

A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020. In response to the Governor's Executive Orders regarding COVID-19, this meeting was held remotely using the ZOOM online meeting platform. Participants included Mayor Elinor Carbone and Commissioners Dustin Bingham, Joseph McElroy, Robert Conforti, Douglas Benedetto and Glenn McLeod. Commissioner Darlene Battle was absent.

Also present were Fire Chief Peter Towey, Police Chief William Baldwin, Jr., Police Lt. Brett Johnson, Fleet Manager Emil Castro, City Clerk Carol Anderson, Personnel Director Jaime LaMere, Personnel Assistant Kelley Pleil and Drakeville VFD Chief David Maccalous.

Mayor Carbone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 3, 2020.

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the special meeting held June 23, 2020.

CONTRACT AWARD: POLICE CRIME VAN

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to approve Chief Baldwin's request to purchase a new crime van for the Torrington Police Department from MHQ for the total amount of \$283,029.50 and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration; pending approval by City Council and Board of Finance.

Chief Baldwin explained his request and described how the purchase would be funded. Commissioner Benedetto expressed his concerns about the cost of the vehicle and the potential for limited use by the TPD. He also questioned whether there were opportunities to share the vehicle with the surrounding police departments to reduce the cost. Chief Baldwin further explained the cost and funding sources for the crime van and cautioned that the vehicle would be less accessible to the TPD if it was shared with other departments. The Chief also described several uses that the vehicle would have for the TPD. Commissioner McElroy expressed his support for the purchase and Commissioner McLeod expressed his concerns about pushing off the replacement of two police cruiser vehicles. Fleet Manager Emil Castro emphasized the importance of sticking to the vehicle replacement plan but stated that he was not opposed to purchasing the crime van.

CONTRACT AWARD: FORENSIC & DATA RECOVERY COMPUTER

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of Lt. Brett Johnson and the Purchasing Agent to award the contract for a Forensic and Data Recovery computer for the Torrington Police Department to HTCI EDAS Fox, LLC of Laredo, FL for \$9,520 with funding through the Police Department Asset Forfeiture Account and authorize the Mayor to act on behalf of the City regarding the execution of the contract and its administration.

Commissioner Benedetto questioned whether the contract went out to bid and Commissioner Bingham asked if any CT companies submitted proposals. Chief Baldwin reported that the City solicited bids from three companies and received quotes from two of them. He noted that neither of the bids received were from CT companies.

BUSINESS BY THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted unanimously to consider business by the Volunteer Fire Departments. Drakeville VFD Chief Maccalous reported on the difficulty of fundraising and stated that the Department had some new members.

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 reported that the TPD experienced a significant jump in fireworks-related complaints over the July 4th holiday weekend. He also reported that the United American Patriots organized a rally in support of local police departments to be held at Coe Memorial Park on July 18, 2020. Commissioner Benedetto expressed his concerns about officer safety when officers kneel down in solidarity with protestors and Chief Baldwin stated that he would leave the decision to kneel up to the individual officers.

Chief Towey reported on several major incidents that occurred during the month of June and announced that the TFD and the Harwinton Westside Volunteer Fire Department were awarded grant funds through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. Commissioner Bingham requested an update on an incident that occurred at the Royal Inn and Chief Towey stated that he would get back to him with specifics about the incident.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner McLeod, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to enter Executive Session at 7:25 p.m. to discuss a Police Department personnel matter, pursuant to C.G.S. §1-200(6)(A). They were joined by the Police Chief, Personnel Director, Personnel Assistant and Assistant City Clerk.

OPEN SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner McElroy, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to enter Open Session at 8:17 p.m.


RETIREMENT OF POLICE PERSONNEL

On a motion by Commissioner Bingham, seconded by Commissioner McElroy, the Board voted, with four votes in favor and one (Commissioner Benedetto) opposed, to retire Officer John Lemieux from the Torrington Police Department after 23 years of service with full benefits as provided for retiring police personnel under Article 24 §11 of the Torrington Police Local 442 and City of Torrington contract. Commissioner Benedetto stated that he agreed with the retirement but opposed awarding Officer Lemieux full benefits having not completed 25 years of service.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner McLeod, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Draper, Asst. City Clerk

ATTEST: 
CAROL L. ANDERSON, MMC
CITY CLERK