

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION**REGULAR MEETING: September 12, 2012****East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Vice-Chairman Sauerhoefer. Commissioners Mancuso, Filipone and Stremper were present as well as Chief of Police Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Commissioner Nelson was absent (excused). Present in the audience was Board of Finance member Kathy Pippin.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

Vice-Chairman Sauerhoefer requested "Vehicle Equipment" be added under New Business.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 8, 2012 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the regular meeting minutes of 8/8/12. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

ABSTAIN FROM VOTING: Filipone (absent 8/8/12)

VOTING IN FAVOR: Stremper/Mancuso

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the monthly billing as of 9/6/12, including animal control, in a total amount of \$ 8,659.34. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Mancuso to approve the monthly financial statement dated 9/6/12, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Mancuso to approve the monthly billing as of 8/31/12 in the total amount of \$ 125.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 8/31/12, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chief DeMarco commented regarding the letter he received last month about the intersection of Rye/Windsorville/Main. Deputy Chief Hart updated the commission stating that the placement of a traffic light at that intersection would be a huge endeavor for the town to undertake. It would involve an Engineering study which would be a large expense for the town. If that study determines it is feasible, the entire intersection would need to be reworked – a major expense and undertaking.

Deputy Chief Hart stated that the department has looked into the number of accidents at the intersection and the amount does not justify a change. Deputy Chief Hart personally evaluated the area for three days and had stopped three vehicles in that time for going through the stop sign. He agrees that there is an issue there that needs some enforcement attention. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart explained that there are two things the department can do to alleviate the problem: (1) enforcement – place the area on the STEP program and (2) address physical aspects at the intersection – such as repainting the stop bars, replace the smaller stop sign with a bigger sign, place a “Stop Ahead” sign Northbound. DC Hart will talk with the DPW to get these items completed.

Brief discussion followed regarding the traffic flow, visibility and the angles of the intersection. Commissioner Mancuso recommending re-evaluating the situation after the changes are made.

Commissioner Stremper stated that a resident on Rice Rd. expressed concern to him over the excessive speeding of cars on that road. Brief discussion followed with Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart stating that they will add that area to the STEP program and possibly place a speed sign.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Vehicle Equipment

Chief DeMarco stated that there is a strong need in the department of some new equipment for the vehicles that will potentially need funding. Deputy Chief Hart added that the equipment needed is for speed enforcement. He continues to explain that the current radar equipment is an “ancient” unit that is a dual antenna system. Although many of the units are over 10 yrs old, they still do the job. However, some cars only have one (antenna). The elements strongly affect the life of the antennas i.e. the outside mounted ones are exposed to varying weather conditions; the inside unit is affected by the heat of the summer or the very cold in the winter.

Deputy Chief Hart explained that two cars are fully functioning now, while the rest are semi-functioning/failing. The units need to be tested after each violation (required) – some testing is failing. The units must be certified every six months. New units cost approximately \$2500.00/each. DC Hart and Chief DeMarco continued by stating that there is a tremendous need for complete units to be placed in the cars for speed enforcement, as that is a large part of what the officers handle. Chief DeMarco stated that there is a

need for five new units (in addition to the two in place) to fill front line patrol cars. The new vehicles will not arrive with radar built in.

Chief DeMarco, Deputy Chief Hart and the Commissioners continued discussing the need and importance of the radar units – also different types available. The discussion of funding continued.

Deputy Chief Hart stated, with regards to funding, that the “Extra Duty Fund” has not been touched in the 5 ½ years he has been with the department and it is designed to be used for vehicle equipment. Deputy Chief Hart explained that there is a surcharge for the vehicles to be on road jobs (\$15/hour) and that money goes into this fund. Chief DeMarco added that he is not sure of the exact dollar amount currently in the fund, but will inquire on the balance. He did state that it is a rotating fund that keeps a balance for some overtime use. He estimates the balance could be \$50,000-60,000 at this time, but reiterated that he is unsure where it stands (also with regards to any of it having gone to the general fund).

Commissioner Sauerhoefer questioned the Chief, Deputy Chief and other commissioners if the department should consider outfitted two of the new cars with the defibrillators and new laptops. Discussion ensued regarding updating and the need of other equipment in the cars. Commissioner Sauerhoefer suggested starting with just two of the vehicles and over time build up more of the vehicles, as money allows, with the updated equipment (laptop) and defibrillators.

Deputy Chief Hart recommended that the fund should not be touched if the balance is less than \$50,000. The fund needs to carry a balance to cover paying out and waiting for payments. Discussion continued regarding amount to fund.

MOTION made by Commissioner Stremper to authorize Chief DeMarco to spend \$15,000 out of the Private Duty Fund, if he deems there is enough money in the account, to support the purchase of radar, defibrillator and laptop equipment as best needed to outfit at least two new vehicles at said amount.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Filipone/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The vehicles are expected to be delivered to the department in mid-December (equipped). The vehicles will arrive at MHQ in November and begin the equipment installation and placement of the graphics. The light bars, radios and modems will be used from the old cars.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police: Chief has submitted his monthly report the Commissioners and has items to discuss in Executive Session. Chief updated the commission on the following:

1. Update on the Academy seat – it appears that the department now has a 2nd seat for the academy.
2. Financial update - The department is currently down three officers which is not a comfortable position to be in, as the department needs to meet shift minimum. As a result, this has placed a financial burden on the department for the start of the fiscal year (on variable overtime). Deputy Chief Hart reviewed the Police Department’s Financial Statement (9/6/12) with the commission and updated commissioners on where line items stand.

Deputy Chief Hart added that the department now incurs a cost of \$1500. to send recruit officers to the academy (which was not budgeted in) – as the state has changed the way they are doing things. The

department received a letter from the state at the end of January/beginning of February regarding this new change – after the department’s budget was already in process. The department has not budgeted in the cost of the three officers that will be attending and there is a strong possibility another officer may leave the department in January, 2013. Once the department receives an official letter, they will begin the process of filling that position. Discussion regarding lateral moves to fill that position. Additionally, all veteran officers are required to attend classes every three years – which now has a cost associated with it.

Commissioner Filipone asked if the department has notified the Board of Finance to let them know where the budget and numbers stand so far. Chief DeMarco responded that he will be creating a notification and let them know, but his first step was to inform the commission this evening.

Discussion followed with regards to hiring, the timeframe involved with the start up of a new officer, overtime expenses and the number of officers the department needs (future growth/needs). Discussion continued with members agreeing that it may now be the time for a discussion on future growth and needs.

Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart took a moment to state to the commission that for the past 5 ½ yrs of working together, they have worked as a team and proven their actions. They have been very transparent and diligent in their fiscal responsibilities when dealing with public funds and are also always focusing on meeting mandates and public safety. In conclusion, the Deputy Chief commented that July/Aug/Sept were tough on the budget, but they will make it work – the Chief and Deputy Chief are keeping the Police Commission informed, but are certainly not in a panic stage.

B) Commissioners: Commissioner Filipone commented that Sergeant McNiece and his canine performed a great demonstration at the Taste of East Windsor. They educated the crowd and did very well.

10. PUBLIC INPUT – Comments and Discussion (5 minutes maximum time per subject)

None

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Stremper to go into Executive Session to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart (8:01pm). **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Filipone/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

No action taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Stremper to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:40pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Filipone/Stremper

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pellegrini - EWPC Recording Secretary