

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HEALTH, WELFARE, AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE:** Faye Bowman, Chair; Richard Bonenfant; Michael DePalma; Nicholas Sacchinelli; Michelle Maggio

**STAFF:** Timothy Callahan, Director, Health Department

**OTHERS:** Thomas Kulhawik, Norwalk Police Chief; Lt. Praveen John; Officer Corey Vento;

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p. m. and called the Roll. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**July 28, 2016 Minutes**

**MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public came forward to speak.

Ms. Maggio joined the meeting at 7:45 p. m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Norwalk Police Department:**

**Action Items**

**\*\* MR. DEPALMA MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,950.00, WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR \$19,650.00 WITH THE TOTAL COST OF THE ENFORCEMENT EFFORT TOTALING \$78,600.00**

**AND**

**AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS E. KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROGRAMS THROUGH CONNECTICUT**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DUI ENFORCEMENT GRANT, PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.**

Chief Kulhawik stated that there will be checkpoints at various locations around the city. It is required by state law to announce the dates the checkpoints will be up. The \$19,650.00 is already in the overtime budget.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO TJMORRIS & SONS/EAGLE POINT GUN & SUPPLY COMPANY FOR ITS' ANNUAL FIREARM PURCHASE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,217.33. ACCOUNT 013042 5327.**

Officer Vento explained how bullets are made and what metals they contain. He stated that volatility in the worldwide market has caused copper prices to rise. Today, copper is 40% more expensive than it was ten to fifteen years ago. TJMorris & Sons/Eagle Point Gun & Supply Company has been selected as the vendor because they have low costs compared to competitors. He stated that the scrap metal from used rounds is gathered up and sold for about \$1 per pound.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO SUSPEND COMMITTEE RULES AND ADD AN AGENDA ITEM.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**\*\* MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE COMBINED DISPATCH (NPD) TO CHOOSE A VENDOR TO INSTALL A STANDBY GENERATOR AND CONNECT IT TO A GAS LINE CURRENTLY AT WEST ROCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL. WE HAVE TWO COMPANIES THAT BID ON THE PROJECT. A&R ELECTRIC COMPANY HAD THE LOWEST BID \$34,500 AND NORTHEAST GENERATOR WHICH CAME IN AT \$39,640.**

Lt. Praveen John stated that the generator will be placed on the roof of the school. It will be tested once a week on a weekend day. Both of the companies that provided a bid, are selling the same model generator, and he is comfortable going with A&R Electric Company. The generator weighs approximately 300 pounds. It has a service contract that runs for three years.

**\*\* MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE COMBINED DISPATCH (NPD) TO ENTER A CONTRACT WITH A&R ELECTRIC COMPANY TO PURCHASE AND INSTALL A STANDBY GENERATOR AND CONNECT IT TO A GAS LINE CURRENTLY AT WEST ROCKS MIDDLE SCHOOL. A&R ELECTRIC COMPANY HAD THE LOWEST BID \$34,500.**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **Panhandling in South Norwalk**

Ms. Maggio stated that there had been a problem with a panhandler outside of restaurants in the Washington Street area. There had been a large number of complaints recently, but the issue seems to be resolved. Chief Kulhawik stated that panhandling itself is not illegal, but it is illegal to repeatedly ask someone, follow them down the street, or to stand next to their table if they are sitting in an outdoor seating area of a restaurant. He stated that an increased police presence in the area has led to less panhandling occurring.

### **Food Truck Annual Fees**

Mr. Callahan stated that food trucks have a licensing fee and a fee from the City Clerk. The city fees are based on what it costs to include the service. A food truck must not have a fixed location and not be connected to a water supply. There are four different classifications – most trucks are either 3 or 4. Class 2 are ice cream trucks. He stated that inspections are difficult because the trucks are mobile. Trucks need to be inspected four times a year, but this is difficult to do because they are always changing location. The trucks are not allowed to park in front of restaurants on Washington Street. Discussion followed on the possibility of the City Council lowering the city clerk fee.

### **Police Media Policy**

Chief Kulhawik stated that almost everything, including body camera footage, is available through the Freedom of Information Act. Some information will be withheld due to ongoing investigations or the protection of identities for crime victims or underage persons. He stated that the relations with local media has been good. Information is provided to them in a timely fashion, and then do not inundate us with a large number of requests.

Chief Kulhawik stated that a social media policy is in place for officers. They are citizens with the right to free speech, but posting things that disparage the department are prohibited.

### **Noise Control**

Ms. Diane Lauricella stated that she would like to tweak the noise ordinance. She wants to make sure that businesses operating equipment overnight are using the equipment in the right way, and that steps are taken to limit noise. Structural enhancements and insulation could be used to reduce noise. She wants to make sure everyone is heard so that the situation is resolved in a collaborative way.

Chief Kulhawik stated that noise complaints need to be put in order for the police to respond to the call and record the noise level where the complaint came from. He stated that the noise must continue for an extended time, and not be sporadic. Garbage trucks that move along and make noise at any given location for a short time are exempt. Also, trucks that are backing up are exempt. More noise is allowed during daytime hours vs. overnight hours.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was brought forward.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services