

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: October 8, 2014

East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Chairman Stremper. Commissioners Filipone, Leach and Long were present. Also present were Chief of Police Edward DeMarco, Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Selectwoman Dale Nelson (liaison – public safety) was present in the audience.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

Agenda #6, Traffic Authority: Melrose Road.

Agenda #7, New Business: C.I.P. projects, Ad Appropriations.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 10, 2014, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the regular meeting minutes of 09/10/2014. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Long/Leach/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 dated 10/03/2014, including Animal Control in the total amount of \$10,307.42.

DISCUSSION: None.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) **Police Department – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly financial statements as of October 3, 2014, as submitted. No discussion. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long.

VOTED 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 09/30/2014 in the total amount of \$125.00.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

VOTED 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 09/30/2014, \$1,325.00 as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chief DeMarco received a complaint from the Chairman of the Heritage River Commission regarding drug paraphernalia (including heroin needles) in the area of the Melrose Road cul-de-sac. This area is town property and leads to the bridge on the 140 East side which is commonly used by hunters and hikers. To alleviate this issue, Chief DeMarco would like to close the end of the road from dusk – 5am using signs to inform the community. This would allow the police department to prevent illegal activities by being able to charge those deviating from the order with a trespassing charge. Chief DeMarco will present this to the Board of Selectman for approval.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to allow the road closure.

SECONDED by Commissioner Leach. No discussion

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

I.

A) Chief DeMarco requested four new patrol cars through the Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.) at a cost of \$37,000 per car which would equal \$148,000. Deputy Chief Hart informed the commission that we will have only three marked Crown Victoria's on the line. Once those cars are converted to the new Interceptors the equipment could transfer to the new vehicles which would turn into a savings of \$9,000 per car moving forward.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Leach asked why we are getting all sedans and not SUV's. Chief DeMarco explained the sedans are more ergonomic for officers on patrol.

B) Commission Members: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to allow Chief DeMarco to request four new patrol cars through C.I.P. with a budget estimate of \$148,000.
SECONDED by Commissioner Leach.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

II.

A) Chief DeMarco requested permission to get six vehicle mounted dash cameras plus a PC as a server for frontline cars from WatchGuard in order to reduce liability and increase officer safety in the police department. The dash cams would have sound/images recorded and electronically/securely transmitted to a hard drive. Deputy Chief Hart added that the cameras would activate when police lights are turned on and would also record 90 seconds prior to light activation. In addition, the cameras could be manually activated.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked if this could lower insurance premiums. Chief DeMarco responded that this could possibly reduce premiums and that the First Selectman may be able to get a risk reduction analysis. Commissioner Filipone asked if there was any grant money for this request and Chief DeMarco explained there is not. Chairman Stremper asked if the officers had the ability to turn the camera off and Chief DeMarco explained they could not shut the cameras off manually. Commissioner Long asked if any other police departments in the area are using this product. Deputy Chief Hart responded that Bristol and New Britain have this technology and are happy with it.

B) Commission Members: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to allow Chief DeMarco to request six vehicle mounted cameras through C.I.P.; not to exceed \$42,000.
SECONDED by Commissioner Leach.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

III.

A) Deputy Chief Hart urgently requested leasing two new workstation consoles and hardware for dispatch in the police department. These consoles are responsible for handling 911 calls, radio transmissions and opening doors throughout the entire building including the sally port used to transport prisoners. The current system's radios are starting to fail. The current Orbicrom system was installed over ten years ago and is considered fifteen year old technology. Companies will not allow any type of maintenance agreement because the technology is no longer supported and parts have to be found on EBAY. Recently, dispatchers had an issue in which they were only hearing the last part of live transmissions which could have resulted in a dangerous situation. Goosetown Communications was able to fix the issue at a cost of \$600, but the fix has now created more of a strain on the system which is reducing the lifespan even more. Purchase price is \$125,000 plus \$36,000 for maintenance over five years which equals \$161,000. Leasing is a better option as its \$162,000 over five years and we won't be trapped with technology that isn't supported. Chief DeMarco is requesting ad appropriation and will petition the town to lease the new workstations.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked about the life expectancy of the new system. Chief DeMarco explained that leasing would allow us to always have up to date technology that could be

replaced as needed. Currently Windsor and Plainville are using this system and are happy with it. Chairman Stremper asked what the timeframe is for installation. Chief DeMarco stated the timeline for installation is approximately 4-6 weeks.

B) Commission Members: MOTION made by Commissioner Leach to authorize Chief DeMarco to pursue a lease for two dispatch console systems in accordance with the specifications submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

LL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco attempted to get a federal grant to pay for the School Resource Officer (SRO) for the second time, but it didn't get funded.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone questioned what the Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is. Chief DeMarco explained the JRB is an intervention deferment program. It offers alternatives to the criminal justice system through intervention strategies. The JRB can include school administration, clergy, concerned citizens, social services, student representatives, etc. The use of this board helps improve community relations and allows the youth to do such things as community service and/or restitution instead of going through the criminal justice system. If the child doesn't cooperate with the alternatives put into place, the case can then be submitted to the criminal justice system courts.

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

Ms. Nelson expressed she was pleased to see the new police car parked in plain view so people in the community could see it at Community Day in Mill Pond Village.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session (8:15pm) to include Chief Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to end Executive Session at 9:10pm.
SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:11pm.
SECONDED by Commissioner Leach. No further discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary