

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: June 13, 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 Filipone, Hayes, Burns, and Long were present. Also present was Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. Present in the audience were Ms. Deana Antes Prest, Mr. Paul Prest, Dr. Sarah Stein, and Ms. Joan O'Rourke.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the May 9, 2018, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Burns to accept the regular meeting minutes of 05/09/2018.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Hayes

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Burns/Long

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, to include Animal Control (no bills), in the total amount of \$18,034.91.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked about the Marcus Communications bill. Chief DeMarco stated it's for the new modems. Chairman Leach asked Chief DeMarco for clarification on the modems. Chief DeMarco explained they're for all line cruisers and they generate communication between the cruisers and the laptops, GPS, mobile data terminals, records keeping, etc. He also added the one large automotive bill for \$1,724.91 is for a 2014 vehicle that needed a water pump and HVAC. Commissioner Hayes asked if there was grant money for the modems. Chief DeMarco stated there was not and it came out of our budget.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Long to approve the monthly financial statements with a balance of \$403,695.45.

SECONDED by Commissioner Hayes

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/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 05/31/18 in the total amount of \$125.00

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Burns/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 05/31/2018 as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chairman Leach asked about the turn lane on Rt. 140 that is on the agenda. Chief DeMarco still has not heard back from the state and will make a phone call in addition to the letters he sent.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Leach introduced Ms. Prest who is here today regarding an unsolved homicide that occurred in 1985. Ms. Prest thanked the Police Commission for putting her on the agenda for tonight's meeting. She reached out to the police department in 2015 around the 30 year mark of the event and after a few months, the police department agreed to re-open the case. She appreciates the progress that's been made to date, but is here today because in the last three years communication has been challenging and in the past month or two has all but ceased. She reached out to Dr. Stein approximately six months ago looking for an advocate to help navigate the system. She went on to say she feels it hasn't been a transparent process, with lack of open communication and has been challenging. Chairman Leach asked what the Police Commission can do to help her. She responded that she has no idea and that Dr. Stein reached out with a letter about a month ago and received a letter back from Deputy Chief

Hart. Dr. Stein, a cold case analyst at The Center for Resolution of Unsolved Crimes (CRUC), stated she serves as an advocate and liaison between families and departments. She believes the most challenging issue here is getting updates on what is occurring in the investigation and clear, transparent communication between the department and the victim's family with regularity. She understands the department cannot release critical information in the investigation, but would like to have some updates of what's been done, such as evidence being submitted for forensic testing and things of that nature. Commissioner Burns asked how they were related to the homicide victim. Ms. Prest explained she was the victim's fiancée at the time of the homicide. Mr. Prest is Ms. Prest's husband. Commissioner Burns asked for some background on the case and a discussion ensued. Ms. Prest went on to say that to her knowledge, nothing has been done to move the case forward in three and a half years. Mr. Prest stated the victim's father is ill on hospice care and they want to resolve the case before he passes and wants to see if the Police Commission can do anything to move forward and have the case looked into deeper. Ms. Prest said she's been told not to call anymore and that her standing as a family member is being questioned now. Chairman Leach verified she was the victim's fiancée at the time and Ms. Prest confirmed. Chairman Leach said the Police Commission would look into what they can do legally to see if they can establish communication between her and the police department regarding the case. He went on to say the police department is doing their level best to move the case forward and he will meet with the Chief and Detective Division to see if he can do anything to improve communications. Dr. Stein offered her services and would agree to sign a confidentiality agreement in order to review the case report. Ms. Prest said the victim's father signed a letter asking the department to consider her a family member to be able to communicate with her and she would do more if necessary to be considered a family member. Dr. Stein added they would like to know what evidence was found at the scene and they can't hold anyone accountable if they don't what was found and what is being done with that evidence (testing, etc.) They would at least like affirmation there is investigative activity going on with the case. Commissioner Hayes asked about why calls to the Detective Division may have been refused. Chief DeMarco stated he would meet with Chairman Leach and devise a response. Chairman Leach asked Dr. Stein about the cold case business and a discussion ensued. Ms. Prest stated Fox 61 did a segment on this case two years ago; they also have a cold case segment every month and Carmen DeLuca, the 1985 homicide victim, is on it. Mr. Prest added they have also reached out to the state police for information and they referred them to the East Windsor Police Department. Chairman Leach thanked them for coming tonight. He will look into the progress of the case, but the Police Commission can't release information on an active investigation. He will see what is legally viable for release and try to give them some type of progress report.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

None.

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

Ms. O'Rourke stated she supports the police department and appreciates the great job they have done and continue to do. She is here representing some of the neighbors (Pleasant & Gardner Street area) that couldn't attend the meeting. There are a lot of school aged children in the area and vehicles continue to "blow through" the stop sign at the intersection. They appreciate the support the police have given in having a detail out there when the officers are available and hope to get continued support in that area. Commissioner Filipone asked if there was a certain time of day this occurs. Ms. O'Rourke stated it is mainly during rush hour. She also said one of the neighbors suggested adding a speed bump and how would they ask for that. Chief DeMarco explained they would have to put a letter in to Chairman Leach, but speed bumps are not normally approved due to cost, maintenance, snow plowing issues, etc. Commissioner Burns suggested installing a flashing LED stop sign. Chief DeMarco said they are expensive and the last ones they received were through a grant, but they don't have any more available. He asked Ms. O'Rourke to get a letter to the LTA, c/o Chairman Leach, of what's she's looking for and he will also take a look at the area to see what options may work. She also asked about the part-time Animal Control position. Chief DeMarco explained if anyone is interested, they can go onto the police department's webpage to get the information and application to apply.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Hayes to enter into Executive Session at 7:38 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Detective Sergeant Matt Carl for discussion on legal issues.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to end Executive Session at 8:25pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Hayes/Burns/Long

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary