

***Town of Hamden Police Commission***  
***Minutes of the Meeting***  
***March 14, 2012***

**Attending:** Raeann Curtis, Michael Iezzi, Robert LaTrocca, Gerald Migliaro, Mitchell Strickland, Police Chief Wydra, Deputy Chief Cappiello, Town Attorney Sue Gruen

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Iezzi called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chairman Iezzi entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 8, 2012. Mr. Migliaro motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. LaTrocca. *The motion carried unanimously.*

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- a. Review of department activity – Chief Wydra reviewed the monthly report in the packet. He commended the officers who prepared the annual report in the packet along with Deputy Chief Cappiello. Chief Wydra also commended Officer Hall for her continued work with the community. Mr. Migliaro inquired about the speed monitors and how long they stay in one place. Chief Wydra stated it depends on the traffic. Chairman Iezzi noted that the reports in the packet are easy to read and informative.
- b. Items of concern – None at this time.
- c. Correspondence – Chief Wydra noted the continued training and that it benefits the department and the community.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

***John Melillo, 22 Cherry Ann St.*** – Mr. Melillo inquired about his letter concerning the actions of an officer towards him and if the Police Department and Commission were acting on his complaint. Mr. Iezzi advised Mr. Melillo that this will be discussed under New Business.

***Mr. Trent Butler, 362 Goodrich St.*** – Mr. Butler expressed his concerns regarding Officer Brown and his bad experience with him. He stated that he has contacted the Mayor's office and has spoken with Chief Wydra and feels that Officer Brown targeted him based on his being an African-American. Chairman Iezzi advised Mr. Butler that he file a complaint and when this is done the incident will be reviewed. Mr. Butler said he had done so but will follow up again about it.

At this time Mr. Melillo stated that Hamden could become another East Haven and that we are on the road already with officers like Officer Brown. Chairman Iezzi advised Mr. Melillo that this was not the time and place for his outburst.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION(S) – (AS NEEDED)**

- a. Set date for Disciplinary hearing(s) - Chairman Iezzi entertained a motion adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of setting a hearing date for Officer Brown,

unless Officer Brown and his representative were okay with an open dialogue. After a brief discussion a decision was made. It was agreed that the hearing will be at the next regular Commission meeting of April 11, 2012. Ms. Curtis motioned to move the disciplinary hearing for Officer Brown to April 11, 2012, seconded by Mr. LaTrocca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

- b. Adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of disciplinary hearing. At 7:28 p.m. Mr. Migliaro motioned to adjourn to Executive Session with the Commission members, Chief Wydra, Deputy Chief Cappiello, and Attorney Gruen to discuss Officer May, seconded by Mr. LaTrocca. ***The motion carries unanimously.*** At 9:04 p.m. Mr. LaTrocca motioned to reconvene from Executive Session, seconded by Ms. Curtis. ***The motion carried unanimously.*** At this time no decision has been made

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Budget Review – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that some transfers have been sent over to the Legislative Council for approval. Mr. LaTrocca inquired about the replacement of the two vehicles recently totaled. Chief Wydra advised the Commission that the Mayor had approved replacement of one vehicle which is being fitted now for service.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONERS/DEPARTMENT HEAD**

Mr. Iezzi read a letter from Chief Wydra to the Commission regarding the recent complaint filed by Mr. Melillo against Officer DeGrand. The finding is that the complaint is not sustaining. Deputy Chief Cappiello spoke with Officer DeGrand about the complaint and Officer DeGrand stated that he felt there was no ill feeling. There were no independent witnesses to the incident in question.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:08 p.m. Ms. Curtis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Migliaro. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

***The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Miller Library Complex Activity Room.***

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka  
Commission Clerk