

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, May 2, 2018.

Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Darlene Battle, Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Richard Zaharek, Angelo LaMonica, and Glenn McLeod. Also present were Police Chief Michael Maniago, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, Traffic Operations Unit Officer Steven Pisarski, and Campion Ambulance Director of Operations Fred Rosa. Drakeville VFD Chief Michael Maccalous and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) EMS and Emergency Management Coordinator Paul Rabeuf were also present.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:54 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE: M. Giordano

Mayor Carbone administered the Oath of Office to Police Sergeant Michael Giordano.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Tabled

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to table the Executive Session to discuss Fire Department personnel.

APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CHIEF

On an amended motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Peter Towey as Torrington Fire Chief, effective May 7, 2018.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Regular meeting held April 4, 2018.

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the Special meetings held April 17, 2018.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to open the meeting to the public.

Paul Rabeuf, EMS and Emergency Management Coordinator for Charlotte Hungerford Hospital (CHH) thanked Campion Ambulance, the Torrington Fire Department, and the Police Department for their support and response to threats against CHH in the wake of an incident at Middlesex Hospital.

Glenn Royals, a member of the Vehicle Replacement Advisory Committee, presented an idea from the committee to repurpose old used police cruisers strictly for road jobs and officers going back and forth to training and conferences as a means to save money by keeping cars longer.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept Fire Chief Brunoli's Reports.

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Deputy Fire Chief Tripp's Reports.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to accept Training Officer Shopey's Reports. Commissioner McLeod requested an update on the training of volunteers and Officer Shopey stated that the training has begun and they are working toward being proficient in the skills stated in his report dated April 18, 2018.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Emergency Management Reports.

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

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Conforti, the Board voted unanimously to accept Police Chief Maniago's Reports.

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

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

BUSINESS: VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Volunteer Fire Departments.

Drakeville's Chief Michael Maccalous requested copies of any reports that refer to the Volunteer Fire Departments. His son announced that Chief Maccalous celebrated 50 years of service with the Department last month.

BUSINESS: DEPARTMENT HEADS

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

Chief Maniago updated the Board on conversations between the Police and Coe Memorial Park Committee regarding the outreach unit at the Park, stated that the Department will be training more bike patrol officers, and discussed the Heroin and Opioid Prevention Education (HOPE) program.

Deputy Chief Tripp discussed the “stop the bleed” campaign which the department will be integrating in to their training and outreach efforts.

Mr. Rosa provided some additional information regarding the “stop the bleed” campaign and stated its importance for saving lives.

BUSINESS: MAYOR & MEMBERS

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

All Commissioners congratulated Sgt. Giordano and Chief Towey.

Commissioners LaMonica and Benedetto continued to request clarification of the City’s process for hiring a new Deputy Police Chief, emphasizing the selection of Commissioners to serve on the hiring committee.

Commissioner Conforti stated that he received a phone call from Acting Personnel Director Kelley Pleil inviting him to an interview the next day and he was available so he went.

Mayor Carbone and Chief Maniago reviewed the hiring process, stating that they met shortly after learning that Deputy Chief Smedick would be retiring to discuss how the position would be filled. From there, Chief Maniago stated that he met with retired Personnel Director Tom Gritt to discuss position qualifications and to generate the job posting. Chief Maniago stated that applications were sent to the Personnel Director’s office and once the application period closed there was a resume review process involving two chiefs, the Personnel Director, and Charles Sherwood from South Central Criminal Justice Administration of CT. Chief Maniago stated that several candidates were selected to advance to Oral Board interviews with four police chiefs who recommended candidates to move on to an interview with the Mayor, Chief Maniago, and Kelley Pleil, followed by a second interview in which Commissioners Conforti and McLeod were present.


Commissioners LaMonica and Benedetto questioned who gave the conditional job offer, who granted the authority to do so, and whether there was any violation of the City Charter. Mayor Carbone referenced an email in which she requested the entire Board of Public Safety to come together for a discussion before issuing a conditional job offer. She said she insisted the letter include the condition that there would be Board of Public Safety approval. Mayor Carbone stated that the letter was sent from the City’s Personnel office and assured the Commissioners that there was no violation of the Charter because the Charter specifies that the Board’s appointing authority is subject to the policies of the Personnel Department. The Mayor added that between the time that a conditional job offer went out and the subsequent meeting of the Board of Public Safety, the candidate withdrew his application.

Commissioner Battle stated that a policy should be written to clarify the hiring process for all Chief and Deputy Chief Positions and the Board agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Conforti, seconded by Commissioner LaMonica, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK