

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: November 11, 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 Mancuso, 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) and Kathleen Pippin were present in the audience.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

Agenda #6, Traffic Authority: Crossroads Community Cathedral

Agenda #7, New Business: Chairman Stremper to approve 2016 Police Commission meeting dates

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the October 14, 2015, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the regular meeting minutes of 10/14/2015.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

EXCUSED: Commissioner Filipone

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the monthly billing as submitted, including Animal Control, in the total amount of \$15,218.69.

DISCUSSION: None.

SECONDED by Commissioner Leach.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

DISCUSSION: Chief DeMarco explained the police department is \$9,000 short in the Professional Services budget line due to it being taken out previously by the town for the

purposes of a town wide cleaner even though they had already taken out \$9,000 totaling \$18,000. Also, the police have settled their union contract which included unfunded raises. The dispatcher union has the potential of settling their contract and the clerical has settled theirs. All of this will impact the salary side of the budget and as normal protocol, the town doesn't fund that and the department will now have to acquire those funds and/or move funds; Chief DeMarco will send a letter to the Board of Finance in December giving them plenty of notice.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to approve the monthly billing as of 10/31/2015 in the total amount of \$125.00.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 10/31/2015 for \$1100.00 as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long. No discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chief DeMarco was asked to comment on the Crossroads Community Cathedral. His response was that two days' notice is too short. The Planning & Zoning Commission, through the Town Planner, was asking for public comment before they made their decision. Chief DeMarco spoke with the traffic engineer regarding this zoning change. He stated that any change on Route 5 will impact traffic and we will need time to research and comment on. The Crossroads Community Cathedral will be located at the former La Renaissance and will generate traffic mostly on Sundays with an estimated number of seven hundred fifty or more cars, and on off-times. Their plan is to include a northbound left turning lane which would allow traffic to turn into the cathedral while permitting those going straight to continue north. Another issue that may arise that could impact businesses, residents, and other commuters are cars trying to leave the location and come out onto Route 5. The initial report called for assigning a hand-traffic police officer at the expense of Crossroads and at the will of Crossroads, but Chief DeMarco stated it should be as needed and determined by the police.

department and the agreement. Chief DeMarco added we must continue to consider the traffic congestion issues on Route 5 because it is a main road in town that residents and businesses depend on. Chairman Stremper asked if putting a hand-traffic officer out would impact the number of officers working. Chief DeMarco explained it would be a private duty job so would not impact the number of officers on the road. Commissioner Leach asked if it would be difficult getting officers to work private duty on Sundays. Chief DeMarco explained it would not and we can pre-plan the timeframes for their busy periods and address any special events. Commissioner Mancuso added there will most likely be more congestion in that area during the holiday times with Wal-Mart generated traffic. Commissioner Long asked what the sightline is like down Rt. 5 and if the police department could control the traffic light. Chief DeMarco explained the sightline is good and the traffic light is too far down the road. Chief DeMarco would like the police commission's approval to endorse the Crossroads Community Cathedral if the final plan meets the discussed standards.

MOTION made by Chairman Stremper to authorize Chief DeMarco to endorse the Crossroads Community Cathedral traffic project if the final plan meets the discussed standards.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Long/Leach

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept 2016 Police Commission meeting dates.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Long/Leach

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco thanked Commissioners Mancuso and Long for their services on behalf of the administration and police department as a whole. They've worked as a coordinated team with a management approach mindset to benefit the community and department. It's been a true pleasure to work with them. Chairman Stremper added they have been great assets to the police commission.

Chief DeMarco is requesting to finish phases two and three of the building project as discussed previously which would include the patrol room, sergeants' room, records division,

and lobby. Also, the police department has severely aging laptops in the cruisers and if we don't address the issue immediately the new cruisers coming on line will not have MDT's or laptops. There is \$150,000 in private duty funds available. Chief DeMarco is requesting to complete the building project and the computer project not to exceed \$45,000 between the two. Commissioner Mancuso asked what the approximate breakout is between the two and Chief DeMarco explained the cost is approximately \$35,000 for the computers and approximately \$10,000 for the building project and the total amount would be inclusive of the two. Commissioner Mancuso also asked what the timeframe would be to finish the building. Chief DeMarco explained it would be done in stages and would take approximately 3-5 months to finish; our officers and staff have volunteered their time to help off-set the costs. Commissioner Long asked if the carpet in the main hallway was fixed and Chief DeMarco stated it has been fixed.

MOTION made by Commissioner Leach to complete the building project and cruiser laptop purchase not to exceed \$45,000 and to come from the private duty funds.

SECONDED by Commissioner Mancuso.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Long/Leach

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

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

Ms. Nelson thanked Commissioners Mancuso and Long for serving on the police commission and that they've done a great job the last couple of years. She also stated the new signage on the side and front of the police department looks great and very professional. Additionally, she wanted to give kudos to Officer Leab and the police department staff that is involved in social media specifically Facebook; they have done a great job and the town is responding to it. Ms. Nelson had a concern regarding the salary percentage that has been used. Deputy Chief Hart explained the 67.13% of salary is what is left, not spent. Chief DeMarco reiterated that the police officer contractual negotiated raises have taken effect and were not put in the budget, plus we started negative \$9,000 on the operational side. Additionally, we have vacancies (two police officers and a supervisor position) so overtime is being impacted. Deputy Chief added he is closely watching the officer salary overtime line in which we've been paying a little more in overtime money because we have an open sergeant position. Since we went for a while without a sergeant, even though we're paying more on overtime, the officer line is almost 2% ahead which evens out the two budget lines.

Ms. Pippin told Commissioners Mancuso and Long they have done a good job on the police commission. Next, Ms. Pippin stated she went to many of the planning and zoning meetings regarding the Crossroads Community Cathedral and "felt very, very badly that you gentlemen didn't show up" and believes "the four of you should have showed up". She said Jim Thurz fought hard. She stated the report Chief DeMarco made sounded very flippant to her and it sounded like "our boys can be bought". She stated "she does not want it and doesn't care what it brings and Jim Thurz is the only man that stood up to say he doesn't want this for East Windsor and it isn't wise". Deputy Chief Hart clarified that Chief DeMarco never created a report and asked Ms. Pippin for her documentation. Ms. Pippin stated she had no documentation. Deputy Chief Hart asked if she made an inaccurate statement and she agreed she had made an inaccurate statement. Deputy Chief Hart went on to explain there is a process that must be followed for any business that wants to come into our community. They

have to give a plan to the Local Traffic Authority (LTA). The Chief is a representative of the LTA and the police commission board is the LTA. Chief DeMarco explained the rules must be followed and anyone that wants a ruling from the LTA must appear before the LTA. They gave less than 48 hours for a review and he was very clear that the LTA meets on the second Wednesday of every month if you want to appear before them; they did not appear before the LTA. Chief DeMarco went on to say he cares about public safety. He has never prepared a report. He was asked to look at a report given to him less than 48 hours before and comment on it. He told them he could not do that nor make a decision on his own for this matter and if they want they could come to the LTA meeting. Deputy Chief Hart also added the police administration never received any type of invitation to the meeting of which Ms. Pippin spoke of wanting them to attend. Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart thanked Ms. Pippin for asking the questions so they could help to educate her and any others on the process.

Commissioner Mancuso wanted to acknowledge his time spent on the police commission. He has learned a lot over the years and wanted to thank current and previous commission members. He is proud to say they have all worked together to arrive at good and fair decisions. He added he has a tremendous amount of respect for the way both Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart manage the police force with the money and the pressures they are under. The Town of East Windsor has a top notch police department.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to enter into Executive Session (7:37pm) to include Chief DeMarco, Deputy Chief Hart and Judith Tweedlie.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to end Executive Session at 8:02m.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to adjourn the special meeting at 8:02pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long. No further discussion.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Mancuso/Leach/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary