

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
APRIL 8, 2009**

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A **REGULAR MEETING** of the Board of Public Safety was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009, in the Main Room of the Senior Center.

Those in attendance included Mayor Ryan J. Bingham, Corporation Counsel Ernestine Yuille Weaver, members of the Board of Public Safety Gerald A. Zordan, Richard L. Zaharek, Douglas J. Benedetto, James E. Potter, Christopher H. Cook, and Robert C. Zordan, Deputy Police Chief Michael Maniago, Traffic Officer Robert Shopey, Fire Chief John Field, Deputy Fire Chief Jaye Giampaolo, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor Stephen Nocera, City Councilwoman Marie Soliani, Director of Operations at Campion Ambulance Fred Rosa and numerous City Employees.

Mayor Bingham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES #54**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner R. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held March 11, 2009.

**MINUTES #63**

On a motion by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the regular meeting held March 18, 2009.

**MINUTES #68**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Cook, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the special meeting held March 25, 2009.

**MINUTES #75**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner R. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the special meeting held April 1, 2009 regarding budgets

**MINUTES #83**

On a motion by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the special joint meeting held with City Council April 1, 2009 regarding budgets.

**MINUTES #91**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner G. Zordan, the Board voted to accept the minutes of the special meeting held April 1, 2009.

Commissioner Potter noted the following correction to be made:

**POLICE CHIEF #1777**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to permanently fill the Police Chief Vacancy, and offer the position to Acting Police Chief Michael Maniago to be effective April 8, 2009.

**Changed To:**

**POLICE CHIEF #1777**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to permanently fill the Police Chief Vacancy, and on a secondary motion by Commissioner R.Zordan seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, unanimously offered the position to Acting Police Chief Michael Maniago to be effective April 8, 2009.

Commissioner Benedetto amended his motion to include the above correction, Commissioner G. Zordan amended his second and the motion was unanimously approved.

**POLICE CHIEF: #117**

Mayor Bingham administered the Oath of Office to the newly commissioned Chief of Police, Michael U. Maniago.

Chief Maniago spoke of the fine Police Officer tradition, that Torrington has the finest police department in the State, and that his officers' safety and well-being are of prime importance to him.

**FORMER POLICE CHIEF: #226**

Mayor Bingham presented Former Police Chief Milano with a Declaration thanking him for his 33 years of service.

**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF: #247**

Mayor Bingham presented Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo with a Declaration thanking him for his 25 years of service.

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**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: #267**

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

Mr. Glen Royals spoke on behalf of Captain Smedick and other Torrington Police Officers who have worked their way up through the ranks and are candidates for the Deputy Police Chief position.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL: #385**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner G. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to enter executive session with Chief Maniago under personnel at 7:17 p.m..

**OPEN SESSION: #419**

On a motion by Commissioner Benedetto, seconded by Commissioner R. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to go back into open session at 7:40 p.m.

**2 POLICE OFFICERS: #425**

On a motion by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner G. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to hire Kenneth Brouillard and Randon Hogan as probationary police officers.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: #441**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Cook, the Board voted unanimously to accept Chief Field's Report for March 2009.

Commissioner Benedetto inquired as to the time frame for the combined dispatch center. Chief Field said it is a work in progress, most of the hardware is installed, \$150,000 in corporation funding was received, and it is moving along. Chief Maniago added that the equipment is picked out; they will hire and train a total of 13 dispatchers for 12 weeks starting January 1<sup>st</sup> -- right on schedule.

**DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT: #542**

Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo offered the Board some photos of the North End Fire Station Project in lieu of his report.

**FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT: #558**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Benedetto, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Fire Marshal's Report for March 2009.

**TRAINING OFFICER'S REPORT: #577**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner G. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Training Officer's Report for March 2009.

**INCIDENT REPORT: #585**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Cook, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Training Officer's Report for March 2009.

**MULTI FIRES MARCH 2009: #594**

Chief Field offered the Board a summary of events and cost report of recent fires and thanked all those who assisted.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT: #812**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Cook, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Police Chief's Report for March 2009.

**MONTHLY COMMUNICATION REPORT: #820**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner R. Zordan, the Board voted unanimously to accept Officer Shopey's Monthly Communication Report for March 2009.

Commissioner Benedetto asked about the amount of parking tickets issued, boot letters, and commercial vehicle inspections.

Commissioner Cook spoke about the issuance of parking tickets in light of the goal of stimulating the downtown economy.

Mayor Bingham said successful downtowns have multi-functional parking meter attendants who issue tickets but still represent the City as ambassadors.

**BUS: DEPT. HEADS #1081**

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

**Chief Maniago** reported on applying to the stimulus package to fund the hiring of

additional police officers, a PAL grant, and an equipment grant. He requested permission to test candidates and received no objection from the Board.

**Fire Chief Field** said there is a similar grant for hiring firemen, congratulated Chief Maniago on his promotion, asked the Board for feedback on his plan for Conservation and Development, and pointed out that Commissioner Zordan was the only one to attend the Comp Time meeting. Another meeting is scheduled for April 16. He announced this as the last meeting Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo will attend, and said he has received a letter of intent to retire from a Fire Lieutenant. He thanked Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo for his years of service.

**Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo** said his career has been very rewarding and read a prepared statement reviewing much of it. He expressed gratitude to many people. He urged the board to self examination since a great deal of time is spent on issues that can and should be resolved in subcommittee. He implored the Board to embrace, not vilify, the representatives of the Police and Fire Departments, to encourage and assist them. He offered a motto of "*Public Safety over Political Party*", and the following mission statement : "*We the Board of Public Safety, born out of a democratic process, come together to legislate over the safety of our citizenry by demonstrating positive, productive oversight of our City's public safety entities through their chief officials to ensure the safe operations of all public safety employees as they perform their assigned duties. Personal agendas aside, we promise to invest our time to become intimately familiar with the administration and operations of all safety departments in the City of Torrington. With the knowledge, information and experience gathered from our investment of time, we can go forward assisting these departments and keeping the public informed during these public forums in a constructive, positive way with an emphasis on demonstrating a bond between board and department that is so cohesive that commissioner, chief and soldier are working together to bring about the most dynamic, well-trained, educated and equipped public safety force in the State of Connecticut.*"

**BUS: VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPTS. #1935**

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

**Drakeville Fire Chief Maccalous, Newly Elected Burrville Fire Chief Ken Marques, and Tarringford Fire Chief Dauphanais** all reported being at a class that kept them from the last Board of Safety meetings. Chief Dauphanais added that it has been a very busy month.

**BUS: MAYOR & MEMBERS #1971**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Cook, the board voted unanimously to consider business by Mayor Bingham and members of the Board of Public Safety.

**Commissioner Benedetto** thanked the volunteer fire departments and asked if he could attend their meetings. Mayor Bingham said he would coordinate this formally. Commissioner Benedetto questioned the police department testing company. Mayor Bingham clarified that the examination is held by three Police Chiefs as part of the CT Police Chiefs Association, not including the former Police Chief, set up by Bruce Davey & Assocs. It is not influenced by Bruce Davey & Assocs. or the former Chief. Chief Maniago said the testing cost would increase if we used sources from out-of-state, and that he could not put together a testing panel as it would create a conflict of interest.

**Commissioner Zaharek** asked about common causes of fires in regard to Fire Prevention. Chief Field said it seems to be Kitchen Fires, that Fire Marshal Thareau went on TV to talk about different ways to prevent them, and that he has applied for grant money for adult fire prevention education. Commissioner Zaharek thanked Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo for the kind words, for his service, and wished him well.

**Commissioner G.Zordan** congratulated Deputy Fire Chief Giampaolo on his retirement

**Commissioner Potter** asked what Clandestine Lab Awareness was. Chief Field explained this dealt with the dangers involved in "meth labs". Commissioner Potter congratulated Chief Maniago and Deputy Chief Giampaolo. He asked about the completion of the North End Fire Station.

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**Commissioner Cook** congratulated Chief Maniago and Deputy Chief Giampaolo, and clarified the board's agreement with Chief Maniago's request to test police officer candidates. He commended Chief Field & the firemen for their recent work and their prevention education efforts.

**Commissioner R. Zordan** congratulated Chief Maniago and Deputy Chief Giampaolo. He said Captain McElroy did a nice job at the fire, and thanked all the volunteers as well.

**Mayor Bingham** congratulated Chief Maniago, and looks forward to working with him and knows he will do well. He praised Deputy Chief Giampaolo and thanked him for his service to the country, the city and the community. He recognized all community volunteers who assisted at recent fires including the Salvation Army and the Women's Auxiliary. He also recognized those members of our community who serve, not to be in the public eye or get a sound bite in the paper but to really help. He said we need to remind ourselves that the reason we got involved in public service is because we are trying to best serve the public.

**ADD TO AGENDA #3052**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek, the board voted unanimously to add to the agenda.

**EXEC. SESSION: PERSONNEL #3062**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Zaharek, the board voted unanimously to enter executive session under Personnel at 8:47 p.m.

**OPEN SESSION #3077**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner R.Zordan, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:29 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT #3080**

On a motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner G.Zordan, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST: CAROL L. ANDERSON, CCTC  
Asst. City Clerk