

**OLD SAYBROOK POLICE COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**May 19, 2014**  
**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, May 19, 2014, at the Old Saybrook Town Hall .

Present: Chairman Finch, Vice Chairman Savino, Commissioners Burnham, Maselli, and Sparaco were also present. Chief Spera and Lieutenant Roche were present from the Department of Police Services.

**I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the Police Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Minutes**

A. March 24, 2014 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Maselli made a motion to approve the March 24, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sparaco. The motion to approve the March 24, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 0 against. Commissioner Burnham respectfully abstained.

Commissioner Sparaco asked if a check was delivered to the Groton Long Point Police.

Chief Spera affirmed that the check had been delivered.

**III. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

**IV. Executive Reports**

A. Financial

1. 13-14 Operating/Contractual Budgets

Chief Spera stated that the same expenses and supplies line items remained an issue. Chief Spera noted that the rental gasoline for the temporary fueling station is coming out of the Department's gasoline line item. Chief Spera also informed the Commission that there was a slight problem with the implementation of the temporary tank as fuel from the old tank was mixed into the new tank. The water present from the old tank caused a refueling issue but that tank was cleaned for \$3,000, which will hopefully be reduced from the \$5,500/year rental price.

Commissioner Maselli asked if the tank will remain after the Police Department moves to the new building.

Chief Spera replied that the Fire Department and Ambulance Association will purchase a brand new tank that will replace the temporary rental tank.

Chief Spera stated that as the Department moves to budget more toward actuals, he fully expects to see all of the Department's line items 100% encumbered by the end of the fiscal year. Chief Spera added that because of this change in philosophy it is no longer a good idea to flux line items to make the bottom line more attractive. Doing so could cause the Department to lose money that it needs.

2. 14-15 Budget Process Update

Chief Spera simply thanked everyone for their support with the Department's budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

3. Asset Forfeiture  
**Balance: \$20,427.88**
4. Police Administrative Fund  
**Balance: \$16,664.15**
5. Traffic Safety Fund  
**Balance: \$28,904.16**
6. Law Enforcement Fund  
**Balance: \$17,207.53**
7. Old Saybrook Police Fund  
**Balance: \$320.00**
8. Police Explorer Fund  
**Balance: \$4,970.27**
9. Police K-9 Fund  
**Balance: \$1,479.24**

Chief Spera stated that the Commission should see an increase in the K-9 and Explorer funds through court mandated donations.

## B. Administrative

### 1. Contract Negotiations Update – Police Union

Chief Spera stated that the Town and Union have given him authorization to meet with the Union President in an effort to get negotiations back on track. Chief Spera continued that his meeting with President Ziolkovski lasted several hours and was very beneficial. There is a formal bargaining session scheduled for the end of the month. The Chief stated that he is optimistic that many of the issues have been worked out.

Vice Chairman Savino asked if the First Selectman has always taken the lead in contract negotiations.

Chief Spera responded that he has, but there have been instances when the Chief has met with the Union during negotiations to work out issues. He added that the only person in harm's way through his involvement is himself because any concession from the Union may be perceived as the Chief's bargaining stance as opposed to the Town's.

### 2. Activity Report

Chief Spera pointed out that in the last 14 months there have been two attempted homicides and one manslaughter case. Also, approximately a third of the incidents involve the use of a gun or a knife. Chief Spera also noted that 90% of the crime within town comes from the service population, which means those who are not Old Saybrook residents.

### 3. Golf Cart Program

Chief Spera informed the Commission that golf cart letters have gone out and that the Department's online registration website is up and running. He also noted that the fees for the Golf Carts have not changed and that plate design should be finished by the end of the week.

Commissioner Burnham asked if the Department has trouble with people traveling in golf carts on roads that they should not be traveling on.

Chief Spera responded that this has not been a major issue. There are only a few offense areas but most people abide by the rules.

Chairman Finch asked if the problem is significant enough to warrant a sign.

Chief Spera responded that a sign is not warranted. There are only about three issues per year.

**V. Correspondence**

Chief Spera stated that he had one letter that was addressed to him but the Commission and First Selectman were carbon copied as well. The letter was in regards to putting a traffic sign back up that had been taken down during construction.

Commissioner Maselli asked Chief Spera if he was in charge of putting up signs.

Chief Spera stated that Public Works puts up the actual signs.

Vice Chairman Savino stated that the Parks and Recreation Board wants the Police Commission to evaluate parking fees at the beach because it is currently cheaper to park illegally and pay the ticket than to pay to park at the beach.

Chief Spera agreed and stated that this was a topic that he had briefly mentioned at the previous meeting. He stated that the Department never changed the fee because they still have the old ticket books. Chief Spera concluded that this was one of several global issues for the Department that he would like to discuss in the future with the Commission.

Vice Chairman Savino asked how many beach tickets are given each year.

Chief Spera responded that there are no more than 100 tickets given each year for this issue.

Chairman Finch stated that this was an issue the Commission could look at in the fall so that the Department can be ready for the next summer season.

**VI. Comments from the Public**

There were no comments.

**VII. Comments from the Chief of Police**

Chief Spera informed the Commission that there is a D.A.R.E. graduation at St. John's on Thursday at 7:00PM in their gymnasium.

**VIII. Comments and/or Concerns from Commissioners**

Chairman Finch informed the Commission that there have been two awards ceremonies for Old Saybrook Police Officers since the last Commission Meeting. He stated that the first ceremony was an in-house ceremony and it was very impressive. He added that it is important to recognize your staff when they are doing exceptional work. The second ceremony was an exchange club dinner at the Aqua Turf in Southington where three Old Saybrook Officers were recognized for their work.

Chairman Finch asked if there was any news about the end of Main Street.

Chief Spera stated that there was no application on file and that the state traffic permit is still in limbo.

Chairman Finch stated that there was not much news from the Police Building Committee.

Chief Spera added that a camera is being installed that will show the job site in real time.

Commissioner Sparaco stated that he has seen the construction crew working diligently every day.

Commissioner Burnham mentioned that the intersection of School House Road and Route 1 is becoming a potential safety hazard with people parking in the grass for Luigi's. Commissioner Burnham asked if the Commission should review the area and consider making a "No Parking" zone.

Chief Spera stated that negotiations are currently underway for Luigi employees to park elsewhere, which would free up several spots in the parking lot. Chief Spera added that he would hate to put up signage that would infringe on the business.

Vice Chairman Savino thanked Chief Spera and his staff for their role in safety day, which is run by Vice Chairman Savino and his wife. He stated that having Police involvement is beneficial to the community and especially beneficial to the children in town. He concluded that these events help build a general respect towards the Department.

Chief Spera stated that he appreciates the comments. He added that the Department also did a mock crash at the high school for prom safety. He concluded that he is proud of the Department's commitment to the youth and he commented that the younger students have never known school without the positive influence of a police officer working in it.

Chairman Finch stated that if a Commissioner wants to add something to subsequent agendas to let him know in advance.

Commissioner Maselli replied that the Commission might want to start looking at some of the aforementioned global issues in preparation for fall/winter meetings where action on these issues could be taken.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Vice Chairman Savino made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Maselli. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed with a vote of 5 in favor and 0 against.**

*The next regular Police Commission meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.  
in the First Floor Conference Room, Old Saybrook Town Hall.*

The meeting minutes for May 19, 2014 were prepared and respectfully submitted by:

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Trent Gerbers  
Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission