

Town of Hamden Police Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
December 10, 2014

Attending: Raeann Curtis, Michael Iezzi, Robert LaTorraca, Betty Murray, Mitchell Strickland, Police Chief Wydra, Deputy Chief Cappiello

Absent: Town Attorney Gruen,

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Iezzi called the meeting to order at 6:29 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Chairman Iezzi entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2014. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 12, 2014, seconded by Ms. Curtis. *The motion carried unanimously.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – none at this time.

MONTHLY REPORT

- a. Review of department activity – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that the 5 recruits who completed the Police Academy are in the final phase of acclimating to the department. They are being shadowed and will be out independently by January 1, 2015. The recruits at the Milford Academy are doing well in every phase of training. Chief Wydra has had no word on the recruits at the New Haven Academy. Chief Wydra reviewed a report on the Helen Street Block Watch from Ms. Quinn who worked extensively on it. The Legislative Council has approved the Bid Waiver for the purchase of 39 additional cameras. The current cameras are going to be traded in for new one. Each officer will be responsible for his/her own camera. The cameras have proven to be beneficial to both the Department and the residents. Chairman Iezzi noted that the cameras are important and innovative. The cameras have already been used in questionable situations protecting both the Department and the Town. Chief Wydra credited the support of the Mayor and the Council.
- b. Correspondence – Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Budget Review – Chief Wydra advised the Commission that Budget Workshops with the Finance Dept. will be taking place and the Chief will be forwarding the budget to the Commission in the near future.

NEW BUSINESS

At this time Chief Wydra requested two items be added to the agenda as New Business. Mr. Strickland motioned to add West Helen Street – Criminal Activity, seconded by Ms. Murray. *The motion carried unanimously.*

- a. West Helen Street – Criminal Activity - Ms. Danielle Moody, 167 West Helen Street addressed the Commission citing recent break ins with one being a repeat of the same property requesting more preventative action and asking when the new Sub-station will be open. Ms. Moody also noted that the best time for the station is between 12:00 AM and 4:00 AM. Chief Wydra advisee the Commission that the Council did approve 943 Dixwell Ave. on a 10 year lease! The work on the interior will be done, installing interior walls, signage, and adding furniture and should be open after the first of the year. Chief Wydra noted that the station will provide the officers a place for meals and also to prepare reports instead of having to return to the main station then again go out to the area for patrolling. Chief Wydra commended the Block Watch and Ms. Moody for the creating their web site. He also stated that at a recent meeting he used the web site as an example of how to recruit volunteers and inform residents of the purpose and benefits of a Block Watch Organization.

Chief Wydra would like the Commission to add Helen St. School Parking & Traffic. Mr. Strickland motioned to add Helen St. School Parking Traffic to the agenda, seconded by Ms. Murray. *The motion carried unanimously.*

- b. Helen Street School Parking and Traffic – Ms. Heike Karsch, 78 W. Helen St. addressed the Commission with her concerns of the speed of traffic on Pine Rock Ave. in front of the school traveling south. People are traveling at least 40 mph in a school zone when children are being dropped off and picked up and walkers trying to cross at the light. She isn't sure how much enforcement would help but maybe a speed hump may be a solution? Chief Wydra noted the problem is known to the Department and it appears recent painting has not helped. He does recommend a speed hump but will do speed enforcement from 7:50 – 8:30 AM and 3:00 – 3:30 PM. He suggests a “Crosswalk Ahead” sign. Mr. Strickland who lives on Pine Rock Ave. said his neighbors have mentioned the problem to him and he agrees maybe a speed hump and additional visual signage may help. Chief Wydra is going to conduct site visits and monitor enforcement. A resident who did not identify herself asked how long will the process take to gather the information? She noted that school will not be in session the later part of the month. Chief Wydra noted possibly a couple of weeks but he will email Ms. Karsch when the information is ready. Chief Wydra will bring his findings to the Commission for the January 14, 2015 meeting.

REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – (Executive Session if needed)

Chief Wydra presented the Commission with eight Policies and Procedures for review and decisions. The commission inquired if any of the items needed to be done in Executive Session and he stated no they are all available to the public. The following

were discussed and voted on by the Commission. With each of the items Chief Wydra explained the reason for the new and/or modified Policy and Procedure needed to bring the Department up to industry standards.

Policy number 016-005 “Storage and Seized Motor Vehicles” (modified) – After a review and explanation by Chief Wydra Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the modified 016-005 document, seconded by Ms. Murray. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Policy number 021-001 “Accident Investigation” (modified) - Chief Wydra explained that the new requirements of the state that take affect January 1, 2015 which prompted the adoption of a revised report form. Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the modified 021-001 document, seconded by Ms. Murray. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Policy number 001-008 “Handcuff Procedures” (modified) – This policy was modified how to better understand cuffing of an individual. Again this is to bring the department up to industry standards. Ms. Curtis motioned to approve the modified 001-008 document, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Policy number 001-009 “Reporting and Investigating Force” (new) – Ms. Murray asked a question about how the cameras will be used in cases like this. Chief Wydra stated that this policy will provide information on performance of officers and identify those who possibly use force more often than they should. Chief Wydra would like to combine Policy 001-006 with this policy. Ms. Curtis motioned to approve 001-009 and combine 001-006 as part of the modification, with the addition of body cameras with necessary cross reference, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Policy number 001-006 “Use of Force” (modified) – Chief Wydra would like to rescind policy 001-005 as this is now combined with 001-006. Mr. Strickland motioned to rescind policy 001-005, seconded by Mr. LaTorraca. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Policy number 025-001 “Impact Weapons” (modified) – Mr. Strickland motioned to approve the modified 025-001, seconded by Ms. Murray. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

Policy number 025-004 “Chemical Weapons” (modified) – This policy deals with potential violent confrontations and the use of chemical agents by officers certified in its use. Ms. Murray motioned to approve the modified 025-004, seconded by Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

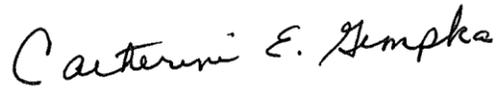
Policy number 025-010 “Patrol Rifles” (new) – This item deals with successful training and proper authorization of use of a Patrol Rifle. Mr. LaTorraca motioned to approve policy 025-010, seconded y Mr. Strickland. ***The motion carried unanimously.***

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:37 p.m. Mr. LaTorraca motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Strickland. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legislative Council Chamber Memorial Town Hall, 2372 Whitney Ave., Hamden CT.

Recorded by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine E. Gempka".

Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk