

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: July 14, 2010

East Windsor Town Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Sinsigallo. Commissioners Sherman, Stremper, Nelson and Sauerhoefer were present as well as Chief of Police Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. East Windsor Police Department's Administrative Assistant, Maria Diana-Root was also present.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

Commissioner Sinsigallo added: *9 b. Old Business* "Budget Status Update"

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 9, 2010 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members. **MOTION** made by Commissioner Sherman to accept the regular meeting minutes of 6/9/10, as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No further discussion.

ABSTAIN: Nelson/Sauerhoefer (absent at 6/9/10 meeting)

VOTE IN FAVOR: Sherman/Stremper

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTED IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the monthly billing as of 7/8/10 in the amount of \$ 14,016.17. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper.

Commissioner Nelson questioned the payroll voucher for weeks 49/50 dated 1/31/10-2/13/10. Maria Diana-Root confirmed the error and that it should read 5/23/10-6/5/10.

Commissioner Nelson also questioned why the department had an expense for the airport auto wash (Windsor Locks). Chief DeMarco responded that the department prefers a wash that touches the car – they have found a film that remains on the cars after touchless washes. Chief DeMarco noted that the "brushes"/soft towels do not damage the paint. He also responded that that location is also the best price.

No further discussion.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the monthly financial statement, as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Nelson to approve the monthly billing dated 6/30/10 in the amount of \$ 125.61. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Nelson to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 6/30/10, as presented. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. PUBLIC INPUT #1 – Comments and Discussion (5 minute maximum per subject):

None

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

7. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

None

8. PUBLIC INPUT #2 – Comments only – NO DISCUSSION:

None

9. NEW BUSINESS:

A) Pension Board Appointment

Commissioner Stremper has volunteered to represent the Police Commission on the Pension Board. He will need to be sworn in at the Town Clerk's office.

B) Old Business: Budget Status Update. Chief DeMarco updated the commission on the budget. Chief DeMarco stated that with the new contract clauses come contractual obligations related to salaries and obligations to promotions and supervisory positions. Chief DeMarco added that although it is new into the budget season, money is being spent and there is a high probability, this early, that the department may not make budget; however, they are working hard to curtail that.

Discussed meeting supervisory positions and that there will be benefits to making the next promotion sooner rather than later to meet the supervisory needs. Chief DeMarco commented that the promotions may potentially save some money – he explained further that it will help to meet the 24/7 supervision needed. Commissioner Sherman commented that the department appears to be proactive rather than reactive.

Chief DeMarco stated that there are two candidates for the supervisory position – Officer Byron Smith and Officer William Ludemann. Chief DeMarco commented that both are good officers for the department and aside from testing and seniority wise, all else is equal. Chief DeMarco suggested that the commission may want to defer to ranking on the test for a decision. Commissioner Sauerhoefer stated that he disagrees that a decision should be based on just a test. Chief DeMarco reiterated that the test is not the only factor and that both officers are good assets to the department however, if all else is equal – which it is in this case, a deciding factor may be the test.

MOTION made by Commissioner Stremper to promote Officer Byron Smith to rank of Corporal.
SECONDED by Commissioner Nelson. No further discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Nelson directed a question to Chief DeMarco: if we lose officers to retirement, are we replacing them and if we don't replace them what consequences do we face with regards to grants? Chief DeMarco responded that the department does need to meet a minimum requirement of staffing, shifts, etc. and that those are important factors in grants however, it would be only a temporary loss. Chief DeMarco added that the administration has discussed that they would need to work rapidly to fill "budgeted" positions. Tests would need to be done; however, applicants would pay to take the test which defers the cost. Filling the empty positions could break-even or potentially save money. Commissioner Sherman added that with senior people leaving, a lower pay position could replace. Chief DeMarco stressed that filling a position takes time with the testing, physicals, academy, field training.

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

11. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police –

1. Asked the commission to refer to item #8 of their handouts. The heading "*Extremely Confidential*" was accidentally omitted. Chief DeMarco took a moment to explain the importance of the extreme confidentiality and to keep it confidential until at least July 27th.
2. Chief DeMarco stated that he did forward the Police Commission's motion for all the line transfers to the BOS. He added that the department did make budget last fiscal year. Deputy Chief Hart added that looking that the financial statement, it is where the department is at the end of the fiscal year – the number is almost exact to what the treasurer number reports. Chief DeMarco also added that this is the fourth year in a row of making budget. Commissioner Nelson commented that he hopes everyone realizes the hard work that the department and police commission puts in to meeting the budget and that we will continue to work hard to make it happen.
3. Regarding Personnel/Staffing: there is a potential of two retirements which can make it difficult to maintain special services and patrol. Chief DeMarco stated that because patrol is the backbone of the department, there will be a need to reassign the SRO. Deputy Chief Hart reiterated that this would be a temporary pull of the SRO to put in a patrol position to allow the department to get staffing levels back to where they need to be. The SRO grant is done – all obligations have been met. Chief DeMarco did also comment that the SRO is doing a tremendous job and it is a great program. Commissioner Sauerhoefer commented that he feels it would be a big mistake to cancel the SRO program. Chief DeMarco stated that it would be only temporary. Commissioner Sherman asked about other manpower solutions – can a

2nd detective patrol on a temporary basis? Chief DeMarco responded that that is a different position. Chief commented that patrol is the back bone. Deputy Chief Hart also added that there is an officer out on extended family medical leave and that there is always the possibility of having workers comp. issues. This will be further discussed, in more detail, in Executive Session.

B) Commission Members –

None.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Sauerhoefer to go into Executive Session (7:22pm) to include the Chief and Deputy Chief. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Sherman.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Session ended at 8:03pm.

No action taken.

The First Selectmen, Denise Menard, presented a document of settlement to be signed by her and PC Chairman, Linda Sinsigallo.

MOTION made by Commissioner Stremper to accept the settlement agreement as of July 14, 2010 and authorize the Chairman to sign. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Sauerhoefer made a **MOTION** to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Nelson.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Nelson/Sherman/Stremper/Sauerhoefer

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pellegrini

EWPC Recording Secretary