

# EAST WINDSOR POLICE COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING: January 12, 2022

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 7:03 pm by Chairman Leach. Commissioners Long, Riordan, and Rivera were present. Also present were Chief Edward DeMarco Jr., Deputy Chief Roger Hart, and Administrative Lieutenant Matt Carl. Present in the audience were Selectman Maria DeSousa and Selectman Sarah Muska.

## 2. ADDED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

## 3. PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes from the December 8, 2021, regular meeting were reviewed by all commission members.

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to accept the regular meeting minutes of 12/08/2021.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Rivera

**EXCUSED:** Commissioner Filipone

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

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

## 4. BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES:

**A) Police Department – Monthly Billing:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to approve the monthly billing in the amount of \$10,905.27, as submitted.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Rivera

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners 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 \$1,958,944.99, as submitted.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Riordan

**VOTED IN FAVOR:** Commissioners 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. There was a charge of \$58.38 for name tags; they will be reimburse the police department at the next meeting.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Rivera

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**D) Police Commission – Financial Statement:** **MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to accept the police commission monthly financial statement dated 12/31/2021 as submitted with a balance of \$881.37.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

## **5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

## **6. TRAFFIC AUTHORITY:**

Chairman Leach asked if there was a decision on the S. Water Street traffic light. Chief DeMarco stated he notified DOT and copied Chairman Leach. They accepted it, received it, and did not reply to it so they are not going to make the change.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Leach wanted to correct a statement he made at the last meeting. During elections for Chairman and Secretary, he brought up the fact that the Board of Selectman does appoint someone from the Police Commission to be on CIP, but he incorrectly stated that the Board of Selectman appoints the Pension Board member. The Pension Board member is appointed by the Chairman of the Commission. They had appointed Commissioner Long to fill that position, so no changes there.

Chairman Leach said they presented the budget to the First Selectman. Chief DeMarco stated they put forth a budget that the Commission approved and we're hoping they listened to us. With a lack of funding in the police department this year, its going to have ramifications. We have serious building issues with lack of room for female officers and staffing. We have to consider the return of military personnel to our department and how it's going to impact how we provide police services. Chairman Leach added that typically anything we have in our budget we need. We don't ask for what we don't need; it's what we need to operate sufficiently and proficiently.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chief DeMarco stated per his monthly report, we are being fully ravaged by COVID. We have many members that have had COVID, and that have COVID now and are testing positive. We are suffering the effects of that – shifts have been at minimum, order-ins are high, overtime is high. COVID is impacting this agency now. Chairman Leach said it's happening at his work, too. It must be a tremendous impact at the police department with the short staff we already have.

Chief DeMarco said the Radio RFP draft report has been completed and submitted to Chairman Leach and the First Selectman and to members of our radio team. We have learned through the radio study that the end of life of our radio system was in 2013. We are on borrowed time, and they have stopped making parts/replacements. Chairman Leach asked the budgeted impact for it. Is that something they are looking to do for FY 22/23? Chief DeMarco isn't sure, but he said it doesn't just affect the police department. It affects all services in the town - the fire departments, emergency medical service, public works, and the entire school system. We are having some breakdowns that were able to be repaired, but at some point, that won't be possible. It came in more expensive than they anticipated. There were options given, but they are all in the \$3 to \$4 million dollar range.

Chief DeMarco stated they have been fortunate with our grant writing. They've received the \$32,000 grant which allowed us to operate the mental health team for five months. We're about to receive a \$42,000 grant for traffic enforcement devices such as lidar and a complete vehicle such as a cruiser. We received a DUI enforcement grant as well and we just expended a \$12,000 private entity grant for increased enforcement at the Roadway.

Chief DeMarco stated the Police Chief in Suffield retired. He was the original author and oversight management of the grant that runs the mental health embedded clinician, the CHR employee that operates in Suffield, East Windsor, Windsor Locks, and East Granby. Upon his retirement no one volunteered to perform that duty, so I volunteered for it. This agency will be taking over that grant and will have an enormous amount of money over the next two years to operate for mental health needs. We should see a tremendous benefit from that grant as well. We're in the process of filling out the paperwork.

Commissioner Long would like to know if they have a total amount of money they've received in grants for the last couple of years. Chief DeMarco doesn't have an exact amount, but they can look into it. Commissioner Rivera thinks its important to say we rely on the grants.

## **9. MONTHLY REPORTS:**

None.

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

Selectman Marie DeSousa just wanted to ask if Chairman Leach is signed into Zoom twice. Chairman Leach said he is – one is his PC and the other is his iPad. Selectman DeSousa asked if we heard anything back from the resident that made comments in public session last month. Chairman Leach said we have not heard anything from him. Chief DeMarco stated everything he said was absolutely false and he wants to go on the record saying that. It is not true in any way, shape, or form. The person has come into the police station several times.

He interviewed him again in the presence of Deputy Chief Hart and he did have his body camera on. He was given the opportunity to fill out complaint forms to file with the Police Commission and he has failed to do so. He has not been back to the police station in about a week he believes. Selectmen DeSousa said she didn't ask the question to be negative because she has great faith in our operation, but just to be aware of what is going on with it in case she is asked. Chief DeMarco stated his comment was not in reference to her and he's glad she brought it up. He gave the person a little leeway last month because he was aware he was suffering from some issues so he didn't speak up last month. He is taking this as the opportunity to say he's willing to go through any investigation into any of his complaints because they are absolutely false.

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

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Riordan to enter into Executive Session at 7:23 pm to include Chief DeMarco, Deputy Chief Hart, and Adm. Lt. Carl for discussion on legal issues.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Long

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to end Executive Session at 7:40 pm

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Rivera

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

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

**MOTION** made by Commissioner Long to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm.

**SECONDED** by Commissioner Rivera

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

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Judith Tweedlie - EWPC Recording Secretary**