

# EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: June 10, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Held Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 935-3479-3548

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/93534793548>

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## 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Long, and Safford were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Present in the audience was Selectman Sarah Muska.

## 2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

## 3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the May 13, 2020, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Safford to accept the regular meeting minutes of 05/13/2020.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Burns

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

## 4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

**A) Police Department – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly billing, in the amount of \$9,061.59, as submitted.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Long asked what F.P.S., Inc. charges are for. Deputy Chief Hart explained its Burger King for prisoner meals.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**B) Police Department – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly financial statements, with a balance of \$481,915.42, as submitted.

**DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Filipone said it seems like a lot at this time of year and wants to know if they think we'll have money to give back. Chief DeMarco stated he would hate to predict it but thinks so. Deputy Chief Hart went on to say it's difficult to tell with COVID-19 because things can change drastically so they don't want to go on record saying they will have money to give back at this time.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**C) Police Commission – Monthly Billing: MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to approve the monthly billing for May in the total amount of \$125.00

**DISCUSSION:** Chairman Leach stated last month the billing should have only been for March as there was no meeting in April and wants the correction on record.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Safford

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 05/31/2020 as submitted with a balance of \$500.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

## **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

None.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

## 9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco stated he will update the Commissioners regarding Officer Capen in executive session due to HIPAA. The Florida lateral transfer just came off of FTO, so all officers are working. Dispatcher Dixon has a couple more weeks of field training and is doing well. Officer Tessier is officially on the task force. They are most likely headed into mediation with the dispatcher contract and the police union contract is settled.

Chief DeMarco said there will be a vigil in town this Friday at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and they are preparing for that now. Chairman Leach asked if he knew who was hosting the vigil. Chief DeMarco stated he believes it is Mr. Leborious.

Chief DeMarco then went on to talk about body cameras. They have an opportunity to get up to 50 body cameras donated to the police department through a professional and personal contact. They still may need additional items such as memory or other necessary equipment. They are still waiting to see if it gets finalized but want to be prepared and let them know. Chairman Leach stated they spoke in previous years about body cameras and there are drawbacks such as retention, very detailed editing of videos (due to privacy concerns) that cannot be released to the public. Commissioner Filipone asked who would do the editing. Chief DeMarco said the redacting would be in-house. Commissioner Long asked if the IT Communication position they were looking to add would be the person to do that. Chief DeMarco stated they potentially could use that person.

Chief DeMarco would like to talk about use of force and community relations that they (Chief and Deputy Chief) have been developing for many years. Around the country there are use of force issues and racial issues and some of what they've seen is deplorable. In East Windsor we believe we do a better job and have been for many years. In regard to the 8 Can't Wait, which is eight policies they want police departments to adapt; we've had those policies for many years already. We don't condone or train in carotid restraint/choke holds; we have de-escalation, don't shoot at moving vehicles unless threat of life or death, reporting, duty to intervene, use of force warnings. We have built policies on the sanctity of life. We put this out on social media; our policies are very strong and have been for many years. Deputy Chief Hart added we have many of our officers trained in crisis intervention techniques and the goal is to have everyone trained in the next year. Our officers are trained to start de-escalation as soon as they arrive on scene. Chief DeMarco wanted to add that they adopted the President's task force on modernizing police departments five years ago. There are six pillars and they adopted that framework such as officer safety, use of social media, and building trust in the community. There's been a lack of lawsuits and complaints in the past several years for the department. We have a high level of community satisfaction with the department and they're very proud of the work they've done. Chairman Leach said he's very proud of the police department policies and adoption of the President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing, and it has gone a long way promoting the department as probably one of the best community policing departments in CT. Chief DeMarco went on to say they are continuing their training and even have one scheduled for tomorrow called Ethical Policing is Courageous (EPIC). It empowers officers to act in an ethical and compassionate way.

Commissioner Filipone asked if there are any issues with COVID-19 in the department. Chief DeMarco stated they have been fortunate and there are no issues. They've had exposure, decontamination and self-isolation, but no one has contracted COVID-19. The administration put safety protocols in place very early on such as cleaning and PPE and the employees have responded very well to it.

Chairman Leach heard on the news that Gov. Lamont was sued by gun rights associations in CT due to postponement of pistol permit applications being ruled unconstitutional. He would

like to know if we had any complaints from residents. Chief DeMarco explained we were not named in the lawsuit and haven't had any complaints from the community. They did not suspend pistol permits for people that had already been fingerprinted so have been processing them for our residents. They had only suspended new fingerprinting due to safety precautions for the community and employees due to COVID-19. Public fingerprinting has since been reinstated with safety protocols using proper PPE (gloves, gown, mask, face shield).

Commissioner Safford thanked the Chief and Deputy Chief for being proactive and sharing their policies and engaging with the community which is very important. Chief DeMarco stated he appreciates that, and it has been a focus of theirs to use social media and build trust with the community.

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

Ms. Noreen Farmer of 247 S. Water Street wanted to inform the Commission that she was listening to WNPR The Wheelhouse last Wednesday morning and they were speaking about the George Floyd situation. In the context of the conversation they spoke about how in a lot of respects, the police do what they think the residents want them to do. She went on to say Professor Sekou, a Professor at the University of Hartford, said he believes that to be true and was stopped in East Windsor for no reason because he's not from East Windsor. He did not give any date, time, or details. She does not believe what he said to be true. She doesn't think our community, or our police want to stop people just because they don't live here. She just wanted them to be aware of what was said because of the impact saying such a thing can have on the perception of a town. Deputy Chief Hart stated for many years, the State of CT has collected racial bias policing data for motor vehicle stops for all police departments in CT. That data is studied by Ken Barone at Central CT State University and he advises any police department if there is a problem. We are not an agency that has ever been contacted being racially bias in motor vehicle stops. This is not an opinion, but factual data that is available. It is not the policy in East Windsor to stop people who "don't belong in our community". That is not and never will be our policy.

#### **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to enter into Executive Session at 7:32 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal issues.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Safford

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to end Executive Session at 7:48 pm

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Safford

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Safford

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary**