

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING: February 13, 2013
East Windsor Town Hall Meeting Room

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Nelson. Commissioners Mancuso, Filipone and Strepfer were present as well as Chief of Police Edward DeMarco and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Commissioner Sauerhoefer was absent (excused). Present in the audience was Selectwoman Dale Nelson and (retired) Police Commissioner Linda Sinsigallo.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 9, 2013 regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the regular meeting minutes of 1/9/13. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Strepfer. Brief discussion followed prior to vote.

Commissioner Filipone commented on the increased school security as noted in the 1/9/13 meetings (page 2/item 7 New Business). Commissioner Filipone stated that in the past when he was on school property for business matters, he had noticed a lack of security at that time. Doors and large windows around the buildings were opened or propped open that could allow for anyone to get into the school. He reiterated that this was prior to the Newtown incident and acknowledged that changes are now being made.

Additionally, Commissioner Filipone inquired about Emergency Management and if it was activated during the last snow storm, as he did not receive any calls. Chief DeMarco responded that there was no need to activate it because the town did not lose power and no shelter was needed. Directors and Department Heads were in communication the entire time. Chief DeMarco added that since the Emergency Management team is a volunteer force, there is no reason to activate it if it's not needed. Emergency Management is ready to go and operate as needed and those involved will only be contacted if needed.

No further discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Strepfer/Mancuso

ABSTAIN FROM VOTING: Filipone (absent 1/9/13)

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

The minutes from the January 23, 2013 special meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the special meeting minutes of 1/23/13. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Strepfer. Brief discussion followed.

Commissioner Filipone asked for clarification regarding the motion made to authorize a merit based pay increase – were amounts discussed? Chairman Nelson updated Commissioner Filipone (absent 1/23/13) regarding the discussions leading up to the motion at the special meeting and the decision made. Chairman Nelson added that the Police Commission can approve a merit adjustment which is not part of a contract.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Strepfer/Mancuso

ABSTAIN FROM VOTING: Filipone (absent 1/9/13)

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to accept the monthly billing as of 2/7/13, including animal control, in a total amount of \$ 11,477.85. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Strepfer. No discussion.

VOTE IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to approve the monthly financial statement dated 2/7/13, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Strepfer. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to approve the monthly billing as of 1/31/12 in the total amount of \$ 125.00. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Strepfer. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 1/31/12, as submitted. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso. No discussion.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A) School Security

Chief DeMarco has inquired about Grant opportunities for an SRO(s). The 2013 Grant opportunities have not yet been released and he is not sure, at this time, when they will be available. Chief DeMarco added that they (Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart) have met with the school three times to review and discuss upgrades/security and to do walk throughs of all schools to perform assessments. He stated that the BOE sees value with an SRO position, will support it and partner with the Police Department. Chief DeMarco questioned whether, at this point, the town sits and holds out for grant opportunities (not knowing when that will be) or seek funding from the town to initiate the process.

Chairman Nelson asked if funding would come from the BOE budget. Chief DeMarco responded that nothing is settled because the grant issue is up in the air. Chief DeMarco did state that there have been upgrades on security features already (for all three schools) and also that the Fire Department is factoring itself in as part of security.

Chief DeMarco stated that one SRO would be posted primarily at one school. Commissioner Mancuso asked if there are more issues with one school over the others. Chief DeMarco replied that concerns are equally across the board; however details would not be discussed in an open forum. Chief

DeMarco did emphasize that the schools are in good shape and he will continue to meet with school officials regularly.

Deputy Chief Hart added that it is important to understand that all parties are ready to move forward however, since the departments are in the middle of the budget process now, it may mean added appropriations down the road. Selectwoman Nelson asked for an approximate figure for an SRO. Chief DeMarco responded that it is the cost of an officer. Factoring in benefits and uniforms to the salary could be a little over \$100,000/year.

In conclusion, Commissioner Stremper asked if the schools are more secure now. Chief DeMarco responded “yes” as compared to six months ago however, there is still room for improvement.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

None

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

A) Chief of Police: Chief DeMarco stated that he has nothing additional. Discussions regarding contract negotiations and investigations over the next month can take place during Executive Session.

B) Commissioners: Commissioner Stremper asked how the department is doing with the new vehicles. Deputy Chief Hart responded that they have received positive feedback from the officers and the vehicles have done well in the snow (AWD).

10. PUBLIC INPUT – Comments and Discussion (5 minutes maximum time per subject)

None

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Mancuso to go into Executive Session to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart (7:21pm). **SECONDED** by Commissioner Stremper.

VOTING IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Stremper/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Executive Session ended at 8:05pm.

No action taken.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Strepfer to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:05pm. **SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Mancuso/Strepfer/Filipone

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Pellegrini - EWPC Recording Secretary