

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING: February 14, 2018

East Windsor Police Department
25 School Street, East Windsor, CT 06088

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Hayes, Burns, and Long were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Present in the audience were Detective Sergeant Matt Carl and Ms. Rachel Safford.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to add Agenda #7, New Business: Change location for police commission meetings. Accident scene procedures. School emergency procedures.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 10, 2018, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 01/10/2018.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns.

EXCUSED: Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Hayes to accept the monthly billing, to include Animal Control, in the total amount of \$10,848.08.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Hayes asked what the vet bill was for. Deputy Chief Hart explained it was for supplies; we got a discount from ordering through Cummings Vet. at Tufts University because our new ACO works there. Chairman Leach said he wanted to start to keep a log on vehicle maintenance. Deputy Chief Hart explained we now have a records management system that we use to track repairs for each vehicle and can give us price per mile all the way back to 2010 for each vehicle. The commission went on to talk about how adding new patrol cars every year is a CIP item rather than a budgeted item due to town procedures. A discussion ensued.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to approve the monthly financial statements.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Long asked if we were going to run short on the overtime line. Deputy Chief Hart explained we would not. We could move money if we needed to and we are still owed approximately \$7,500 from click-it or ticket and DUI reimbursement. Chairman Leach would like to have a summary of grant money for the police department. Commissioner Burns would also like to have a summary of the grant money coming in and where the money comes from. Deputy Chief Hart replied most of the money is federal money that is dispersed through the state. One reason we get grants is because we're part of the regional task force called METRO. A discussion ensued.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to approve the monthly billing as of 01/31/18 in the total amount of \$125.00

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach commented on the budget amount for the year. Chief DeMarco stated it includes payment for only regular meetings and special meetings are not covered. Chairman Leach will consider this next budget year. Commissioner Burns suggested we find out what other recording secretaries make (including other towns) for next budget year and that CCM should be able to obtain the information.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Long to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 1/31/2018 as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chief DeMarco gave a copy of a letter to Chairman Leach regarding the previous request from Commissioner Filipone for a turn lane on Rt. 140 making a left turn onto Main Street in Broad Brook. The letter was sent certified to the Department of Transportation.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Leach would like to move the location of the police commission meetings to the police department. All of the information they need is here and it would be more efficient.

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to change the venue of the police commission meetings to the East Windsor Police Department located at 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT 06088.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Burns was asked by a citizen what the procedures are for an accident in the middle of the night in which a pole goes down and electricity is lost. Does anyone on scene knock on doors to inform the neighborhood? Chief DeMarco responded public safety is the primary concern. They'll make the scene safe, coordinate with the fire department and ensure medical treatment is rendered. They do work with Eversource to make sure the road is safe from downed wires, etc., and allow them access to replace and repair poles and wires. Deputy Chief Hart stated we do not normally knock on doors, because it is not always known how widespread the issue is. If there is an emergency event, it has and will be done if necessary. Chief DeMarco explained the individuals should contact Eversource directly if they have a concern about power outages. Although, if they need help in any way they can call the police regular line for our dispatch and they are always there to help people. They can call police dispatch for assistance to guide them at any time. We say call early and call often. Never be afraid to call the police dispatch for help or information. Furthermore, the police department and fire departments have generators in case people are worried about their medical equipment not having power.

Commissioner Burns asked about the school emergency procedures. She referred to the recent shooting at a school in Florida. She stated she is so sad about the tragedy and that no one is immune to it. Chief DeMarco stated he understands how she feels and it affects us all. The department has trained and is as well prepared as they can be for such events. Unfortunately, it's a very complex issue. Commissioner Burns asked if there's any way we can monitor these things including through the computer. Chief DeMarco stated it's a community problem with a community solution. Its people working together to report what they see and hear. A discussion ensued. Chief DeMarco went on to say that we have a Detective Division and a School Resource Officer that work on these issues. He then referred the question to Detective Sergeant Carl. Detective Sergeant Carl stated we have a School Resource Officer that is very active in the schools (mainly middle and high school) and breaks down the barriers to bridge excellent relationships with the students. Her job is not to be a disciplinarian, but rather to work with the students that may need help or are in trouble. She's a liaison between the police and school, active on social media and we can get information in

a timely manner. Our presence in the school is well received and respected and we have a great relationship with the schools.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Leach had a resident on Mockingbird Land ask what the procedure is to put two stop signs in on Winkler Road and the intersection of Newberry Road. Deputy Chief Hart stated there would need to be a qualifier of at least five accidents or more in one year at the location to consider it. Chairman Leach will call the resident back and explain the qualifier and that we cannot put stop signs in just to slow down traffic.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco would like to discuss the current police officer applicant situation and turned it over to Deputy Chief Hart. Deputy Chief Hart explained the individual for position #1 did not pass the background check and therefore was eliminated. The individual for position #2 failed to meet the standards for the background check and was also eliminated so they request to rescind his conditional offer. The police commission can then choose to extend a conditional offer to the 3rd candidate or start the entire process over. Chairman Leach would like to start the process over and see more candidates. Commissioners Hayes and Commissioner Burns disagree. To be discussed in executive session.

Chief DeMarco stated he would like to discuss tasers, firearms and throw bags. He went on to say we need a minimum of equipment provided to our patrol officers. We need throw bags in order be able to provide rescue from drowning victims. We recently had a suicidal individual that attacked an officer then jumped off the Rt. 140 bridge. Another officer had to use a big stick to try and rescue the individual from drowning. Throw bags are light, buoyant, include a throw rope and are reusable. Commissioner Burns asked how much they cost. Chief DeMarco responded they are approximately \$70-80 each and they are requesting ten of them (one for each of the front line vehicles).

Deputy Chief Hart went on to say we need to purchase five new tasers. We currently have only five tasers for twenty-six officers, and one of those tasers cannot download data (length of discharge and #) which is required by the state for mandated reporting. Of those five tasers, some are 1st generation/9-10 years old and a couple others are 8-9 years old. Commissioner Burns asked the cost of the tasers. Deputy Chief Hart said they are approximately \$3,000 each which includes the taser, holster, and cartridges. They share tasers between officers – each officer does not have their own. We would purchase five new tasers now and then use money in the capital budget for more tasers in the future.

Deputy Chief Hart explained we currently have twenty-seven (40 caliber) glocks and twenty-six officers, which means we only have one extra gun. If one goes out for repair, it leaves us with no extras. We also have problems with three to four weapons that are rusting because the finish is coming off, issues with springs that need to be repaired, and guns that need to be sent away and repaired. New pistols are \$490. Glock will take the current pistols, refurbish them, and sell us new ones for \$149. Therefore, we would like five replacements and five new pistols. The money can come out of the private duty fund.

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to transfer \$15,000 from the Police Department private duty line (Private duty – 2725-000000-30102) to the Police Department capital non-recurring equipment line (CNR Equipment – 3005-510200-81020) to purchase replacement Tasers, Glock pistols, and throw lines.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to enter into Executive Session at 8:43 pm to include Chief DeMarco, Deputy Chief Hart and Detective Sergeant Carl for discussion on legal issues and position of police officer.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to end Executive Session at 9:07pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to make a conditional offer to hire Matthew Russo contingent upon successful completion of background check and processing.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary