

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: October 14, 2015

East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Stremper. Commissioners Filipone, Mancuso, Leach, and Long were present. Also present was Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Selectwoman Dale Nelson (liaison – public safety) was present in the audience.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

Agenda #6, Traffic Authority: Selectman Leach to present speeding complaint.
Agenda #8, Communication: Chairman Stremper to present ATV complaint.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 9, 2015, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 09/09/2015.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Long

ABSTAINED by Commissioners Mancuso and Leach.

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Leach to accept the monthly billing as submitted, including Animal Control, in the total amount of \$21,197.04.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone questioned the bill for \$9,000 for the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Deputy Chief Hart explained it is a bill for a three week senior executive level training class for Chief DeMarco. Commissioner Leach questioned the bill for Tasneem Gas LLC for \$805. Deputy Chief Hart explained it is the bill for the car washes. Chairman Stremper questioned the bill for Family Ford. Deputy Chief explained we use Family Ford for warranty work and when Bosco's does not know how to fix an issue. The police department used to send vehicles to Seraphin Ford in Vernon, but Family Ford in Enfield is more responsive and has a faster turnaround time.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Leach to approve the monthly financial statements, including Animal Control, as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Leach questioned the amount of hours Sgt. McNeice has been working. Deputy Chief Hart explained Sgt. McNeice has taken over the responsibilities of IT after Sgt. Smith retired. Recently, he has been working on the IMC software updates and the installation of Symantec anti-virus software. He works the midnight shift so he has to come in during the day at times to meet with others to complete the IT duties. The town contracts a company called Entre out of Massachusetts for IT support. The police department was scheduled for 3 ½ -4 hours per month, but the First Selectman is taking steps to get the department 3 ½ -4 hours every other week.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED 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 9/30/2015 in the total amount of \$125.00.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Leach to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 9/30/2015 for \$1225.00 as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Commissioner Leach introduced a complaint from Selectman Bowsza regarding speeding on Ellsworth Road and the cut-through streets in the area. Deputy Chief Hart explained complainants with traffic concerns should contact himself, Chief DeMarco, or the shift commander and ask to be put on the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) list. Deputy Chief Hart has asked the officers to rotate through Ellsworth Road and execute saturation enforcement. He would like to get the speed trailer out to the area, but at current time it is not functioning properly; new speed trailers are approximately \$3000-\$4000. Chief

DeMarco is currently working on some initiatives to purchase state of the art signs. Commissioner Leach has noticed increased police patrols throughout the town.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Stremper presented a complaint letter written by Ted Arrowsmith regarding ATV's riding in the area (Plantation Road) of his home and the noise being unbearable. He states it has always been an issue in the thirty years he has lived there, but in the past few years there has been an increase in not only ATV's and "mudder" trucks riding and producing noise, but also loud parties that are occurring on Friday and Saturday nights. The offenders also drive cars and trucks through the fields until 3:00-4:00am. He feels the police response has not been adequate. He wrote of a specific incident which occurred on September 27th in which he believes the officers did not sufficiently resolve to the problem.

Deputy Chief Hart responded he is sympathetic to the issues T. Arrowsmith is encountering and the police department is continually working to address the issue. There have been approximately 12 pages of phone calls received in the last year and a half in which officers were dispatched to the area. In the spring of this year the department spent \$2,000 in overtime costs to try and alleviate the problem. The officers encountered many individuals that had letters from property owners allowing the people to ride on the property and other riders that took off from the scene and were unable to be caught. Last year the department also worked in conjunction with Suffield Police to work the area using a regional ATV to try and diminish the problem. In addition, Deputy Chief Hart explained there are approximately 600 acres of land and the police vehicles cannot handle off-road driving; the department only has two Explorers and one is currently in the shop for repairs. In addition, the department does not have the workforce to assign a vehicle to one area at all times. We must also be aware of officer safety issues when responding to large groups of people. Furthermore, officers have found evidence of shooting going on in the area so they need to be extra vigilant when being in those areas and encountering possibly armed individuals.

In regards to the specific incident on September 27th, officers responded to the area and saw three vehicles leaving (Deputy Chief Hart showed a map for understanding of the area). According to the shift sergeant on duty, the area was quiet. The officers did not drive to the specific area in which the alleged noise was occurring because it was quite and some of the other areas require an off-road vehicle to pass through safely without getting stuck. The sergeant and officers then left the area and were dispatched to a medial call and a call to assist another agency asking for assistance in a burglary. Shortly thereafter, T. Arrowsmith called the police department again and spoke with a dispatcher letting her know he found approximately 20 cars parked in the field between the barns. The dispatcher asked T. Arrowsmith if he would like to speak with the supervisor in the building in which he agreed. The dispatcher transferred the call to the supervisor, but when speaking to the supervisor, the complainant did not pass the information on that he had just told the dispatcher about the 20 vehicles being out in the field by the barns; apparently there was a communication issue.

Commissioner Leach reported a complaint from Stanley Paleski who lives on Rye Street. Mr. Masters printed up maps for the Police Commission and Deputy Chief Hart showing the areas of concern. Last week a dirt bike trailer with MA plates broke down after riding in the area. Lately Mr. Masters has seen out of state vehicles in and out of the area.

Commissioner Long asked what types of fines can be given to the offenders. Deputy Chief Hart explained if they are caught without permission and the landowners want to press charges, they can be charged with: simple trespass, violating a town ordinance, and failure to have a registered ATV. They can also tow the vehicles and impound them. Chairman Stremper asked if the properties have “private property/no trespassing” signs posted. Deputy Chief Hart said not all areas have private property signs posted and some landowners are not willing to put them up for fear of vandalism. Chairman Stremper asked if this problem occurs in the winter. Deputy Chief Hart explained the issue occurs in the spring, summer and fall.

Chief DeMarco has recently called the DEEP to get involved (they have refused in the past due to lack of resources) and they requested he send a letter of request.

The police will continue to respond to calls regarding this issue. Chairman Stremper said he would ask T. Arrowsmith to contact Deputy Chief Hart.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

None.

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

Ms. Nelson did not get a copy of the Financials sent to her this month. Deputy Chief will address this with the Chief’s Administrative Assistant to resolve the problem.

Ms. Nelson also spoke of a complaint coming from the resident at 4 Plantation Road. The complaint is regarding ATV’s riding in the area and she has called many times and will continue to call when this occurs.

Ms. Nelson went to Reservoir Road and a woman is complaining about the noise at the Skate Park after closing. In addition to the extremely loud noise the skateboards are creating when hitting the ground, she states there is also partying at night occurring. She says she calls the police, they come and the crowd disperses, only to re-emerge shortly thereafter. Her solution is to rotate the park cameras to the Skate Park.

Deputy Chief Hart explained he will add this area to the list of areas to run extra patrols on. He also suggests that the complainant call the police department again if the offenders come back. He believes funds have been allocated for adding cameras and the police department would like Avigilon cameras installed which would be linked to the police department. There are other camera initiatives they are looking into such as portable cameras that can be mounted on a pole. They are internet-based, record, tilt, zoom, and would connect directly to the police department. They cost approximately \$2,500-3,000.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to enter into Executive Session (7:50pm) to include Deputy Chief Hart.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to end Executive Session at 8:05pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to adjourn the special meeting at 8:05pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso. No further discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Filipone/Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary