

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: October 14, 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 Safford were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Present in the audience was Selectman Sarah Muska, Selectman Charles Nordell, and Mr. Rich Tuller.

- *A moment of silence was held in honor of Commissioner Betsy Burns.*

Chairman Leach said Betsy was always a guiding voice for the Commissioners and everyone she was involved with.

Chairman Filipone said he knew Betsy from the First Selectman's office; he got to work with her, and they got along well. Even though they didn't always agree on everything, they respected each other. She was a great person and she worked hard for our town. She deserves a rest.

Chairman Safford said when she moved to East Windsor and started to get involved in town politics Betsy was one of the first people to take her under her wing and give her the history of the people and why they did the things they did. We didn't always agree on everything, but Betsy was always true to herself and she admired her.

2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 9, 2020, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 09/09/2020.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

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, as of October 8th, in the amount of \$24,850.44, as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone asked why Westfield State had such a large bill. Deputy Chief Hart explained 4-5 employees are taking college credits at Westfield. Chairman Leach asked what the charge for Enfield Animal Hospital in the amount of \$168.70 was for. Deputy Chief Hart explained it was for the K-9. Chief DeMarco said the bill shows it was for heartworm medication, etc., so it is for our K-9.

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, as of October 8, 2020, with a balance of \$2,716,297.82, as submitted.

SECONDED by Commissioner Safford

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

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 09/30/2020 as submitted with a balance of \$1,350.00

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chief DeMarco stated they received a traffic complaint (which is a repeat from several years ago) regarding Kreyssig Road. They want to make it a one-way road. They are ordering a traffic study for it now. Kreyssig Road starts and ends in two different towns and East Windsor is the third town it's in, so it's a very difficult request. They will have more information on it next month.

Chief DeMarco turned it over to Deputy Chief Hart to discuss the crosswalk request on South Water Street. Deputy Chief Hart explained they went out to the location to the area under review which is a stretch of South Water Street that runs about 3,370 feet between Spring Street and Laurel Circle. The park section is 171 South Water Street and has approximately 1,000 feet of footage along the West side of the street, with Osborn field on the East side of the street. The crosswalk would be defined as a mid-block crosswalk, which is inherently more dangerous than intersection crosswalks. In order to seriously consider a mid-block crosswalk, there needs to be a pedestrian tracking survey during busy summer months, which would show where majority of people cross to go to the park. There are many issues putting a mid-block crosswalk in on a street like South Water Street. First, they did a speed survey and the 85th percentile travels approximately 39 mph in a 25mph speed limit; they would need to consider how to slow traffic down. Second, there are no sidewalks on either side of the street to cross to. Third, on the West side (the park side), the grade drops which could be dangerous to pedestrians and may have additional issues for people with disabilities. Fourth, the MUTCD mandate would be no parking 50 feet from the North and 50 feet from the South of any crosswalk that is there, so they would also need to establish a no parking zone. Mid-block crosswalks are also subject to civil litigation. Any implementation of a mid-block crosswalk should be dealt with through the town engineer's office to do an engineering study and he suggests it include sidewalks on either side (or a safe pedestrian area on either side) and possible widening of the road and inclusion of pedestrian safety island in the center of the crosswalk. Chairman Leach said this is a lot more involved than what the community member suggested with just a crosswalk, and they would need to bring it to a town engineer. Chief DeMarco stated there's some inherent problems for a study now due to the cooler weather and COVID-19 having an impact on the lack of use at the park right now. There are some major issues to consider such as lack of sidewalks, the grading on the sides which can cause issues for pedestrians and people with disabilities (ADA) and may be a big cost to implement. Chairman Leach added the cost to benefit ratio may not be suitable. He suggests they wait and look into this in the spring/early summer when baseball starts and the park is being used (when its busier) for the study. Commissioner Filipone agreed it may be difficult to achieve and expensive. He also said people may cross where its convenient even if there is a crosswalk because they may cross to where their cars are located in the lot. Commissioner Long agreed and said the same problem is happening at Broad Brook Elementary where people are not using the crosswalk to cross the street.

Chief DeMarco stated in regard to the Silverman Project they were initially told they were going to put in higher berms and sidewalks, and they acquiesced to the Commission's request for a turn lane on Route 5 and said yes. All that is now changing because the Fortune 100 company that was going in has possibly backed out and a different company may be going in. They may need to go to Planning & Zoning and start the process over. They may be having differently buildings and parking lot designs.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Leach had a call from a resident off of Newberry Road condos complaining of speed on Newberry Road. Chief DeMarco said he will check to make sure they are still on

the STEP program. There are electronic speed signs up and he will get back to Chairman Leach on this issue.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Commissioner Filipone said there will be a small ceremony for Veterans Day at the Memorial Green at 11:00 a.m. They aren't expecting a large crowd, but it will be announced in the paper. Chief DeMarco stated they will be presenting the WatchGuard camera project to the Board of Finance on October 21st. If they approve it, we would take the donated equipment, worth \$72,000 of free equipment, on November 2nd. Chairman Leach will forward the information to the Commission.

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

None.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session at 7:31 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal issues.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to end Executive Session at 7:51 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Filipone

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Safford

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary