

# ***EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION***

***REGULAR MEETING: February 12, 2014***

***East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room***

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## **1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Stremper. Commissioners Filipone, Leach and Long were present. Commissioner Mancuso was absent (excused). Also present were Chief of Police Edward DeMarco, Jr., Deputy Chief of Police Roger Hart and Selectwoman Dale Nelson (liaison to public safety).

## **2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:**

A) **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to add "Hiring Authority" under 7. *New Business*. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Long/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

B) **MOTION** made by Chairman Stremper to discuss "Charter Revision recommendation" under 7. *New Business*. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Long/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

## **3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:**

The minutes from the January 8, 2014 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to accept the regular meeting minutes of 1/8/14. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

**ABSTAIN FROM VOTING:** Filipone (absent 1/8/14)

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Long/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

The minutes from the January 8, 2014 special meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to accept the special meeting minutes of 1/8/14. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

**ABSTAIN FROM VOTING:** Filipone (absent 1/8/14)

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Long/Leach

**ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:**

**A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the monthly billing dated 2/10/14, including Animal Control, in the total amount of \$9,205.16. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach. No discussion.

**VOTE IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to approve the monthly financial statement dated 2/10/14, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly billing as of 1/31/14 in the total amount of \$ 125.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 1/31/14, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A) Security Alarms:** Chairman Stremper asked if Commissioner Filipone was all set with the alarm data received. Commissioner Filipone replied that he was.

#### **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

Commissioner Filipone commented that the crosswalk between the school and the parking lot area is very dark at night. There is not adequate lighting in that area for the crosswalk. He asked the Chief and Deputy Chief to look at it, as it is a safety issue.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:** (reverse order from motions made above)

A) Charter Revision: Chairman Stremper received an email from the Charter Revision Committee requesting input of any suggestions or concerns for discussion. Chairman Stremper suggested that the commission may want to consider proposing a change with regards to constables.

Chairman Stremper took a few minutes to explain the purpose of a constable in town. He had attended a class with his wife, an elected constable in town. Discussion followed regarding the purpose of constables, authority level and the liability associated with having elected constables. Discussion included an explanation of two different types of constables: “part time police officer” versus “political elected official”. The commission agreed that the position (as an elected official) is an outdated function that carries an enormous amount of liability to the town. Chief DeMarco, Deputy Chief Hart and Selectwoman Nelson provided input in this discussion.

Following the discussion, Chairman Stremper suggested that the Police Commission may want to recommend that the Charter Revision Committee eliminate the elected constable positions in town. The charter currently states that the town has seven constables for a four year term. The current constables would complete their term or may choose to resign.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to send a recommendation to the Charter Revision Committee to review the town’s elected Constable positions and the possibility of eliminating those positions, with the currently elected constables to continue their service until the end of their terms. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach. No further discussion.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

- B) Hiring Authority: Approximately 6-7 months ago, Chief DeMarco informed the commission that he anticipated there would be some retirements in the department. At that time, Chief DeMarco recommended that the commission and department hire “in advance” of these known retirements in order to save six months of the hiring process time. At that time, Chief DeMarco did receive authorization from the Police Commission and First Selectman to do so.

Chief DeMarco continued to explain that he is aware of two retirements that are approaching, with one potentially being in May. He is requesting, from the Police Commission, that the department may start the hiring process and bring in 2-3 candidates for interviews and to set ranking order. Additionally, he added that the department has been assigned one academy slot for April, 2014. Chief DeMarco added that he had approached First Selectman Menard about this earlier and she stated that she would support what decision the Police Commission makes. In conclusion, Chief stated that there are 2-3 solid candidates on the current list (list is within the past year).

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to authorize the hiring of one Police Officer in anticipation of one retirement. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long. No further discussion.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED**

Chief DeMarco requested a special meeting to interview the candidates. Police Commission agreed to meet on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 6:30pm. Meeting will be held at the East Windsor Police Department.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

## 9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police: Commissioners received packet. Commissioner Filipone confirmed that the canine is retiring and asked for a recap as to why there will not be a replacement canine. Chief DeMarco explained it is primarily due to budgetary reasons and also that there is not currently an officer that is interested in that role. Commissioners Filipone and Stremper commented that it is a valuable asset and a good public relations asset. Brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Filipone inquired about the crack in the Police Department's parking lot and if it is under warranty. Chief responded that he was not sure, but will be checking into it.

Chairman Stremper commented that the new vehicles look good. Deputy Chief Hart replied that he has received good feedback from the officers with the new vehicles.

Additionally, Commissioner Filipone commented that he saw that the Police Union filed notice to bargain. Chief DeMarco responded that it is normal protocol.

B) Commission Members: Chairman Stremper asked about ID's for the Police Commissioners. Chief DeMarco responded that they can be done prior to the Special Meeting in March or commissioners can stop in anytime, but should call Maria ahead of time.

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

Selectwoman Dale Nelson questioned whether the hiring authority is a SOP and if not, can/should it be added as one? Chief DeMarco responded that it is not necessary and it is only done as needed. He reiterated that it saves time and money. Deputy Chief Hart added that it is more pressing now to hire in this way because there are less slots available at the state academy and as the agency is getting older, more vacancies are coming up (due to retirements). He added that officers are thinking ahead about retirement which allows the Police Department to take advantage of that time. Currently there are 4-5 eligible officers to retire, if they choose. In conclusion, Chief DeMarco added that, as a town wide team and department, communication has gotten much better.

## 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session (7:36pm) to include Chief Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

No action taken.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:15pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach. No further discussion.

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Leach/Long

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Christine Pellegrini - EWPC Recording Secretary**