

# EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: January 13, 2021

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 7:00 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Long, and Mancuso were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Deputy Chief Roger Hart. Present in the audience were Selectman Sarah Muska and Selectman Charles Nordell.

## 2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to Remove items 4A, 4B, 4C.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Mancuso

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

## 3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

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

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the regular meeting minutes of 12/09/2020.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Safford

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Chairman Leach, Commissioners Filipone/Mancuso

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

## 4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES: 4A, 4B, 4C, REMOVED

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 12/31/2020 as submitted with a balance of \$1,100.00.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## 5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Chief DeMarco stated money was transferred in reference to Bill Freeman's salary. We were going to generate and give you a number for the exact amount required, but the money was transferred in its entirety by the Treasurer without us knowing. Deputy Chief Hart believes it was brought before the Board of Finance. We suggest we leave it there and if we need to move it the Treasurer can do it. Chairman Leach agrees to leave it be.

Chief DeMarco said there is \$80,000 in the line for two cruisers and to make all the appropriate retro fittings and that's not going to be enough. Deputy Chief Hart explained the capital non-recurring cruiser line has approximately \$80,000 and the prices of the Ford Explorer went up considerably (approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000 each) since the time they put the request in. Also, there were some issues with the CNR relative to the money that was needed to equip the cruiser that was involved in the accident. They did recoup some of that money through supplemental appropriation, but that only leaves \$80,000. The Ford Explorers are the cheapest way to go right now (in comparison to other makes & models) and they are set to be manufactured in February. The vehicles are \$35,000 each which only leaves \$10,000 left after purchasing two. They need approximately \$11,000 - \$12,000 per vehicle to equip the vehicles. A discussion ensued. Chief DeMarco asked to go to the Town Treasurer and First Selectman to ask for \$15,000 for equipment for the vehicles. Chairman Leach said he will allow that. Chairman Leach asked if the vehicles were ordered yet. Deputy Chief Hart stated they have been, and we will see them this fiscal year.

Chief DeMarco gave an update on the COVID-19 vaccinations. He stated the North Central District Health department was difficult and not helpful to work with, in particular the Director. They gave no information and didn't respond when questions were asked. Chief Clynch from the ambulance service really stepped up and helped. Our department is nearly through round one of vaccinations due to efforts of Chief Clynch, Deputy Chief Hart and himself. We are also assisting the Department of Public Works. The fire department and EMS are doing well.

Chief DeMarco stated events that have occurred around the country, specifically in Washington, D.C., has spilled over to a state level. There is intelligence that there may be movements on 50 state capitals on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Deputy Chief Hart stated for the City of Hartford, we have what's called "Blue Plan" in place. Blue Plan is a mutual aid program for the capital region in which we would respond in the case of a mutual aid situation. For the City of Hartford, we are round three, so they would have to make two requests for mutual aid and on the third request we would have to send one officer to assist them. On Sunday, we only have three officers working and would like to request two additional officers for the day shift to be ready in case there is a need to respond. Chairman Leach supports this 100% for officer safety. Commissioner Mancuso also supports this. He says it would seem prudent and we are already committed. We have an obligation to the town and the Blue Plan. A discussion ensued. The Commissioners agree to have two additional officers on for Sunday in support of the Blue Plan and officer safety. Chairman Leach stated he is a member of the CCDL (largest firearms group in CT) and attended a meeting last night. A discussion on this topic came up and the CCDL has no plans to attend any events such as protests or rallies as it's not in their best interest. Commissioner Mancuso asked what would happen if additional intel comes up – how would you respond? Chief DeMarco stated he has short term authority for emergencies or unforeseen circumstances and can make an immediate decision when necessary. He would then contact Chairman Leach to inform him. Chairman Leach stated this is the proper procedure as they never want to jeopardize public safety.

## **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

None.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Filipone said he saw a post on Facebook that stated the dog pound has no heat. He remembers discussing this issue last year when the town was deliberating going to the Tyler Regional Animal Shelter or doing renovations to the old building. He asked if anything has been done to fix the pound or if any money has been proposed for it? Chairman Leach said zero. He said there was \$10,000 in CIP last year for it and due to cuts, it's no longer there. We don't have any authority as the Police Commission on the dog pound. That's all handled through the town property budget line, which would be through the Department of Public Works Director and Assistant Director. To his knowledge, there isn't anything at all lined up for any renovations. It is in front of CIP, he believes for \$67,000, but when it comes to budget season its most likely going to be cut. He's very disappointed that they fought to keep the dog pound in town with the expectations that renovations would be done and its been more than a year now and nothing has been done. Other expenses in town have been made. Town Hall has been renovated, but the dog pound has been left to languish. The exterior eight doors are just a plastic door that you can stick your hand through to the outside, so all the wind and cold air comes into the kennel the dogs are in. The heat is a forced air system in the ceiling, so it pushes hot air down, but the dogs are on a plastic tray, with the cold air coming in; it is quite cold. He even researched the cost of getting weather tight dog doors and the cost would be approximately \$3,000 plus installation. It would be quick and fairly simple, but he doesn't have any authority to do so. Deputy Chief Hart stated there are suggestions from the State of CT for the basis of the \$67,000 in improvements, then facilities created a checklist of things they needed to do. Chairman Leach said that information is with CIP. The amount last year was \$67,000 to do all the renovations. Town Hall spent \$90,000 on renovations, two years after it was just renovated, but nothing has been done for the pound. Deputy Chief clarified there is heat at the pound. There is a three-year-old furnace and oil tank and they moved the thermostat to the kennel area, so the temperature doesn't dip below a certain point. Chairman Leach stated yes that is true, but the wind blows right through the doors making it cold for the dogs where they stay. Chairman Leach is going to attend the next Board of Selectman meeting to discuss the issue with the pound to try and get some positive changes done.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chairman Leach added the East Windsor Police Commission would like to acknowledge Maria Diana-Root, an Administrative Assistant at the Police Department. Maria is retiring from service after nearly 35 years with the department. This length of service is something to be proud of and we would like to thank Maria, on behalf of the department and the community, for her extensive service to the Town of East Windsor. Congratulations on retiring. The commission wishes her a happy retirement and the best of luck with any future endeavors. The Commission will also be sending Maria a letter to recognize her 35 years of service. All Commissioners Concur.

## **9. MONTHLY REPORTS:**

Chief DeMarco wanted to give an update on the accreditation process. He stated we are currently being reviewed by the assessors for the accreditation process. The final on-site inspection is January 22<sup>nd</sup> and they've been getting good remarks. He's very proud of the work that's been done and is hoping to get good news on accreditation. If they pass it goes to a POST council meeting in March of which they'll accept our Tier 1 accreditation. We've worked hard for the past two years and it's not an easy process. Commissioner Mancuso said he's been involved in a few accreditations at other types of facilities and there's a lot of upfront work which is considerable. There's a lot of dedication to all the steps to be prepared. Congratulations in advance and he hopes everything continues to go well. Commissioner Filipone asked if this is required or something they wanted to achieve. Chief DeMarco said it started off as something he and Deputy Chief Hart thought was necessary to professionalize and reduce liability. Now, with the accountability bill it became mandatory with the federal level. It will become necessary in the future for departments. They both had experience; Deputy Chief Hart was an accreditation manager in Wallingford and Chief DeMarco was an accreditation manager for an agency that is now federally accredited. They brought on Sgt. Derek Leab and he brought on an assistant with Ofc. Gonsalves and they've done tremendous work along with Administrative Lt. Matt Carl.

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

Selectman Charles Nordell of 7 Grandview Terrace stated Sarah (Selectman Muska) and I toured the dog pound 2-3 months ago. There is heat that works there and there are a lot of things that need repair such as the concrete and the doors as discussed. We would like to start an initiative to get the ball rolling. We don't know how much Selectmen support we'll receive, but we are willing to take on what we can to get things done at the dog pound.

He also wanted to inform the Commission that he has noticed again that people are not stopping at the stop sign at the intersection of Grandview Terrace and Pleasant Street. When he waits at the bus stop with the kids there are a lot of people that don't stop. He has notified the Commission in the past of this issue and it was taken care of very effectively. Chairman Leach thanked him for bringing it to his attention and he also looks forward to meeting with him at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. He will have Chief DeMarco look into putting the intersection on the STEP program again.

## **11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to enter into Executive Session at 7:40 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Deputy Chief Hart for discussion on legal issues.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Filipone

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to end Executive Session at 8:02 pm

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners Filipone/Long/Mancuso  
**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 pm.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Mancuso

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary**