

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
REGULAR MEETING  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM  
September 5, 2018**

**Vol. 7, Page 472**

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, September 5, 2018.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Darlene Battle, Richard Zaharek, Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Glenn McLeod, and Angelo LaMonica.

Also present were Acting Police Chief Wayne Newkirk, Traffic Operations Unit Officer Steven Pisarski, Fire Chief Peter Towey, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Campion Ambulance Director of Operations Fred Rosa, Fire Marshal Edward Bascetta, Director of Personnel & Labor Relations Atty. Mark Dumas, and Personnel Assistant Kelley Pleil.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMPLETION OF PROBATION PERIOD**

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept David Tripp, Jr. as Deputy Chief of the Torrington Fire Department, having successfully completed his probation period.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept Robert Shopey as Assistant Chief of Training for the Torrington Fire Department, having successfully completed his probation period.

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Randall Chesaneck as Lieutenant in the Torrington Fire Department, having successfully completed his probation period.

**MINUTES**

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular meeting held August 1, 2018.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public. No one from the public wished to speak.

**BALLISTIC VESTS**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of the Police Training Officer and Purchasing Agent and authorize the City to award the bid for ballistic vests for the Police Department to Security Uniforms, Inc., of New Britain, CT for \$830 per vest (\$63,910 for 77 vests).

Commissioner Benedetto requested clarification regarding funding for the ballistic vests. Acting Chief Newkirk explained that they expect to be partially reimbursed through grant funding.

**PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Acting Police Chief's reports. Commissioner Benedetto requested an update on the results of the DWI grant and under-age drinking grant previously awarded to the Police Department. Acting Chief Newkirk stated that the final data is not available for either grant yet.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Pisarski's Traffic Operations Unit report.

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Chief Towey's reports. Commissioner Benedetto asked if the Fire Department got reimbursed for its response to an incident at Lake Waramaug and questioned the overtime figures in Chief Towey's report. Chief Towey reported that the FD received a reimbursement check already and stated that the overtime figures were due to several events that warranted call-backs, among other factors.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Deputy Fire Chief Tripp's report. Commissioner McLeod thanked Deputy Chief Tripp and Chief Towey for their quick response in dealing with repeat callers.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Shopey's report.

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management report.

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's reports.

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS Provider Activity reports.

**BUSINESS: VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS**

On a motion by Commissioner Battle, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Volunteer Fire Departments. No business was reported.

**BUSINESS: DEPARTMENT HEADS**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by Department Heads.

Acting Police Chief Newkirk reported that Officer Timothy Cobb will be retiring on September 20<sup>th</sup> and one of the traffic clerks is also leaving. He stated that job openings have been posted for entry-level and certified police officers, reported that the Cops and Kids event on August 14<sup>th</sup> was well attended, and announced that there will be a PAL golf tournament fundraiser on September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Torrington Country Club.

Fire Chief Towey announced that there will be a September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Ceremony at the memorial at the North Station and rope rescue training in October.

Mr. Rosa discussed the difficulty of dealing with repeat callers.

**BUSINESS: MAYOR & MEMBERS**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and Members of the Board of Public Safety.


The Commissioners congratulated Deputy Chief Tripp, Assistant Chief of Training Robert Shopey, and Lieutenant Chesanek for completing their probation periods. Commissioner Benedetto questioned the Police Department overtime figures. Acting Chief Newkirk explained some of the contributing factors as well as the steps the Police Department is taking to reduce overtime. Commissioner Benedetto asked how the public can get in touch with Police Department personnel by phone and Acting Chief Newkirk explained the teleservice system.

Mayor Carbone reported that as a result of several complaints of dangerous conditions caused by traffic traveling through the Warner Theatre parking lot from St. John's Place, the City will be reinstalling traffic barriers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Jonathan R. Draper, Asst. City Clerk*

ATTEST:   
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC  
CITY CLERK