

**OLD SAYBROOK POLICE COMMISSION**

Special Meeting

March 27, 2017

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

**Present:** Chairman Stuart, Vice Chairman Von Dassel, Secretary Moran, Commissioner Burnham, Maselli and Coppes. Chief Spera was present from the Department of Police Services.

This meeting was video and audio taped by the Town of Old Saybrook.

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

Chairman Stuart called the meeting to order at 7:01PM and led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Minutes**

A. **February 27 Regular Meeting**

**Commissioner Maselli made a motion to approve the February 27 Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Coppes seconded the motion. The motion to approve the February 27 Regular Meeting minutes passed with a vote of 5 in favor 0 against with Commissioner Burnham abstaining.**

III. **Comments from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

IV. **Executive Reports**

A. **Financial**

**1. 16-17 Operating Budget**

Chief Spera advised the Commission that the normal expenses and supplies spreadsheets were included in the Commissioner packets. He stated that Retroactive pay has been made to the Police Officers. On the payroll spreadsheet there is a separate line that specifies which line item each payment came out of and how much. The Officers are now being compensated correctly according to the new contract.

**2. Report of Off Budget Accounts**

Chief Spera reported that the Off Budget Spreadsheets are the same, there is nothing drastic to report.

**3. FY 2018 Budget Status**

Chief Spera reported that the Board of Selectman has reduced the Police Department budget by \$25,000. The public hearing regarding the budget was held last week and there were no negative

comments made during the meeting. Chief Spera is hopeful that the Board of Finance moves the budget with the Board of Selectman's recommendations. The meeting is next Tuesday at Town Hall.

Chairman Stuart requested that Chief Spera present his plan for the \$25,000 reduction at the next Police Commission meeting. He stated that should the Board of Finance reduce the budget even further that the Chief present a plan for that too.

## **B. Administrative**

Officer Brian Ziolkovski stood up and addressed the Commission stating that he is requesting the Commission grant him a separation/termination from the Police Department due to his medical disability. He went in last year for a minor medical procedure which has left him no longer able to perform the functions of a Police Officer. His doctors have advised him that it is a permanent injury and that nothing can fix the loss of feeling and numbness in his legs. He stated that this is not the way he wanted to retire and that he has no game plan but he is here tonight to let the Commission know what he needs to do. He is out of options. He discussed everything with the Chief of Police and he is asking the Commission to identify his retirement date at the end of April so that he and his family can continue to receive medical benefits for another month. He stated that this was not the way he wanted to end his career, he has had a great career and there was more good than bad and that Old Saybrook was a great town to work for as a Police Officer. He stated that it will be a very sad day when he has to hand in all his equipment that is currently still at his home.

### **1. Possible Executive Session – To Discuss Legal Strategy Concerning a Personnel Matter**

**Commissioner Burnham made a motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Chief Spera and Town Labor Attorney McHale to participate. Commissioner Maselli seconded the motion. The motion to enter into Executive Session passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.**

The Police Commission entered into Executive Session at 7:09 PM.

**Commissioner Coppes made a motion to exit Executive Session. Commissioner Maselli seconded the motion. The motion to exit Executive Session passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.**

The Police Commission exited Executive Session at 7:27 PM.

### **2. Discussion and Possible Action to Separate an Employee on Unpaid Sick Leave from Town Service**

**Commissioner Maselli made a motion to honor Brian Ziolkovski's request to terminate his employment with the Town of Old Saybrook and continue with his contributions for medical benefits through April 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Coppes seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.**

**Commissioner Burnham thanked Brian Ziolkovski for his 18 years of service to the Town of Old Saybrook.**

### **3. Personnel Report**

Chief Spera thanked Brian Ziolkovski for his years of service and briefly reviewed his history within the Department stated that Brian and his canine partner Zeus were an award winning team that will be much missed.

Chief Spera stated that Scott Sweeney who was approved by the Police Commission last month to become an Old Saybrook Police Officer is putting his position on hold due to family difficulties. Chief Spera stated that he told Mr. Sweeney that the offer is still there should anything change with his situation.

He is hopeful that next month the Police Commission will be interviewing more candidates. One is a certified Officer looking to change agencies.

The Police Department is recruiting at a career fair up at UConn this Thursday.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel requested Chief Spera to bring Patrolman Ayotte's exit interview to the next Commission meeting.

Chief Spera stated that he will have it for the Commission next meeting.

#### **V. Comments from the Public**

David Perrotti stated that he wanted to thank the Police Commission for granting Brian his extension for the medical benefits. He stated that Brian's retirement was not the outcome that he wanted to see but that it was much appreciated that the Police Commission did that to help he and his family.

#### **VI. Comments from the Chief of Police**

Chief Spera had no additional comments.

#### **VII. Comments and/or Concerns from Commissioners**

Commissioner Coppes asked where the subcommittee was regarding the Chief's evaluation.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel stated that they were going to discuss available dates after tonight's meeting.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

**Commissioner Maselli made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Coppes seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

*The next regular Police Commission meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the first floor conference room at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.*

Respectfully submitted by:

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Jennifer Damato  
Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission