

**OLD SAYBROOK POLICE COMMISSION
Special Meeting
February 21, 2011
MINUTES**

A Special meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, February 21, 2011 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall. PRESENT: Chairman Burnham, Vice Chairman Conklin, Secretary Winkler, and Commissioners Gallicchio, Sparaco, Metsack and Zemienieski. Chief Spera was also present.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burnham called the meeting to order at 4 PM.

II. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to the Submitted 2011-2012 Capital and Operating Budgets.

Chairman Burnham spoke about the Commission's budget workshop with the Board of Selectman. She thanked all Commissioners for their attendance and participation. She stated that it was clear through their discussions at the budget workshop and during discussion she has had with the First Selectman that a strong desire exists to have an additional \$112,000.00 be cut from the proposed budget.

Commissioners spent much time discussing the budget. Discussion primarily pertained to the need for additional police officers to meet today's traditional law enforcement service needs/demands. Commissioners felt very strongly that the initial proposed budget, which was less than the budget for the current 2010-2011 fiscal year, was responsible and added the three new police officer positions that are severely needed.

Chief Spera provided a proposal that would reduce the proposed 2011-2012 operating budget by \$ 111,670. The reduction was realized by eliminating two proposed police officer positions, corresponding FICA, pension, and healthcare costs and reducing the "Part Time Per Diem Patrol Officers" line item by \$ 14,000.

The Chief expressed his concern about eliminating two of the three proposed positions referencing his previous budget presentation and citing the increase in traditional service demand. He also spoke about the length of time it takes to train and certify a new police officer and how they do not become a true asset to the Department with the ability to deliver direct services for 36-40 weeks after starting the police academy.

The Commission discussed the Chief's budget reduction proposal at length.

- A. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Conklin to reduce the Department's 2011-2012 Operating Budget Request by \$111,670 in the manner presented by the Chief of Police. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sparaco. Chairman Burnham, Vice Chairman Conklin, and Commissioners Gallicchio, Sparaco, and Metsack voted in favor of the Motion. Secretary Winkler and Commissioner Zemienieski voted in opposition to the motion. Motion Passed – five in favor with two dissenting.**

III. Adjournment

- A. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Conklin to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Zemienieski. Motion Passed by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.**