board that the complaints have been consolidated into one and it is under investigation at this time.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

<b>COMMISSIONER</b>	<b>Motion Made</b>	<b>Seconded Motion</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Nicholas L. Amico (Chair)			X			
Ann Pitney			X			
David Cassetti	X		X			
<b>Dennis Phipps</b>						X
Bob Goldson		X	X			

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lester  
Recording Secretary  
Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority