

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: August 12, 2020

7:00 p.m.

Held Via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 935-3479-3548

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Long, and Burns were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to add Agenda #7A, New Business: Adding a rank to Command Staff.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Long/Burns

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to add Agenda #7B, New Business: Adding civilian position as previously requested in the budget.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Chairman Leach, Commissioners Long/Burns

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the July 8, 2020, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 07/08/2020.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Burns

EXCUSED: Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

A) Police Department – Monthly Billing: MOTION made by Commissioner Long to approve the monthly billing, as of August 10, 2020, in the amount of \$11,312.39, as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to approve the monthly billing FY 2020/2021, as of August 10, 2020, for \$7,799.13.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to approve the monthly financial statements, as of August 10, 2020, for \$111,760.15, as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach said that is a substantial amount of money; due mostly to salaries that were from officers that are out.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to approve the financial statement FY 2020/2021, as of July 7, 2020, for \$3,299,156.27.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked if the date should be as of August 10th, and not July 7th. Deputy Chief Hart stated that is correct; they will get that fixed and sent out as it was an error in the header. Chairman Leach will confirm that information at the next meeting.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the Police Commission monthly financial statement dated 07/31/2020 as submitted with a balance of \$1,600.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chairman Leach would like to discuss the facility that is proposed to be built at the old Sardilli location. Chief DeMarco explained a large logistics/trucking company has submitted large scale plans for that location. There will be an average of 410 trucks per week. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Burns would like the Chief to mail her the information they received. Chief DeMarco stated he will. Commissioner Filipone asked if the State has weighed in on this topic. Chief DeMarco stated State has not at this time; the LTA and DOT will need to research and weigh in on.

Deputy Chief Hart explained he went to Maple Street and also compared notes he had from October and November of 2008 to what is existing today. It appears one of the no parking signs near Maple Street and Scott Avenue had been removed, so he had DPW replace it. He also asked the owners of the boat to move it from the road and they complied. He's been watching the area weekly and there haven't been any issues.

Deputy Chief Hart discussed the Morris Road truck issue. There is evidence the trucks are taking Graham Road to Morris Road to get to the gravel pit. It doesn't seem like its on purpose, as they are doubling back to get to the gravel pits. He is going to work with the DPW to come up with an informational sign to put at the intersection of Wapping Road and Miller Road that would direct trucks to turn right. A discussion ensued.

Commissioner Long asked if the new speed control signs at Scantic Road are adjustable because right now they flash no matter what speed someone is going. Deputy Chief Hart stated right now they are on the factory default and they will look into getting the software discs from the DPW to see if they can make changes to the signs.

Chief DeMarco stated he has not heard anything since March 5th regarding the East Windsor Historical Society signs. He's made follow-up phone calls and written a letter, so he wrote a letter to the legislative liaison to step in to try to facilitate it. He will forward that letter to the Police Commission.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A) ADD RANK TO COMMAND STAFF

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to authorize Chief DeMarco to promote for an administrative Lieutenant position.

DISCUSSION: Chief DeMarco stated they have been looking at this for some time, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, national crisis of law enforcement, police accountability legislation and house bill that has recently passed, it has solidified their need for this position. The salary increase for this position would be approximately \$2,250, which they can use the money from Officer Capen's previous salary. This position can help with accreditation and to be in compliance with legislation. In addition, this position also lends into building a succession plan and adds another person on the command staff in case someone is out sick due to COVID-19 or other reasons. He would like the candidates to be before the Commission in the December meeting. Commissioner Filipone asked if this would be a new employee and if they would need additional office space. Chief DeMarco stated it would not be and they would use the space they already have. A discussion ensued.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

B) ADD CIVILIAN POSITION AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED IN BUDGET

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to authorize Chief DeMarco to hire for the civilian position of Communications and Technology Supervisor.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Leach said considering the legislation that has passed and all that comes with it such as body cams for the officers, more in-car cameras, retention, and more reporting, there is a great need and now a demand for this position. The police department cannot operate professionally and efficiently without it.

Chief DeMarco added they are in a unique position in which Officer Capen's previous salary is available at this time. They recently met with the Select Board and some members of the Finance Board and talked about police accountability and other initiatives moving forward. He would like to hire for this civilian position in November. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Filipone and Burns would like another copy of the job description. Chief DeMarco will email that to Commissioner Filipone and mail to Commissioner Burns. Chairman Leach went on to say the job description was in the budget packet, but they can get another copy out if necessary. Commissioner Long asked if this will be a Zoom meeting. Chief DeMarco explained it will be due to COVID-19 precautions.

SECONDED by Commissioner Burns

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco stated the last few weeks were very busy due to the storm. The town did everything they could to get power back and support the residents including home visits, meetings via phone, and Zoom. Chairman Leach went on to say he volunteered to cut up trees, delivered water to people with wells, delivered a generator, loaned out a generator, and was very busy from the recent storm. Commissioner Long asked if they will be cutting trees back on Rt. 140 since there are some tangled in wires. Chief DeMarco said they are reporting them as they come across them. Chairman Leach stated Stoughton Road has a lot of power lines that are in the trees. Chairman Leach said he believes the Select Board is putting together a Diversity Commission to include any discrimination including gender discrimination.

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

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to enter into Executive Session at 7:52 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal issues and security.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to end Executive Session at 8:19 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Burns

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary