

EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: December 8, 2021

7:00 p.m.

**East Windsor Police Department
25 School Street, East Windsor, CT 06088**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE:

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Filipone, Long, Riordan, and Rivera were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr. and Administrative Lieutenant Matt Carl. Present in the audience were Selectman Marie DeSousa and Mr. Daniel Carden.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Chairman Leach opened up the floor for nominations.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to nominate Bob Leach for Chairman.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

MOTION made by Commissioner Long for nominations to be closed for position of Chairman.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

Original motion to nominate Bob Leach for Chairman was approved.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

MOTION made by Chairman Leach to nominate Darren Long for Secretary.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

MOTION made by Chairman Long for nominations to be closed for position of Secretary.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

Original motion to nominate Darren Long for Secretary was approved.

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL THOSE VOTING, VOTE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED

A) Pension Board & Capital Improvement Planning Representative

Chairman Leach said the Pension Board and Capital Improvement Planning representatives are appointed positions by the Board of Selectmen. Currently, Chairman Leach represents the

Police Commission on the Capital Improvement Planning Board and Commissioner Long represents the Police Commission on the Pension Board. He doesn't expect any changes and they both plan to continue their terms.

3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the November 10, 2021, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

MOTION made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 11/10/2021.

SECONDED by Commissioner Rivera

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

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 \$78,711.45, as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Rivera asked if they just accept the billing. Chairman Leach explained if they see a discrepancy, they will ask about it and determine if they should accept it or not. A discussion ensued. Commissioner Filipone would like a printout of the vendor names again. He asked what DLL was for. Chief DeMarco said it's the financial services background check that we use. He added Southington Athletic is a store for the New Britain Police Academy. Commissioner Rivera asked if the IT payment was a grant. Chief DeMarco explained it was a 4-year funding capital improvement for the new CAD & RMS service called NexGen. Commissioner Long asked what the All Traffic Solution charge was for. Chief DeMarco stated it's for the radar board. Commissioner Filipone asked if it takes pictures. Adm. Lt. Carl said it can take pictures. Chairman Leach said it looks like people are still taking classes at Westfield. Chief DeMarco stated several people are going for their master's degree; we have a highly educated police department. Commissioner Rivera asked if we pay monthly or yearly. Chief DeMarco stated we pay per course. Commissioner Rivera asked how the Mental Health Team is funded. Chief DeMarco explained it is funded through the budget and grants. There is enough money for it through December. Commissioner Filipone asked what the cost is. Chief DeMarco stated is it the annual salary of a police officer. Commissioner Filipone asked if we still get two part-time social workers. Chief DeMarco stated we do. One person resigned and went to another job, but we will be getting a replacement.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

B) Police Department – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to approve the monthly financial statements, with a balance of \$2,412,042.95, as submitted.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Filipone said the budget looks good at this time.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

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 Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

D) Police Commission – Financial Statement: **MOTION** made by Commissioner Filipone to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 11/30/2021 as submitted with a balance of \$1,064.75.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:

Chairman Leach asked about the South Water Street complaint. Chief DeMarco stated its the same complaint from Wolcott Landing residents that they had in 2017. They are requesting timing of lights be different at the intersection of South Water Street and Route 5 because they can't turn left onto Rt. 5 during high traffic times. They want to know if the DOT would make a "no right turn" on red onto Rt. 5 from South Water Street. Chief DeMarco had sent several requests over the years to the DOT and never got any response. The First Selectman received the same complaint and wrote an email to the DOT and he received a response within an hour. The DOT said they would need to study it and after the study they said they think it would be appropriate to implement a "no turn on red", however, it will potentially double the queue in wait time and length for those trying to turn right on South Water Street onto Rt. 5. The LTA will need to decide on what to do. A discussion ensued. The Police Commissioners took a vote, and all voted no to a "no right turn" on red sign. Chief DeMarco will respond to them and copy Chairman Leach and the First Selectman. In interest of public safety, we will leave the condition as it is and keep it on the STEP program to increase visibility in that area.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Chief DeMarco stated they will go over the budget under the monthly report.

9. MONTHLY REPORTS:

Chief DeMarco stated the deadline for the budget is Friday, so they wanted to review it tonight and put forth a request. The main issue with the police department is staffing issues. They want to staff the Mental Health Team which the budget calls for. The Detective Division only has one detective at this time. We always had two investigators and we are down to one. Adm. Lt. Carl explained in detail the need for a second detective in the department. Chief DeMarco went through the budget line by line. A discussion ensued.

MOTION made by Commissioner Rivera to accept Chief DeMarco's recommendation.

SECONDED by Commissioner Riordan

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

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

Daniel Carden of 95 S. Main Street, Unit 12, East Windsor, came in to speak about conduct issues he has with the police department and concerning the Chief of Police. He says he is living in fear right now. He feels one report in particular that was written is contradictory. He was advised to speak with the Lieutenant, but he felt that was a conflict of interest so after speaking to the Chief's secretary he decided to see the First Selectman. The First Selectman told him to reach out to the Police Commission. He also believes there should be two policemen per car as it's the most dangerous job in the world and the town should give them the money for the department. He is let down that the Police Chief didn't get back to him after meeting with him regarding an incident at the motel. He went on to say he gave the Chief a paper with the facts of the incident that he wants a copy of now. He's going to put together a letter and some documentation and he will bring it to the Town Hall on Rye Street when its complete so the Police Commission can review it and help to resolve his issues and make the police department work a little better. He also asked for a sign to be put up in the lobby that tells the location of the Police Commission meeting. Chairman Leach will look into that and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

Selectman Marie DeSousa is the new liaison and will be attending the meetings for the next two years. She's honored to come back and represent our police department who has done a complete turnaround from twelve years ago and every year it gets better and better. The officers that are in place are professional and have a willingness to contribute to the community through events such as shop with a cop, toy collection, etc. She said to keep up the good work. She believes they made the right decision to not add additional money to the training line for the budget. She said a lot of people belong to their own private gun clubs. She's confident in the Police Chief to keep people trained. When talking about the budget, for the new people here, she wanted to explain we have a town charter that has a 2% catch all. You never know how it's going to go with the budget. The fire department has a million-dollar truck, but that's a district and has nothing to do with the town budget. People are starting to complain the fire departments are overspending their tax dollars. She's hoping to not cut back any services this year and says they have one of everything right now and want to keep that one of everything. She agrees with the budget they are putting forward and

hopes it doesn't get cut. She asked if she could receive copies of the Police Commission information sent to her via email. Chairman Leach said they can do that and thanked her for coming.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to enter into Executive Session at 8:13 pm to include Chief DeMarco and Adm. Lt. Carl for discussion on legal issues.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to end Executive Session at 8:42 pm

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION made by Commissioner Filipone to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 pm.

SECONDED by Commissioner Long

VOTED IN FAVOR: Commissioners Filipone/Long/Riordan/Rivera

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary