

Town of Hamden Police Commission
Minutes of the meeting
February 9, 2011

Attending: Raeann Curtis, Michael Iezzi, Judi Kozak, Gerald Migliaro, Police Chief Wydra, Town Attorney Sue Gruen

Absent: Reginald Higgins, Deputy Chief Cappiello,

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chairman Kozak called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Higgins and Deputy Chief Cappiello not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Chairman Kozak entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2010. Mr. Iezzi motioned to accept the minutes of the meeting, seconded by Ms. Curtis. *The motion carried unanimously.*

Ms. Curtis addressed the Commission regarding her concern that the packet for the month of January was not delivered until the day before the meeting and that the packet for this meeting was not delivered until two days prior to the meeting. If there are items on the Traffic agenda that need to be viewed prior to the meeting no time was given for this. Chairman Kozak advised the Commission that there were going to be changes and that the changes should alleviate this problem.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

- a. Review of department activity – Chief Wydra reviewed the reports from December and January noting the training. The Chief noted some dates but nothing unusual at this time.
- b. Items of concern – nothing at this time.
- c. Correspondence – Chairman Kozak the letter of Recognition for Deputy Chief Onofrio and Detective Rhone. A letter to Officer Stephen Baris for being the recipient of the 2011 Hamden Elk’s Lodge Police Officer of the Year. The Chairman also noted the “Thank You” letters and the letters of note to various officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – Chairman Kozak noted that the work Media be removed from this item as it is the same as the public.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Equipment – Chairman Kozak requested this item only appear on the agenda if the Chief has information for the commission.
- b. Budget Review – There was a brief discussion regarding the budget and the Chief noted that the submission of the 2011 – 2012 Budget was just submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of information items in the letter from Police Chief Wydra dated January 6, 2011 and new organizational chart which became effective January 1, 2011 – Chairman Kozak met with Police Chief Wydra to go over this chart and to get some clarification as to the old organization chart and the new organization chart. She expressed to the Chief that the Board of Commissions be removed from the chart, explained her reasoning of which he understood and will make the changes as requested. At this time Attorney Daniel A. Esposito, Staff Attorney from the Connecticut Council of Police ASCME addressed concerns regarding the changes noted in the organizational chart. Mr. Esposito noted 1) is it wise for the organization to be set up the way it has and the concern is that the Chief has combined two separate units to one and the Detective and Patrol units are commanded by a single unit. 2) Whether or not the Chief has the authority to make these changes without addressing them with the Commission and or union. 3) There was no advance notice to the officer or supervisors of the changes. This change also did not appear in the 2009 or 2010 annual report. 4) Mr. Esposito referred to a letter of 2002 written by then Chief Nolan addressing the Deputy Chief position on the basis that they would command equally. The union sees this as a possible erosion within the department. Chairman Kozak inquired if any of the Commissioner's had addressed this with the Chief and no one had. Ms. Curtis inquired if any of the department members had been advised of this change before or after? Chief Wydra produced an email dated October 8, 2010 addressed to 11 members of the department. This email "I am encouraging all of you to communicate with me any thoughts or ideas on this matter that you believe will be helpful or useful" but the Chief stated that none of the 11 responded. Chairman Kozak inquired who did the original chart, and the Chief explained that it has been changed a number of times over the years. Chairman Kozak asked when was the last time the chart was changed and is this chart the one the Commission is going to adopt. Ms. Curtis inquired if this was something that was supposed to come before the Commission? Mr. Iezzi noted that according to the Charter that this is something the Commission is supposed to have input. He also noted that the Commission is a separate entity from the Police Department. The question of job descriptions was raised, how did they change? The Commission's concern is to make sure the integrity of the department is being upheld. Chairman Kozak inquired of the Commissioner's who they felt about the Board of Commissioner's being on the chart. Mr. Iezzi felt they should be on the chart but conceded to the Chairman that it should be removed. Mr. Migliaro felt he didn't have time to digest the situation and Ms. Curtis agrees with Chairman Kozak, that the Commission should not be on the chart. It was discussed that the Commission's meet with Chief Wydra to go over the chart to get more clarification on the matter, they agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION(S) – (AS NEEDED)

OPEN DISCUSSION – COMMISSIONERS/DEPARTMENT HEAD

Chief Wydra advised the Commission that he has not delivered the Traffic budget to the Mayor but will include additional staff for the department. Mr. Migliaro inquired if the existing open positions will be filled and Chief Wydra advised not at this time. He has requested one additional detective position in his budget.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:24 p.m. Mr. Curtis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Curtis. *The motion carried unanimously.*

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, March 9, 2011, in the Activity Room, Miller Library Complex 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by,

Catherine E. Gempka
Commission Clerk