

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held in the City Hall Auditorium on Wednesday, September 4, 2019. Those in attendance included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Douglas Benedetto, Robert Conforti, Glenn McLeod, Darlene Battle, and Richard Zaharek. Commissioner Angelo LaMonica was absent. Also present were Police Chief Bill Baldwin, Jr., Fire Chief Peter Towey, Deputy Fire Chief David Tripp, and Campion Ambulance EMT Mark Zarrella.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMPLETION OF PROBATIONARY PERIOD

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Zachary Simpson as a regular member of the Torrington Police Department, having completed his probationary period, effective June 25, 2019.

MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held August 7, 2019.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORTS

On a motion by Commissioner Zaharek, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief's reports.

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS UNIT REPORT

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

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Chief's report.

DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

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

TRAINING OFFICER SHOPEY'S REPORT

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

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

EMS PROVIDER ACTIVITY REPORT

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Battle, the Board voted unanimously to accept the EMS Provider Activity report.

BUSINESS BY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

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

Former Drakeville VFD Chief Michael Maccalous expressed his appreciation for training services provided by TFD Training Officer Shopey and Battalion Chief Casper. Torrington VFD reported that the Department has four new firefighters in training.

BUSINESS BY DEPARTMENT HEADS

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

Chief Baldwin updated the Board on overdoses during the month of August and informed them that a MOU is in progress with the Board of Education to implement the Mutualink emergency response network at Torrington High School. The Chief informed the Board that there is no SRO at Torrington Middle School due to budget cuts, reported that one new officer was sworn in and conditional job offers were sent to two applicants that participated in interviews on August 27, 2019, and announced plans for Torrington to administer its own test in an effort to encourage more people from the local community to apply to the TPD. He also reported that a promotional exam for sergeants took place on August 29, 2019 and stated that there would be interviews. Chief Baldwin informed the Board that a “Coffee with a Cop” event will take place on September 5, 2019 at The Donut Station on Winsted Road, announced that the Citizens Police Academy filled up and is scheduled to begin September 26, 2019, and reported that the P.A.L. golf tournament on September 23, 2019 sold out. Commissioner Benedetto asked if the concerns brought up by the public during National Night Out were addressed and Chief Baldwin informed him that patrol officers have addressed many of the complaints. Commissioners Zaharek and Battle requested updates regarding a serious crash on South Main Street that occurred on September 2, 2019. Chief Baldwin reported that the accident is under investigation, but speed appeared to be a factor and the driver’s injuries were extensive.

Chief Towey reported on the extrication efforts that took place to free the driver involved in the crash on South Main Street and thanked Merli Automotive for stabilizing the vehicle during the extrication. He also announced that the annual 9/11 memorial service will take place by the north end fire house beginning at 8:30 a.m. on September 11, 2019, and stated that there will be a firefighters ball at the Elks Lodge on October 26, 2019. Chief Towey reminded the Board that Charlotte Hungerford Hospital will be hosting a fundraiser on September 6, 2019 to provide automated CPR devices to Torrington and other communities in the northwest corner, and stated that the TFD’s strategic planning process is moving forward. He commended the firefighters union for their recent fundraising efforts and informed the Board that many TFD and City employees will be wearing teal t-shirts during the month of September as part of a fundraiser for ovarian cancer awareness month, to raise money for a TFD firefighter’s wife. Chief Towey also announced that he is looking into the possibility of utilizing the CT Career Fire Chiefs statewide testing consortium for the TFD’s next testing process, in an effort to expand the applicant pool and draw local applicants by hosting one of the testing sites in Torrington. Lastly, he informed the Board that the TFD will be partnering with the TPD to do a joint training session for City Hall employees which will include active shooter scenarios and other emergency management information.

BUSINESS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Mayor and members of the Board of Public Safety. Commissioner Zaharek commended the Police and Fire Departments for working together and thanked the Chiefs. Commissioner Benedetto expressed his appreciation for the Police and Fire Departments, the firefighters union, and Campion Ambulance. He also thanked Deputy Chief Tripp and Fire Marshall Ed Bascetta for their advice regarding an oil spill at his house. Commissioner Conforti expressed his appreciation for the Police and Fire Departments and expressed his concerns regarding an uptick in false alarms for the Fire Department. Commissioner McLeod commended the Police and Fire Departments for their response to the crash on South Main Street and noted that all three of the candidates for the Board of Public Safety were in the audience. Commissioner Battle expressed her appreciation for the Police and Fire Departments. Mayor Carbone reported that Franklin Street was closed for construction and stated that the City is working with a developer to finalize the details for the development of the City-owned property on Franklin Street. She also informed the Board that the curb at the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Highland Avenue will be pulled back approximately four feet and expressed her gratitude for Chief Baldwin and Chief Towey.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:55 p.m.

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

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK