



City of Ansonia

CONNECTICUT 06401

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

COMMISSIONERS

Ann Pitney, President

Bob Goldson, Vice President
Paul Heon, Commissioner

Frank Tyszka, Secretary
Michael Rinaldi, Commissioner

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Adriana Branch
TOWN AND CITY CLERK
ANSONIA, CONNECTICUT

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 1, 2015
5:00 PM
Erlingheuser Room

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Ann Pitney 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 Chairwoman, the Recording Secretary called the roll. The following Commissioners were present.

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Commissioner Ann Pitney	X		
Commissioner Bob Goldson	X		
Commissioner Frank Tyszka	X		
Commissioner Paul Heon	X		
Commissioner Michal Rinaldi	X		

Also in attendance:

Chief Kevin Hale, Alderman Henri, Alderman Kaslaitis

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairwoman asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the March 4, 2015 regular meeting. Commissioner Goldson made a motion to approve March 4, 2015 meeting minutes with any corrections if necessary. Commissioner Rinaldi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson	x		x			
Frank Tyszka			x			
Paul Heon			x			
Michal Rinaldi		x	x			

PUBLIC SESSION:

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Heon made a motion to deviate from the regular agenda and go into executive session with Chief Hale, The members of the Board, Attorney Marini, Attorney Buturla,

Attorney Hughes, Attorney Esposito, and Sgt. Eric Sturges- Union Representative to be present. Commissioner Goldson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson		x	x			
Frank Tyszka			x			
Paul Heon	x		x			
Michal Rinaldi			x			

The Board went into executive session at 5:09 PM.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to return to regular session. Commissioner Tyszka seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson	x		x			
Frank Tyszka		x	x			
Paul Heon			x			
Michal Rinaldi			x			

The Board returned to regular session at 5:35 pm.

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to accept the monthly reports. Commissioner Rinaldi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson	x		x			
Frank Tyszka			x			
Paul Heon			x			
Michal Rinaldi		x	x			

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chief Hale states that there is one thing under old business that was not listed that we talked about last month that was the sidewalks at the high school. The city wants to go forward and look at maybe bonding and going out to referendum to do some work up there. I don't know if anyone has been out there yet but we will need the traffic authority to look at it and say no or yes.

Commissioner Pitney asked if the sidewalks will be put behind the guardrails

Chief Hale replied that there are no specifics at this time it would have to be designed. I think that they are looking for a global ok from the traffic authority to say we need it. I don't think anyone disagrees that we are in need. I think it's long overdue it should have really happened at the time of construction.

Commissioner Pitney asked Mr. Pitney, Board of Education Member, what the construction cost was when the high school was first built. Mr. Pitney replied that at the time of construction it was going to be about \$30,000.00 dollars and that was approximately 15 years ago.

Commissioner Pitney then replied that if they put it on the road side it would take up half the road.

Commissioner Goldson agreed

Chief Hale stated that they are throwing numbers around that are a few times higher than that, probably six figures. Chief Hale states that it would be just on one side. It would come around the corner and probably go down to the soccer field. There is nothing you can really do with the hill.

Chief Hale stated that they are looking for an answer from the commission.

Chief Hale states it's for the concepts of putting in the sidewalks not the specifics, that's up to others to tackle.

Commissioner Goldson asked if they were looking for a motion to say the commission has no problem with it.

Chief Hale then added that they had gotten approval many years ago to put up flashing lights there also. I think it was 90 minutes in the morning and that would legally change the speed limit. Right now the speed limit goes from 40 to 25. It is an advisory. We don't tell anybody that we just tell them it's the speed limit. Once the state has authorized these flashing lights with the diamonds facing both ways the city would be responsible for getting power to both sides and that would include going over or under Pulaski High Way to get it across the street. I think the estimate then was ten or fifteen thousand dollars and I'm sure it's much higher now. We would have to reapply to State D.O.T. to get permission again because that time has run out. I don't see any reason why they wouldn't but that should be a part of what you are looking for. I spoke to the superintendent when they came in but it never came into play for budgetary reasons it just kind of got pushed back.

Commissioner Tyszka asked if they were looking to both.

Chief Hale states that they should go together.

Commissioner Tyszka, ok.

Chief Hale stated that if they are going to tear up the roads to put sidewalks in, then while they are there you may as well figure out how you are going to get power across the road. They will even give us the signs. We just need to run the power.

Commissioner Pitney asked who they are, the state?

Chief Hale answered, yes the state

Commissioner Pitney, asked who will be paying for this?

Chief Hale stated that it would go out to referendum and then bonding.

There are other projects that they want to put together, like two years ago. There are other projects looking to get bonded also.

Commissioner Goldson asked, so you are looking for approval of flashing signs and sidewalks?

Chief Hale, the sidewalks and the new approval for the flashing signs the state has authorized in the past.

Commissioner Goldson made a motion to approve the flashing reduce -speed signs and the sidewalks in the area of Ansonia High School. Commissioner Rinaldi seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson	x		x			
Frank Tyszka			x			
Paul Heon			x			
Michal Rinaldi		x	x			

ORAL REPORT:

Personnel-

- One opening for patrol officer
- One officer on part time light duty
- One officer injured has not returned to work
- One opening for a part time dispatcher which we are activity trying to fill
- Contract for the officers is in force; it was signed two or three weeks ago and goes until June 30, 2017
- Brief discussion about the contract and changes. Chief Hale will forward a copy to board members.
- Brief discussion on if one member of the board could be part of contract negotiations. It was discussed and agreed that negotiations should be between the union members, management, and representatives for the city and counsel from the union, which the Board of Police Commissioners oversees.

-Budget process-we are done with our portion as you know the whole thing was changed this year. They shortened up the process and we should hear back by the end of this month. We have had very favorable conversations. The Aldermen have the final say now and I have not heard of any push backs, so far it has been favorable.

-Chief Hale asked the board if everyone received our budget booklet, who ever came to the boat meeting should have one. Commissioner Goldson and Commissioner Tyszka do not have one. Chief Hale will get one out to them. Commissioner Pitney will check to see if she has one.

-The board should have received what was put in for the capital plan, if you have any question let me know.

-Officer Barry's mock DUI demonstration will be at the end of April, I think the 23rd, at 9:30 or 10:00, I will firm that date up with you. If you can attend he really does a great job.

-We were notified at the end of last week that we were approved for a \$30,000.00 grant for body cams, there is a quick turnaround on it now, so I have a committee already assigned to it and they are working on it. The critical issue is the policy because there are so many ways that this can go.

-Commissioner Tyszka asked who was doing the research on the policy.

-Chief Hale replied the committee will be doing that along with one of the lieutenants who is running the committee.

-Commissioner Rinaldi asked if there will be a statewide Policy.

-Chief Hale answered yes, but I was going to get into that in a bit because that ties into another issue that I am dealing with.

-Commissioner Pitney asked how many body cams the department would be able to get. Chief Hale replied that his goal is about 20 that would guarantee that everyone working plus the officers on road jobs would have them. Plus a few spares. There was a brief discussion between the Chief Hale and the board members about the policy and procedures. Chief Hale advised the board that they would review the policy and procedures before it would be released like they have done in the past.

-The route 8 project-The north bound entrance ramp on Division St actually began today. The way it is going to go is from now through November 30th, they are breaking for winter from December 1st through March 31st, 2016 and it should be done mid September 2016. This is an entrance ramp on Rt 8 North on Westfield Ave. Westfield Ave will be cut in two and there will be two cull -de- sacs.

You will start seeing that on Rt 8 Tuesday, they are going up to do a lane change. It should not affect Westfield Ave too much right now. Westfield Ave should not be affected until next year around this time. They will also have to do some work around the intersection of Division and Wakelee Ave. That intersection will have to be enhanced due to the increased traffic flow. It's an old intersection it has to be corrected but there is only so much that can be done. We had a sergeant at a safety meeting today in Derby talking about this project.

-Two weeks ago on a Friday I spent 7 hours at the legislative office building. There are some issues that are critical to law enforcement that will be coming up this year. I don't know if everything will pass but one of the things that they do want are body cameras on every officer in the state immediately. They were talking about how you're going to pay for it. Policies and discussions on body cameras in general. They are not giving you perception, they are a tool but they are not the final solution.

-Racial profiling- the second report will be coming out Tuesday.

-Big issue up there is the public being able to film us doing our jobs. We understand that they can do that but they want specific punishments for officers who seize phones and arrest people illegally for filming us. Our argument is that there are other ways around it. That there is a complaint process in the police department. If you feel your phone was seized illegally or something else then you can file a complaint. Some legislators don't have confidence in that process.

-Chief Hale stated I will be going up again tomorrow. There will be a dozen Chiefs' or more in attendance to show support.

-Chief Hale states that this is a combined Judiciary and Public Safety hearing, so it's a very powerful committee. Three bills have already passed, just barely through judiciary. I will also be meeting with our local legislature tomorrow to talk about this.

-Chief Hale asked Commissioner Rinaldi, you asked about the body cams?

-Commissioner Rinaldi, yes, if there will be a state policy.

-Chief Hale, yes what's going to happen they will have a model policy at the very least and there should be. It's just easier for everybody.

-Commissioner Rinaldi, then you will build upon that.

- Chief Hale, Here is where there are a lot of opinions on what the policy should say. When it should be on, how long to keep the data and then FOI becomes a big issue. Storage becomes an issue. If juveniles are in it has to be vetted. Who does that, who pays for that, just a whole host of issues that need to be worked out.

-Brief discussion between the chief and board on studies that have been done and how the body cameras have cut down the number false complaints against officers.

-The big study was done in Rialto, California; if you go on line you can read that report.

-Commissioner Pitney asked a question in regards to the daily activity on March 16, 2015 there was a statement that said special motor vehicle enforcement Elm Street and Meadow St. What is that?

-Chief Hale, do you mean Meadow and Grove St.?

-Alderman Kaslaitis asked to speak.

-Alderman Kaslaitis complimented the department on an excellent job. He stated that the officers are out there day and night and the residents are very happy.

-Chief Hale, thank you Alderman Kaslaitis I will pass that along.

-Chief Hale also stated that Alderman Kaslasitis is very active in his neighborhood. Alderman Kaslaitis brought to our attention that there is a bus stop and a stop sign on Grove St at Meadow St and one at Murray St. There have been many complaints that people are just blowing through stopped buses, not stopping at the stop signs and driving too fast. So what we have done was punched a card, and I think there were some case numbers listed in there also, we have done that a number of times. We were looking primarily in the afternoon but have been out there all hours day and night. They have issued a number of tickets. Our goal now is to be out there sporadically so people don't know if we are there or not and will be more cautious.

-Alderman Kaslasitis stated that it is working and that he has seen the officers there day and night and that they have done an excellent job and people are actually stopping now.

-Chief Hale, thank you again Alderman Kaslasitis

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

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson	x		x			
Frank Tyszka			x			
Paul Heon			x			
Michal Rinaldi		x	x			

Commissioner Tyszka, I have a question, we have been discussing management personal and I was wondering were we are with that. You have talked about that maybe having South Central do a study for that.

Chief Hale, they have been and then the contract was signed and the schedule changed so that kind of threw a wrench in the works. It was really a work analysis, how many officers do we need on the street at any given time so everything is based on our call volume, our schedule, and our sectors and so forth, now that the schedule has changed we actually have more officers on the streets at certain times. He has to reconfigure some of that.

Commissioner Tyszka, how about as far as management personal? I know we have talked about the possibility of adding administrative person. Are they doing that or do we need to meet about it to get the ball rolling.

Chief Hale, that was my plan but there is a sub-committee. I would have to go back and look to see who is on it. We started this a number of years ago. Can we do that? I am going to need assistance from two members of this board to go forward. It may be a two year plan to coincide with the budget cycle at some point to do that. We are seeing more and more mandates on policies, changes, data studies and annual reports. All of these things we are seeing more and more every year. We are long overdue for this.

Commissioner Heon, wasn't there a feasibility study done years ago?

Chief Hale, yes, in 2008 by South Central.

Commissioner Heon, wasn't it recommended in the study?

Chief Hale, right, so what we were doing at the time was task analysis basically, what do I do every day, what do the lieutenants do every day. What tasks do you have daily, weekly and monthly and if we created a third position whatever title it would be Captain, Deputy Chief or Lieutenant what are they going to do? What is everyone responsible for? So we started, but we just need to kick start it again and get it going. That is on the list of things to do. I have a few things to get through here first.

Commissioner Tyszka, last month we talked about a canine officer. Has there been a decision yet?

Chief Hale, I am very close it has been a challenge.

Commissioner Tyszka, ok, and then Alderman Henri talked about the fire markings, has there been a report or anything from the fire department. They were going to have some kind of plan to present.

Chief Hale, on the hydrants? I have not heard anything on that yet.

Commissioner Tyszka, those were the two things that we were supposed to be up dated on that's why I asked.

Commissioner Pitney, would you know anything about that Alderman Kaslasitis?

Alderman Kaslasitis, Alderman Henri has all that information.

Commissioner Pitney, does he actually have it?

Alderman Kaslasitis, I don't know.

Commissioner Pitney, ok, thank you.

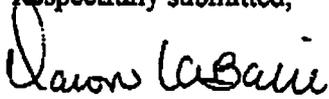
ADJOURNMENT:

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

COMMISSIONER	Motion Made	Seconded Motion	Yes	No	Abstained	Absent
Ann Pitney			x			
Bob Goldson	x		x			
Frank Tyszka			x			
Paul Heon		x	x			
Michal Rinaldi			x			

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dawn LaBaire

Recording Secretary

Board of Police Commissioners/Traffic Authority