

Executive Board

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday May 4, 2004

Location: Waterford Police Department: Administration Conference Room

Called to Order: 1001 hours by Steve Bellos

Union Officers Present:

President Steve Bellos, Treasurer Rich Morgan, Recording Secretary Tim Silva,
Executive Board members: Brett Mahoney, Ed Delaura.

Police Administrators Present:

Chief Pendleton, Deputy Chief Thiel, Lieutenant Nutt, Lieutenant Nixon

Union Business:

Radio – Chief responded with two options under consideration. 1- Totally replace existing system leaving option of future connection to homeland security. (Downside – It will take time). 2- Attach a repeater on a new tower being built by Mohegan Casino in the north end of town and obtaining permission to add a repeater to a Dominion tower in South end of town. (Mohegan’s plan to complete the tower within the year.) Eccard has money set aside for radio system. Waiting for an assessment from involved town agencies prior to a decision on spending.

Sidebar: Chief is the liaison between Homeland Security (HS) and Connecticut Chiefs of Police. Connecticut is set to receive money from HS for inter-agency communication. Chief would like Union to reduce radio dead spots to written format (i.e. create a list to show these areas), and forward letter to Chief’s office.

Policy Manual – Chief’s office is currently in the process of reducing all policies to electronic format. Each officer will be issued a computer disc with all policies on it. Chief cited the cost of printing as a reason for issuing disc as opposed to issuing a printed book to each member. Policies are being placed on the PD computers in a folder marked “Policies and Procedures” that can be accessed by officers. Deputy Chief stated 7 or 8 policies entered into RMS. He followed up by saying that several additional policies are completed but not yet entered. They will get them into the RMS system soon.

Promotions – Sergeant Promotion scheduled for next police commission meeting, on May 11, 2004. Letters will be sent to all those who received a combined passing grade on both the written and oral tests (letters to be sent out on May 4, 2004.)

Sidebar: The Police Commission does not rank candidates after their oral board. They select a candidate for promotion but no other rankings are assigned. They can select any candidate that makes it to the Police Commission Oral Board for promotion. The Chief stated that the commission usually selects from the top 5.

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There was discussion about reducing the number of people presented to the police commission oral board in the future. No decision made.

New Hires – Only three people in the last process. Discussion about the involvement of Town Human Resource Department. Also discussion about HR telling candidates they have to re-submit applications when the L.E.C. information implies that once a candidate completes the test; their information will be available to the agencies they selected. This may be a reason for limited candidates in our process. Chief stated he is working on HR involvement.

Mandatory OT – Rich Morgan located guidelines from 1994. Lt. Nutt stated he would be available to explain the system to the union. Union informed Chief that we would like to streamline the process.

Code Orange/Dominion Detail –Historically this detail was manned by both WPD and the State Police. State Police are assigned to the Dominion detail per Governors Office and we have no control over that assignment. As summer brings more mandatory OT and the prospect of a protracted Code Orange has brought the Chief's office to consider sharing the Dominion Detail with the State Police. This detail has 21 extra shifts a week (plus Speedbowl, Cross Rd and other Construction details). No schedule has been decided.

Special Details – Bombardier ATV is coming soon, Lt Nutt stated he has received two bikes and completed his requirements to the program. Chief has expressed interest in getting 2 additional dogs. One that was put out for handlers and the 2nd possibly from an agency in New York under Homeland Security.

Dispatch – Chief trying to shift control to the PD.

Gym – Chief granted permission of PD secretaries to use the gym during the lunch hour only.

Range – Is currently open and will be rebuilt when transfer station is completed. Range will be shut down for a period of time. Chief clarified that the Town employees at the TG do not mind when PD uses range. He wants us to use it, as long as we adhere to safety practices (2 people, notify dispatch, Duty Sgt., etc) Lt. Nutt stated he was available for contact about range issues as the Union has received different views on the subject. Chief wanted to know about shotguns in the patrol cars. Union stated that at least car 14 does not have a Shotgun. Patrol wants the shotguns in the cars. Looking at the patrol rifle concept.

Computers – Chief stated that officers should be able to use in-car computers and if in Bravo Zone, the mall computer at their convenience. He wants his officers to complete

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reports in a timely fashion as well as be visible to the public. He also wants his officers in the mall. Also we need a "How to" for entering items to allow for accurate searches. Letter to the Chief about Vision Air problems. Brett Mahoney and Steve Bellos to formulate letter.

Gates / Build Security – Gates are working. Rear door has been ordered (Confirmed this due to poor communication last time). Possibility once doors are fixed to keep gates open until Code Orange or higher.

Assignment to Task Forces – Not sending anyone (if they do) until mid to late summer. Chief is looking at the new Homeland Security Task Force. May be as beneficial as narcotics in both experience/financially for the officer and agency.

Racial Profile – Still required to complete them but agencies no longer send them anywhere and have to keep them in-house.

Stop Sticks – Agency has not purchased any new sticks. Chief stated he will make it a priority with upcoming fiscal budget year.

Duty Belts – Nylon is ok for Outside details (Speed Bowl, Construction). Will not approve it for everyday use by all members unless everyone wears agrees to wear it (also will not purchase it for all). Discussion on the use of suspenders to distribute the weight of duty belt.

Goatee – Chief's Office against it based on Past practice, Homeland Security issues, as it's a major change to policy and appearance. Chief also wants to check with Town Attorney and requests we reduce it to writing so he can.

Patrol Training Rotations – Chief stated that with the new schedule he can resume rotations in the DD. Also would like to make available rotations to officers for warrants, traffic, etc.

Chief's Office Business

Contact Numbers – Lieutenant's and Sergeants have trouble locating persons for OT. Sgt's and Lt's also have multiple numbers for each officer. Chief would like each officer to provide a primary contact number for OT. When filling OT the supervisor will only call that 1 number and leave a message. This will make filling OT easier and more timely for the supervisors. Union will get the updated Primary number for each member.

Cars – Accountability. Chief's Office wants officers to keep interiors of the vehicles clean. Will begin dealing with individual officers if cars are kept clean. Sergeants will be begin requesting Officers keep them clean.

Training Computers – Supervisors should be submitting officers for retraining on computer issues. Possibility of making a version of the FTO for computers on an in-house level. May Re-instate computer committee.

PBA/Union – Take Cause of Cancer to promote based on retired officers and town employees with it.

Streamlining – Det. Hurley charged with streamlining larceny investigations. Ed Lougee - Traffic Accidents, Paige Hauser – Alarms.

Civility – Chief wants all members to be treated with respect and civility.

Chat Log – Chat log was pulled recently. No problems noted and wants those members using it to be informed that they are doing well.

END OF MEETING

Adjourned: 1200 hours.