

# ***EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION***

***REGULAR MEETING: May 14, 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 Mancuso, Filipone, Leach and Long were present. Also present were Chief of Police Edward DeMarco, Jr. and Deputy Chief of Police Roger Hart. Selectwoman Dale Nelson (liaison – public safety) was present in the audience.

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

Agenda #7, New Business: Commissioner Filipone requested a brief discussion regarding a recent raccoon incident.

Agenda #7, New Business: Commissioner Mancuso requested to communicate some residents' inquiries.

Agenda #7, New Business: Commissioner Leach requested a brief discussion on pistol permits and a breakdown of the associated fee.

Agenda #7, New Business: Chairman Stremper requested a discussion on the open Recording Secretary position.

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

The minutes from the April 9, 2014 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to accept the regular meeting minutes of 4/9/14.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

**ABSTAIN FROM VOTING:** Filipone (absent 4/9/14)

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

**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 dated 5/9/14, including Animal Control, in the total amount of \$16,922.35.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Leach questioned the ACO Vehicle Maintenance of \$3502.83. Deputy Chief Hart responded that this vehicle has been sent to MHQ for transfer to dog line.

Commissioner Long inquired about the amount spent at Sentry Uniform. Chief DeMarco replied that at the end of the year it is typical to see an increase as the officers expend their uniform allowance.

Deputy Chief Hart added that the expenditure transfer (from previous CIP) will reflect in next month's report.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**B) Police Department – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly financial statement dated 5/9/14, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Filipone asked if the department is anticipating any added expenditures at fiscal year end. Chief DeMarco replied that they are not.

Additionally, Deputy Chief Hart clarified that the financial statement does not reflect the added appropriation for the SRO.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly billing as of 4/30/14 in the total amount of \$ 125.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

**VOTING IN FAVOR:** Filipone/Mancuso/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 4/30/14, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

## **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

Chairman Stremper received a letter from the CT DOL requesting the commission to update information to designate the local traffic authority and a primary contact person. Chairman Stremper will submit the update listing the Police Commission as the local traffic authority and Chief DeMarco as the primary contact.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Commissioner Filipone stated that a resident contacted him regarding a raccoon issue. The resident noticed a raccoon in their garage and contacted the dispatcher. The ACO arrived and later testing revealed that the raccoon tested positive for rabies. After further discussion of the actions that occurred with this call, Commissioner Filipone questioned whether the dispatcher handled such a call properly and are dispatchers allowed to make judgment calls. Call was received in on Monday 5/12/14 from Wells Road, East Windsor. Chief DeMarco will look into this matter.

B) Commissioner Mancuso informed the commission that he has received many inquiries regarding the police canine unit and why “the department is doing away with the canine unit”. Chief DeMarco immediately clarified that the police canine was retiring – the program was not suddenly dissolved. The average age of at a police canine’s retirement is 10-11 years old. Chief took moment to explain that the program costs approximately \$30,000/year to run and that the department has established fundraisers in the past but only successfully raised about \$4-5,000. He reminded the commission of the surrounding towns available with canine units.

Commissioner Mancuso added that one of the concerned residents is involved with the dog park and discussed fundraising with him. Commissioner Mancuso suggested that they (the concerned residents) write a formal letter expressing their concerns. Brief discussion followed.

C) Commissioner Leach inquired, on behalf of a resident, as to what the \$70.00 pistol permit fee goes towards – how it is broken down. Deputy Chief Hart responded that the breakdown of the state and local fees are spelled out in the application.

Commissioner Leach also inquired about how much money is recovered/collected as a result of drug arrests. Deputy Chief Hart stated that there are two funds: Federal and State and that the town did recently acquire some. Chief DeMarco also stated that the money has very directed uses. Chief added that \$0 has been expended from the asset fund the past year and approximately \$5,000 on the Federal side. He will get specific numbers for Commissioner Leach. Additionally, he added that the department also receives small amounts of assets that are seized.

Commissioner Leach inquired about a fatal on 4/12/14 and that no notification was received. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart will check on reports that date.

D) Chairman Stremper announced the Police Commission’s Recording Secretary, Christine Pellegrini, has submitted her letter of resignation with her last meeting being 6/11/14. The Commission, Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart discussed replacements for the position. Chairman Stremper stated that resident, Lois Noble, has expressed an interest. Chief DeMarco stated that the EW Police Department’s Records Manager, Judy Tweedlie, has also expressed an interest. Christine also stated that she would approach some potential candidates and keep the commission informed of any other possible candidates. Brief discussion of candidates and the transition to a new recording secretary. Discussed having candidates attend June meeting and decision will be made.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Stremper read a letter to the commission dated 4/18/14 from the Warehouse Point Fire Department. The letter commended the response and actions taken by certain members of the East

Windsor Police Department at the barn and Red Hill Park Community fire in April. Within the letter, Sergeant David McNeice and Officer Jeffrey Capen were recognized and commended for their quick response and organization with regards to evacuating the local residents. Additionally, Corporal Byron Smith, Officer Alexei Khoudyakov and Officer Joseph Donovan were recognized and commended for their excellent work with regards to the traffic and crowd control.

## 9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police: Commissioners received packet. Chief DeMarco stated that he will have Deputy Chief Hart review the fleet protocol to transfer cars.

Deputy Chief Hart referred to page 4 of the Commissioners' packets, adding that more vehicles need to be added on. DC Hart requested a motion to transfer four vehicles (2 Ford Crown Victorias, the Animal Control vehicle and a 2003 Dodge Intrepid) to the First Selectman. Equipment (usable) will need to be stripped from the vehicles – the DPW has not had a chance to do it yet.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to authorize Chief DeMarco to transfer four (4) vehicles (2 Ford Crown Victorias, the Animal Control vehicle and a 2003 Dodge Intrepid), as discussed, to the First Selectman upon removal of all equipment. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Leach. No further discussion.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Chief DeMarco informed the commission that the department would like to apply for a “universal cops hiring grant” in an effort to fund the SRO. Deputy Chief Hart added that the application does state that SRO positions take precedence. The deadline for the application is mid-June. Brief discussion followed.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to allow Chief DeMarco to apply for the Universal Cops Hiring Grant. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No further discussion.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Commissioner Filipone inquired about the second posted DCF worker within the Police Department. Brief discussion followed including input from Commissioner Mancuso with regards to the responsibilities and the advantages of having a DCF professional (Social Worker) within the department. He continued to explain that the individual handles investigations, family cases and is a staff person able to work with families that have already had investigations but are staying connected to services. Commissioner Mancuso stressed that this position, located within the Police Department, improves communication and provides a collaboration by working in conjunction with investigations and patrol. There is no cost to the Police Department to post a worker within the department.

Deputy Chief Hart informed the commission of a Hazardous Mitigation Grant (Federal) that came through EMS. He stated that there is a short window for applying within the next 30 days. The information has been sent to the appropriate offices (WPCA, Highway Dept.), which explains that it is for any activity that would prevent damage from flooding. Brief discussion followed.

B) Commission Members: None

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

Burma Shaw (23 East Road, Broad Brook) read a letter she had written regarding a motor vehicle accident she was involved in on 1/31/14 at 1:45pm on Rockville Road, Broad Brook. A copy of the detailed letter was given to Chief DeMarco. Ms. Shaw, unhappy with the police report, requested a review of the case to amend the police report and bring justice to the matter; that the other party was not ticketed as an uninsured driver. Chief DeMarco responded that he would investigate the matter further.

Selectwoman Dale Nelson (liaison to Public Safety) asked about breakdown of the SRO grant that was discussed earlier. It is a 75/25 split – 75% of a whole officer. This would take some of the burden off of the school.

Ms. Nelson also suggested that the commission consider holding another “Appreciation Ceremony”, as it has been awhile since the last one.

Additionally, Ms. Nelson clarified for the commission that the current BOS Recording Secretary is a paid town employee who does the minutes of the meetings. However, “comp” time is given for those weeks she records meetings, as opposed to a separate stipend. Ms. Nelson suggested that this is a fiscally responsible way for a commission to not have to budget and pay a recording secretary.

#### **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session (8:03pm) to include Chief Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

No action taken.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:25pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No further discussion.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pellegrini - EWPC Recording Secretary