

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: January 13, 2010

East Windsor Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Sinsigallo. Commissioners Nelson, Sauerhoefer, Sherman and Stremper were present as well as Chief of Police Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from December 9, 2009 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the regular meeting minutes of 12/9/09, as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL VOTING IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the monthly billing, including animal control, dated 1/8/10 in the amount of \$ 15,019.48. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

Commissioner Sherman asked about the amount paid and details to “Cussons”. Chief DeMarco explained that Cussons made repairs to the metro traffic trailer. The bill to Cussons has been paid however, the department will be reimbursed by metro traffic.

Commissioner Nelson added that Cussons is an authorized dealer for parts on the trailer.

Commissioner Sauerhoefer asked what the \$1200.00 amount was for. Chief DeMarco explained it was for his car that is continuing to have problems even after a new exhaust and other work. He added that Deputy Chief Hart’s car is still down and the rental time has ended. Brief discussion followed regarding the cars.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the monthly financial statement (1/8/10), as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

Deputy Chief Hart stated that this does not reflect the added appropriation approve by the Board of Finance and then has to go to town meeting – looks worse than it is. Chief DeMarco added that although the statement doesn’t present well, the department is actually doing well – the numbers will catch up. Deputy Chief Hart reiterated that the numbers are not far off and the department is doing well.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the monthly billing, dated 12/31/09, in the amount of \$ 135.60. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the police commission monthly financial statement, as presented (12/31/09). **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC INPUT #1 – Comments and Discussion (5 minute maximum per subject):

None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

7. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

A) Chief DeMarco commented on the previous issue of a blind drive sign requested at 13 Reservoir Road. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart state that after observing the traffic and evaluating the area, a Blind Drive sign may be appropriate to place. Deputy Chief Hart added that the biggest problem is that the area is a common cut through and speed may be an issue. He added that there is also a lot of vegetation in the area, possibly affecting visibility. The area also is near the park and the area is on a slight incline as well as a blind corner. Deputy Chief Hart reiterated that it could warrant a warning sign.

MOTION made by Commissioner Nelson to approve a blind driveway sign or other appropriate sign in the area of 13 Reservoir Road as per the request of Peter and Frances Keenan and to be forwarded to the proper agency in town to have the sign installed. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman. No further discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Commissioner Sauerhoefer asked for an update on the issue surrounding the traffic light at the Middle School. Chief DeMarco stated that a stop sign has been put in and the research study is being completed and almost ready to go to the DOT. Both Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart reiterated that the stop sign has been put in place.

8. PUBLIC INPUT #2 – Comments only – NO DISCUSSION:

None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A) 2010-2011 Budget Presentation:

Chief DeMarco presented the Police Department's 2010-2011 Budget to the Commissioners. Prior to reviewing line items, Chief DeMarco stated that the department is very cost effective and transparent. He reminded commissioners that they are at the heels of a new contract signed. Chief DeMarco stressed that the level of policing employed in the town can not be reduced because it would significantly affect (1) overall Public Safety and (2) under the watchful eye of the federal government, it would potentially affect grants. Chief DeMarco added that many of the increases are attached to contractual obligations. No new officers, no new programs. Chief DeMarco began to review each budget line and openly welcomed any suggestions from the commission.

Below is an overview of the line item discussions and comments:

Line 100: affected by contracts. Deputy Chief Hart commented that the % change is over the proposed adjusted budget.

Line 101: reflects a large adjustment due to the resignation of the janitor. A contractual service will be used as opposed to hiring an employee to the department. This will be reflected in Line 431 where money has been removed from the salary side (Line 101) and will now be from the operations side (Line 431) for the outside cleaning service.

Line 961-0000-0: contractual obligation

Line 102: OT fixed contractual obligations for holiday pay, including FLSA, canine care maintenance laws.

The Deputy Chief added that the recently negotiated contractual agreements are very positive for the department. The holiday pay has been negotiated in terms of how and when an employee is paid. Some employees will no longer have floating holidays that may incur overtime – they will be paid at regular rates. Chief DeMarco added that this will save the town money and is a benefit for the town. Chief DeMarco also added that he is still researching the positive impact on the town and can report back in 3-6 months. Deputy Chief Hart concluded by stating that the current police department financial statement as of 1/1/10 is already seeing benefits of the schedule change.

Line 103: reduction

Line 961-0001: reduction

Line 104: minimum mandate and obligations can still be met with minimum negative impact on training or liability associated with it.

Line 106: done as legally advised; no flexibility; meets contractual obligations

Line 123: straight contractual obligations to maintain dispatchers

Line 124: contractual obligations; \$8000.00 for previously negotiated salaries.

Line 125: straight contractual obligations – salaries; covers detectives as well as existing personnel. Negotiations include slight increases in salaries due to increased supervision and promotions.

Line 325: 0% new item negotiated by town and union-pool of educational money as opposed to individual money per officer

Line 380: meets terms of collective bargaining agreement

Line 390: 0%

Line 430: 0% with the hopes that the police department does get a couple of cars. Discussion of vehicles, fleet maintenance and the impact of the loss of car in the police department.

Line 431: increase from salary side for janitorial services

Line 435: 0%

Line 560: 0%

Line 580: 0%

Line 610: 0%

Line 612: 0%

Line 620: Deputy Chief Hart explained that predicting gas prices 18 months ahead is not an easy endeavor, but fortunately his predictions have been good. Currently at \$2.19/gallon locked in for 6 months of this budget. 21,000 gallons @ \$2.25 for 1st 6 months and \$2.85 for the 2nd 6 months. Chief DeMarco states the consumption is flat-lined and predictable at this point.

Line 630: small decrease

Line 631: 0%

Line 701: 0%

Line 799: 0%

Line 800: decent reduction because of new officers brought on. Deputy Chief Hart added that contractual obligations for promotional process are in this fiscal year instead of next.

Line 810: decrease due to the elimination of a periodical

Chief DeMarco concluded the overview by stating that the overall increase is 5.35% for this budget. This number is reflective of contractual obligations and costs of things. He stated that nothing new was added. Chief DeMarco added that the police department is in a unique situation with shift minimums and contractual obligations. He stated that cutting staff would ultimately increase/shift costs in other areas and would be devastating to public safety and officer safety. Chief DeMarco commented that he will not be held accountable for supplanting or violating any grants or conditions of those grants. Commissioner Sinsigallo added that this is a serious message to the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman.

MOTION made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the proposed 2010-2011 budget to be submitted as presented at \$2,629,639.34. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

Commissioner Nelson expressed his support and commended the Chief and Deputy Chief on their efforts and hard work to put a budget together.

Commissioner Stremper added that he can't believe the department is doing what its doing on the budget they have and that it is very impressive.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Commission Budget:

0% increase

MOTION made by Commissioner Nelson to submit the 2010-2011 police commission budget, as presented by Chairman Sinsigallo, in the amount of \$1700.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sauerhoefer. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Circle of Merit Awards:

Chief DeMarco stated that they are in the process of reviewing awards that people have been put in for and that it has been two years since the last full awards ceremony. Chief DeMarco will complete his review within a couple of weeks so that over the next few months the commission can do a fair review. Chief DeMarco also suggested that the ceremony might be held during police week (in May). Commissioner Sinsigallo stated that the police commission gives this award to a particular officer who has done exemplary work or taken care of situation.

MOTION made by Commissioner Nelson to table the Circle of Merit Awards until the next meeting. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sauerhoefer. No further discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

Enclosed in the commissioner's packets were the following:

1. (2) Letters to Sergeant Jeff Reimer, dated 12/17/09, regarding Grievance #09-08 & #09-09.
2. Letters to Officer Ronald J. Drolett regarding Labor Management meeting (12/14/09), Changes of Union Officers (12/10/09) and Grievances #09-05, #09-06, #09-07 (12/10/09).
3. Thank you letter from former Commissioner Lorraine Devanney
4. Memo from Deputy Chief regarding the change in hours

11. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police – Submitted written report to commission.

Nothing additional at this time.

Commissioner Nelson asked about car #804. Deputy Chief Hart reported that it is not as bad as originally reported and it is under warranty (2008 vehicle).

Commissioner Nelson asked about the bollards requested in the report. Discussion followed between the commissioners, Chief and Deputy Chief as to why they are needed, where an ideal location would be and other alternatives.

B) Commission Members - None at this time.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Sherman to go into Executive Session (8:06pm) for Legal Update to include the Chief and Deputy Chief. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Closed at 9:04pm

No action taken.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Nelson made a **MOTION** to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:05pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Sauerhoefer/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pellegrini

EWPC Recording Secretary