

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: August 14, 2013

East Windsor Town Hall Annex

Emergency Management Conference Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Sauerhoefer. Commissioners Strepfer, Filipone and Mancuso were present as well as Chief of Police Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Absent was Commissioner Eckel (excused). Present in the audience was Selectwoman Dale Nelson (liaison to the Police Commission).

MOTION made by Commissioner Strepfer to go out of order from the submitted agenda and proceed to the dedication ceremony outside of the Police Department entrance. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Memorial dedication took place outside the entrance to the East Windsor Police Department. A bench with an engraved plaque was presented to the family of Dispatcher Sharon Hannaford Bourke. Chief DeMarco presented the bench to the family in her memory and took a few minutes to reflect on the dedication and years of service Ms. Bourke had with the East Windsor Police Department. Along with (retired) Sergeant Michael Hannaford, his family, friends and colleagues of Sharon Bourke, were First Selectwoman Denise Menard and Selectwoman Dale Nelson. Also in attendance were (retired) Officer Doug Humphry, former Police Commissioner Linda Sinsigallo, former Police Commissioner Richard Sherman and Town Engineer Len Norton.

(Meeting reconvened at 7:15 in the Conference Room)

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the July 10, 2013 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Strepfer to accept the regular meeting minutes of 7/10/13. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the monthly billing, including Animal Control, as of 8/9/13 in the amount of \$9,570.65. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Stempffer/Mancuso/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly financial statement dated 8/9/13, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

Chief DeMarco reminded the commission that the numbers can not be updated until the budget is officially approved. Selectwoman Nelson added that the budget was just finalized last week, after some legal assistance. Brief discussion of the budget followed with Deputy Chief adding that the 2% increase is off of the 6/15/13 adjusted budget number.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Stempffer/Mancuso/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to approve the monthly billing as of 7/31/13 in the total amount of \$ 125.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stempffer. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Stempffer/Mancuso/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 7/31/13, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stempffer. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Stempffer/Filipone/Mancuso

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Filipone questioned the “7/3/13 FY 2012-2013” billing sheet that was included in the Police Department’s financial report. The sheet was included to show the final six bills that had gone out in the last fiscal year.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chairman Sauerhoefer passed around the plaque that will be presented to former Police Commissioner Cliff Nelson. The retirement plaque states his years on service on the commission as 11/20/07-6/12/13. Chairman Sauerhoefer will present this to him personally.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

A) Broad Brook Elementary School (update): Chairman Sauerhoefer updated the commission on the traffic and safety issues in the area of the elementary school. The raised crosswalks have been

installed or redone. A timber rail fence has been installed along the front of the school parking lot and curbing will be added this week. Additionally, line striping should be done within the next week along the new sidewalk and the crosswalks.

Discussion regarding the stop signs at Main/Rye/Windsorville. While the current signs are 36", the commission discussed changing out one or more of them to a 48" sign. After brief discussion, commission decided to wait on changing the sign size until the crosswalks and striping are complete. Potentially replace the straight-away (Main St.) with the 48" and keep the 36" at the "T"s.

Chairman Sauerhoefer will check the area to see if there is enough room to place a 48" sign. The current signs are fairly new and still bright. Commissioner Mancuso made the recommendation of placing reflecting tape on the poles. Chairman Sauerhoefer will look into it. Additionally, the line striping for the stop line will be completed soon.

Discussion regarding no parking signs on Old Ellington Rd, along the school property. Chairman Sauerhoefer commented that he had done some research and the DPW does not recall signs on poles along the school side – only on the opposite side of the road. Chief DeMarco added that there are some issues and regulations regarding the placement of signs along the fence area. Discussion continued regarding the signs, who may have placed them previously and any associated liability the signs could carry.

In the final discussion of Traffic Authority, Deputy Chief DeMarco concluded that the education and enforcement of illegal parking will begin at the start of the school year. The police department has reached out to the school and requested they send something out or issue a mass voice mail regarding the parking/no parking areas. There will be a police presence the first day of school.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Chief DeMarco informed the commission of an issue that is occurring in rural sections of town. Chief DeMarco stated that the main area of concern is the Plantation Road area. He states that the area has become very popular with dirt bikes/ATVs and there are trailers from neighboring states illegally parking on private property. Chief DeMarco stated that officers have been monitoring the area to see where the high traffic areas are. He also stated that there will be increased police presence and enforcement within the next two weeks. Vehicles will be towed if illegally parked on private property. Chief stated that they are currently investigating who the land owners are and making them aware of what is going on and the enforcement that will be in place. Chief DeMarco informed the commission that this activity will cost the town, as he doesn't want to let up on the police presence and enforcement too soon.

Brief discussion followed among the commissioners, including the topic of "reserve police officers" and part time officers to cover incidents as mentioned above.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police: Commissioners received packet. Nothing additional to add.

B) Commissioners: Chairman Sauerhoefer asked for an update and explanation on the pension issue and hybrid program. Selectwoman Nelson participated in the discussion. She stated that the pension will be discussed again in 2016. DC Hart explained that there is a cost, but this plan is cost effective and will conservatively save approximately \$100,000 now. Brief discussion and explanation of the plan and the process. Commissioners then discussed the coverage and the new hybrid plan (versus the Defined Benefit plan). All new hires will go into the hybrid plan. Over time, (with retirements), all members will be on the hybrid plan. There are approximately 10 people remaining on the DB plan.

Discussion regarding the current openings at the police department. DC Hart informed the commission that the state has decreased its number of academy classes and towns are pushing to get seats in the academy. EW put in for two seats for October’s academy and has been put on a waiting list. Brief discussion of cost and cost effective plans of hiring. Discussions of opening and the process of hiring (period of about one year). There are currently two vacancies, one long-term disability and one up-coming long-term disability. Additionally, there is a potential retirement (at least one) coming up anytime between September – December.

Commission held discussion on CIP project costs and its high threshold making it difficult to complete needed projects. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart specifically talked about the CCTV/DVR that needs replacement in the police department.

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

Selectwoman Dale Nelson (Omelia Rd, Broad Brook) commented that the DPW has done a great job on the crosswalks and the school parking areas to improve the safety around the school and surrounding area. Additionally, she added that the quarterly pension meeting will be soon.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Strepfer to enter into Executive Session to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart (8:27pm). **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Strepfer/Mancuso/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Session ended at 8:55pm.

No action taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Strepfer to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:55pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Strepfer/Mancuso/Filipone **ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pellegrini - EWPC Recording Secretary