

OLD SAYBROOK POLICE COMMISSION

Special Meeting
December 4, 2017
MINUTES

A special meeting of the Old Saybrook Police Commission was held on Monday, December 4, 2017 at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Present: Vice Chairman Von Dassel, Secretary Moran, Commissioner Shippee, Reid, Glowski and Keeney. Commissioner Cooper telephoned in via conference call. Chief Spera and Lieutenant DePerry were 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

Vice Chairman Von Dassel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Minutes

A. October 24, 2017 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the October 24, 2017 regular meeting minutes. Secretary Moran seconded the motion. The motion to approve the October 24, 2017 regular meeting minutes passed with a vote of 3 in favor and 0 against. Commissioners Shippee, Reid, Glowski and Keeney abstained from voting as they were not yet part of the Police Commission on October 24, 2017.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel advised that he wanted to move item V. (Election of Police Commission Officers) up on the agenda. There were no objections from the Commission.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel nominated Dan Moran for Chairman. Commissioner Glowski seconded the motion. The motion to have Dan Moran serve as Chairman of the Police Commission passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

Commissioner Cooper nominated Carl Von Dassel for Vice Chairman of the Police Commission. Commissioner Reid seconded the nomination. The motion to have Carl Von Dassel serve as Vice Chairman of the Police Commission passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

Commissioner Glowski nominated Renee Shippee for Secretary of the Police Commission. Chairman Moran seconded the motion. The motion to have Renee Shippee serve as Secretary of the Police Commission passed with a vote of 7 in favor and 0 against.

Chairman Moran moved item VII. (Discussion and Action on the 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule) up on the agenda. There were no objections from the Commission.

He stated that he didn't automatically assume the Police Commission would meet on the fourth Monday of every month. He wanted to give the Commission some options.

Commissioner Reid made a motion to approve Option A and have the Police Commission continue to meet on the fourth Monday of each month.

Commissioner Glowski objected.

Commissioner Glowski made a motion to approve Option B or C and have the Police Commission move their meetings dates to the first or second Thursday of each month.

Commissioner Reid stated that Thursdays are hard for people if they want to go away for a long weekend.

Secretary Shippee stated that the WPCA meets in the First Floor Conference room on the first and second Monday's of the month and that maybe there was a possibility of switching with them.

Chief Spera stated that he spoke with Georgiann and that two other commissions are waiting to decide what date they will pick after the Police Commission decides. He stated that he asked for the first floor conference room as it's more conducive for audience. Camera and microphone. Chairman has request first floor conference room.

Commissioner Glowski stated that if nobody else can do Thursdays he can rearrange things.

Secretary Shippee stated that she went through the whole schedule and the WPCA is more flexible with the first floor conference room and that they traditionally met in the café.

Chairman Moran stated that the schedule has to be published 30 days before the next meeting else the Commission cannot meet.

Commissioner Keeney seconded the motion to keep the Police Commission meetings on the fourth Monday of the month. The motion to keep Police Commission meetings on the fourth Monday of the month passed with a vote of 5 in favor and Secretary Shippee and Commissioner Glowski opposing.

III. **Comments from the Public**

Tom Stevenson requested that the Police Department hold a second open house as the 2 hours for the Holiday Tour might not be enough.

IV. **Executive Reports**

A. **Financial**

1. FY 18 Budget Status

Chief Spera stated that there been some conversation on what information should have been put in the first packet. He stated that he included everything that the previous commission wished to have. He stated that the information will mean much more as time goes on. The packets include a list of personnel and expenses and supplies expenditures for fiscal year 17-18. He stated he has no concerns regarding the budget so far and that he expects all line items to balance out by the end of the year, similar to last year.

2. Report of Off Budget Accounts

B. Administrative

1. Possible Executive Session – To Interview Candidates for the Position of Patrolman Trainee

Commissioner Keeney made a motion to enter into Executive Session inviting Chief Spera and Lieutenant DePerry to join. Vice Chairman Von Dassel 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 7:16 PM.

Kurt Puzycki entered into Executive Session at 7:44 PM

Kurt Puzycki exited Executive Session at 7:53 PM

Josh Zarbo entered into Executive Session at 7:58 PM

Josh Zabro exited Executive Session at 8:11 PM

The Police Commission exited Executive Session at 8:33 PM

2. Discussion and Possible Action on the appointment of a Patrolman Trainee to fill current vacancies

Vice Chairman Von Dassel made a motion to hire Josh Zabro pending the completion of the hiring process and at a time that the Chief of Police see fit. Commissioner Glowski seconded the motion. The motion to hire Josh Zabro passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel made a motion to hire Kurt Puzycki pending the completion of the hiring process and at a time that the Chief of Police see fit. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The motion to hire Kurt Puzycki passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

3. Personnel Report

V. Election of Police Commission Officers

VI. Discussion and Action on the 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule

VII. Discussion and Action on the FY 19 Budget Meeting Schedule

Chairman Moran stated that the budget must be agreed on and submitted by the Police Commission before January 15th. He stated that he would like to get it done before that. He asked the Commission what would be the best process for everyone. He asked if a Saturday meeting would work.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel stated that the Commission needs to see what is available for a meeting space.

Chief Spera suggested that the Police Commission schedule four or five meetings to review and approve the budget. Town Hall is available on weekends to book meeting space. He stated that the first meeting can be the presentation and the follow ones can be possible action.

The Commission decided that they will meet on January 3 at 6:00 PM for a budget workshop, January 6 at 9:00 AM with the ability to take action on the budget and on January 10 at 6:00 PM if more time is needed. The Chief stated that he will confirm locations and let the Commission know.

Secretary Shippee asked if the Commission will have the budget booklets before January 3rd.

Chief Spera stated yes budget booklets will be delivered prior to the New Year.

Vice Chairman Von Dassel made a motion to set the budget workshop meeting pending room locations on January 3rd at 6:00PM, and possible approval meetings as January 6th at 9:00AM and January 10th at 6:00PM. Secretary Shippee seconded the motion. The budget meeting schedule passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

VIII. Comments from the Public

A member of the public stated that she is a 50 year resident and that she was slighted that she was not made aware of the Police Departments Holiday Open House.

Chairman Moran stated that he is not sure how the Chief would tell the whole world and that the notice will be in the Harbor News this week.

Secretary Shippee stated that there has been discussion about another open house in the future.

Chief Spera advised that over 700 people have already been through the building.

A member of the audience asked what 700 people have come through the Police Department.

Chief Spera stated that mostly every school. He explained the 7th grade recently had a “what’s cool about local government” and the entire grade came through the Department. He stated that there is a fine line regarding tours for the Police Department. The Department is open 24/7 and it is his job to preserve the integrity of the Police Department. He has to be careful on how to make sure the people coming to the Police Department needing help get the help they need and deserve.

A member of the audience asked the Police Commission to give the RFQ sub-committee some direction once everything is reviewed.

Chairman Moran asked who has the final version. He stated that the Police Commission has not had the chance to review and evaluate it.

IX. Comments from the Chief of Police

Chief Spera stated that he is pleased that Officer Testoni has completed his Field Training. Officer Testoni was a lateral hire and came to the Old Saybrook Police Department already certified. This is the second lateral transfer the Department has hired this year.

Commissioner Reid asked how many hours does it take to Field Train a lateral hire?

Chief Spera stated there is no requirement it is based upon ability.

Chief Spera stated that Officer Schulz has been name the new K9 handler. This will be the 21st year that the canine program has been in Old Saybrook. School will start for him in mid-February. The timing works out perfectly as the other officers will be graduated so there will be operational deficiency.

Commissioner Glowski asked where the dog will be coming from.

Chief Spera stated that they have been speaking with the State Police Canine unit and they have been getting there dogs from upstate New York. Officer Schulz will go and look at the dogs and pick the best fit for he and his family.

Chief Spera stated that he is pleased to have the holiday open house. The day/night will require staff to be all hands on deck. He stated that Walmart has donated a variety of decorations and staff has spent time decorating the facility. The information is on the electronic sign boards throughout town, the neighbors on Lynde Street will receive invitations from Chief Spera and members of the building committee have already received the flyer. Also the Superintendent approved an email blast that went out to all district parents. The information will also be in the Harbor News this week. He is combining the tour with the Toy Drive and asking visitors to bring an unwrapped toy.

Chief Spera stated that the turkey drive was successful collecting 714 turkeys, \$5,000.00 and pallets of dry food. He stated it was a pleasure to work with Youth & Family and that they will do it all again with the toys. The remaining dry good wen to the Shoreline Food bank. The remaining turkeys will go to the CT Food bank.

Chief Spera stated that at the last meeting the Commission said goodbye to come Commissioners. He wanted to thank Mr. Maselli for his service and he was a champion for families and kids and the SRO Program.

Chief Spera stated that he would like to bring the recruits back to the Commission after Field Training is complete to reintroduce them to the Commission. He suggested for the Police Commission to reach out to him to set up a ride along or come in to the Police Department for an orientation.

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

There were no comments/concerns from Commissioners.

XI. **Adjournment**

Vice Chairman Von Dassel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reid seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed with a vote of 6 in favor and 0 against.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM

The next regular Police Commission meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the first floor conference room at the Old Saybrook Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Damato
Records Clerk for the Old Saybrook Police Commission